

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Other names/site number: Reservations 339, 356, 402, 432, 433, 308A, 545, 635, 630, and 563; Rock Creek Valley Historic District

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

2. Location

Street & number: 3545 Williamsburg Lane, N.W.

City or town: Washington State: District of Columbia County: _____

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this ___ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide ___ local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D

_____ Signature of certifying official/Title:	_____ Date
_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
_____ Signature of commenting official:	_____ Date
_____ Title :	
_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.
County and State

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>14</u>	<u>11</u>	buildings
<u>25</u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u>21</u>	<u>7</u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>60</u>	<u>18</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 41

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

INDUSTRY/Manufacturing Facility

DEFENSE/Fortifications

LANDSCAPE/Conservation Area/Natural Feature/Natural Feature

LANDSCAPE/Unoccupied Land/Street Furniture/Object

RECREATION AND CULTURE/Outdoor Recreation/Music Facility

AGRICULTURE/Storage/Agricultural Field/Horticultural Facility/Agricultural

Outbuilding/Irrigation Facility

TRANSPORTATION/Road-Related (vehicular)/Pedestrian-Related

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/Outdoor Recreation/Music Facility

LANDSCAPE/Conservation Area/Natural Feature/Natural Feature

LANDSCAPE/Unoccupied Land/Street Furniture/Object

TRANSPORTATION/Road-Related (vehicular)/Pedestrian-Related

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE-NINETEENTH AND EARLY-TWENTIETH CENTURY REVIVALS/Other/NPS
Rustic Architecture/Park Service Modern

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Concrete, Stone/Granite, Stone/Slate,
Wood/Shingle

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Rock Creek Park Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1991, under National Register Criteria A, B, and C, with a period of significance from 1791 to 1941. As described in the 1991 registration form, the core of the Rock Creek Park Historic District is the creek itself and the picturesque scenery surrounding it. The original historic district conformed to the boundaries of Public Reservation 339 and included approximately 1,429 acres of natural forest growth as well as a little over 310 acres of development including recreational facilities, roads, trails, structures, and sites.

This amended nomination expands the Rock Creek Park Historic District boundaries to include several adjacent and related public reservations considered part of Rock Creek Park: Reservations 356, 402, 432, 433, 308A, 545, 635, 630, and 563. Formed between 1913 and 1950, the added reservations serve as access routes into the park and as a means of preserving Rock Creek Valley's watershed. Reservation 308A is a correction related to the inclusion of the Peirce Springhouse; the original nomination incorrectly recorded it as being within Reservation 339. The reservations include parkland that is both contiguous and non-contiguous to Reservation 339. Formed under several planning bodies including the National Capital Park Commission, later renamed the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, an administrative reorganization brought these bordering reservations into the Rock Creek Division of the National Park Service's (NPS) National Capital Parks in 1976.¹

¹ National Capital Park Commission established by the Park Commission Act (43 Stat. 463), June 6, 1924, to

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

Additional research and documentation projects have required the re-evaluation of several resources for their contribution to the park. These resources include cultural landscapes, archeology, trails, roads, and bridges, located in both the historic district's original boundaries and within the added reservations. Resources from the post-World War II and the Mission 66 periods that are located within the existing boundaries of the Rock Creek Park Historic District have also been re-evaluated for their contribution to Rock Creek Park.

Narrative Description

The following description and inventory follows the general format set out in the 1991 National Register registration form for the Rock Creek Park Historic District. As such, the following section documents resources considered to be of sufficient size and scale to be included in the historic district inventory. The following narrative description addresses three categories of resources: those whose contributing/non-contributing status has been amended from the 1991 registration form; those that have been newly added since the 1991 registration form; and those (both contributing and non-contributing) that have been demolished since the 1991 registration form was completed, and therefore were removed from the resource inventory count.

The narrative description of new or amended resources will be categorized into *Amended/Added Contributing Resources* and *Non-Contributing Resources* sections. The Amended/Added Contributing Resources section will be organized into the following four categories that reflect use and resource type:

1. General Park Resources
2. Mission 66 Visitor Services Resources
3. Connector Reservations
4. Archeological Sites

Peirce Mill (CLI No. 600108 and LCS No. 1235) and Linnaean Hill (CLI No. 600032 and LCS No. 11992) are component cultural landscapes to Rock Creek Park. They were documented as contributing resources in the 1991 registration form and their contributing status has remained unchanged. Therefore, they are not included in Section 7 of the amended nomination.²

oversee the comprehensive development of the National Capital region. Redesignated the National Capital Park and Planning Commission by the Park Commission Act Amendments (44 Stat. 374), April 30, 1926. Superseded by the National Capital Planning Commission, 1952. SEE 328.1.

² Peirce Mill and Linnaean Hill (also known as the Peirce-Klinge Estate and the Peirce-Klinge Mansion) were recorded and described in the 1991 Rock Creek Park registration form, in addition to the following sources:

- Peirce Mill: "Cultural Landscape Inventory: Linnaean Hill, Rock Creek Park." Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, 1998 (Revised 2003, 2009).
National Register of Historic Places, Pierce Mill, Washington, D.C., National Register # 359995, 1969.
National Register of Historic Places, Peirce Mill (Amended Nomination), Washington, D.C., National Register # 69000014, 2012.
- Linnaean Hill: "Cultural Landscape Inventory: Linnaean Hill, Rock Creek Park." Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, 1998 (Revised 2003, 2009).
National Register of Historic Places, Linnaean Hill (Boundary Increase), Washington, D.C., National Register # 491402, 2011.

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

AMENDED/ADDED CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

1. General Park Resources

1.1. *Historic Trails (LCS No. 545777)*

Rock Creek Park's trail system travels over the park's diverse terrain, climbing the valley's slopes, descending and running along the creeks and streams, and traversing outcrops of rocks. The 31.92 miles of official trails include pedestrian trails, bridle trails, and multi-use trails (pedestrian and bicycle). In addition, there are 43.56 miles of abandoned trails and 6.5 miles of abandoned carriage roads.³ All but 1.15 miles of the abandoned trails were once incorporated into the trail system. Except for the asphalt-paved multi-use trails and Nature Center trail (designed to be handicap accessible), the bridle and foot trails are treated with either a gravel mix or compacted earth. The trail widths vary, measuring as narrow as 2-3' in some sections of pedestrian trails, and widening to as much as 8-12' at the bridle trails. The 1991 National Register registration form listed historic roads and trails constructed between 1830 and 1941 as contributing; this amendment expands the contributing trails to include trails constructed through 1972 and trails located on added reservations, including Pinehurst and Soapstone Valley.⁴

1.1.1. Foot Trails

Historic Road Trails: *Foot Trail #7, Klinge Mansion Old Road Trace, Foot Trail #11/Clagett Farm, Foot Trail #14, Pine Trail, Pinehurst Branch Trail, and Soapstone Valley Trail*

These pedestrian trails follow the route of historic carriage roads that pre-date the creation of Rock Creek Park in 1890. The .08-mile Foot Trail #7 and .50-mile Klinge Mansion Old Road Trace are two of the oldest carriage roads in the park. Both trails were possibly constructed in 1823 to connect Peirce Mill and Linnaean Hill.⁵

Foot trail #11, .57 miles long, may contain portions of an early 1800s tenant farm road. Archival evidence suggests antebellum habitation of the area based on the location of identified agricultural buildings. Similarly, the .11-mile Foot Trail #14 is a short farm road documented in the 1892 U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey (U.S.C.G.S.) Map. Converted to a bridle trail by 1907, the route was abandoned in the 1920s and re-opened in the last quarter of the twentieth century as a foot trail.

Pine Trail, Pinehurst Branch Trail, and Soapstone Valley Trail connect adjoining neighborhoods to Rock Creek Park. Illustrated on the 1861 Boschke Map, the quarter-mile Pine Trail is an old

³ The social or unauthorized trails are not considered contributing. These trails are continually being closed by NPS staff.

⁴ This amended nomination expands the period of significance for the trails to 1972, as based on the document: *The Historic Trails of Rock Creek Park, Cultural Landscape Report*, Deana R. Poss and Frances McMillen, 2013. More detailed information on the specific characteristics of each trail is available within this document. All mileage estimates were referenced from this document.

⁵ *The Historic Trails of Rock Creek Park, Cultural Landscape Report*, Deana R. Poss and Frances McMillen, 2013, 107. Many of these trails are depicted (but not named) in: A. Boschke, *Topographic Map of the District of Columbia, Surveyed in the Years 1856 '57 '58 & '59* (Washington, D.C.: D. McClelland, Blanchard & Mohun, 1861).

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Washington, D.C.

Name of Property

County and State

farm road that led from the property belonging to “D. Clagett’s heirs” to the creek.⁶ During the Civil War, the route may have been traversed by Confederate soldiers during the Battle of Fort Stevens. The oldest segment of the 1.36-mile Pinehurst Trail potentially originated as a tenant farm road in the 1740s, but evidence of its use is inconclusive. In 1914, a 2’x2’6” sanitary sewer was constructed following the present-day route. The trail’s use shifted between carriage road and bridle trail before its conversion to a pedestrian trail in the 1960s. The .95-mile Soapstone Valley Trail originated as a nineteenth-century carriage road. The Army Corps of Engineers converted the road to a bridle trail in 1916, although it was abandoned by 1927. Utilizing .56 miles of the historic route, volunteers reopened the trail in 1979.

Converted Bridle Trails: *Foot Trail #5, Foot Trail #15, Foot Trail #17, Meadowlink Trail, Theodore Roosevelt Trail, and Holly Trail*

Constructed within the first twenty years of the park’s existence, these pedestrian trails initially functioned as bridle trails as indicated on the 1907 Map of Rock Creek Park. These short trails (all less than .55 mile) connect to the Valley Trail and Black Horse Trail. The segments were converted to pedestrian walks throughout the park’s history; a number of the routes were not in continuous use, but abandoned and later re-opened as foot trails.

Mission 66 Trails: *Nature Trail and Foot Trail #6*

There are two Mission 66-era trails within Rock Creek Park. Originally named the “Explore the Woodland Trail,” the Nature Trail was constructed in association with the Mission 66-era Nature Center and Planetarium. Designed as a loop, the Nature Trail opened to visitors on June 4, 1960. Half of the route was later paved for handicap accessibility. Constructed between 1961 and 1962, the .11 mile-Foot Trail #6 connected Picnic Grove 24 and Carter Barron Amphitheatre with the Valley Trail.

Western Ridge Trail and Valley Trail

The Western Ridge and Valley Trails were defined as a named route in 1978 in an effort to create a 12-mile circular loop route within Rock Creek Park. The NPS staff and the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club created the 4.6-mile Western Ridge Trail from several existing and abandoned trail segments. The remaining sections originated as bridle trails, but a few were portions of the first multi-use (pedestrian and bike) trails constructed in the late 1960s. The 5.2-mile Valley Trail consisted of old farm roads that pre-date the creation of Rock Creek Park, original bridle trails, and a partially completed 1909 foot trail. The remaining sections of the trail evolved over time, but are not characterized by a particular building period.⁷

1.1.2. Bridle Trails

Mission 66 Trails: *Black Horse Trail and White Horse Trail*

The 4.73-mile Black Horse and 4.75-mile White Horse Trails were the result of a Mission 66 initiative to reorganize the bridle circulation network into two north-south routes with nine east-

⁶ A. Boschke, *Topographic Map of the District of Columbia, Surveyed in the Years 1856 '57 '58 & '59* (Washington, D.C.: D. McClelland, Blanchard & Mohun, 1861).

⁷ *The Historic Trails of Rock Creek Park, Cultural Landscape Report*, Deana R. Poss and Frances McMillen, 2013, 105-106.

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Washington, D.C.

Name of Property

County and State

west cross trails. Both trails were created by combining existing trails/roads, many of which originated as nineteenth-century carriage roads or routes created during the park's earliest period of development.

Converted Carriage/Farm Roads and Original Bridle Network: Cross Trails #2-9

Eight of the nine cross trails that connect the Black Horse and White Horse trails are old farm/carriage roads or constructed as part of the park's early bridle trail network. The Army Corps of Engineers constructed Cross Trails #4, 6, 8, and 9 between 1896 and 1906. In addition, the Corps integrated a number of the existing carriage/farm roads, creating Cross Trail #2, 3, 5, and 7. Cross Trail #5 encompasses a .23-mile portion of Milkhouse Ford Road, one of the earliest known roads in Washington, D.C. that may date to pre-European contact. Residents of the region traveled on the road extensively as it was the earliest east-west route across Rock Creek before the construction of Military Road in September 1861.

Fort DeRussy Trail

During the Civil War, the Union Army constructed half of this trail as part of the Civil War Defenses of Washington. The half-mile trail incorporates an access road into Fort DeRussy constructed in 1861. The Army Corps of Engineers had converted the route into a bridle trail by 1910 and it was later incorporated into the Mission 66-era White Horse Trail.

1.2. Culverts (LCS No. 092512) and Retaining Walls (LCS No. 092517)

Numerous retaining walls and small culverts are located throughout the park. The 1991 registration form included culverts and retaining walls constructed between ca. 1900 and 1941 as contributing resources. This amendment includes culvert and retaining walls constructed through 1972 and those located in added reservations. Culverts considered as contributing to the amended Rock Creek Park Historic District include those that are constructed of either native stone masonry or reinforced concrete with a stone-faced veneer. Other contributing elements include circular concrete units, terra cotta or clay pipes, stone abutments with circular openings, cast iron pipes, corrugated metal pipes, concrete arches, concrete box culverts, and circular abutments.⁸

1.3. Park Road Tennis Courts, Park Road

1.3.1. Tennis Courts, 1971-1973

As part of these efforts to improve the park's recreational resources during the Mission 66 program, a number of smaller facilities were constructed through the early part of the 1970s, including public baseball and softball diamonds, a badminton court, football fields, and tennis courts. The majority of these resources have since been demolished, or altered to such a degree that their integrity qualifies them as non-contributing resources. One exception is the tennis courts at Park Road, which were constructed in 1971-1973 to serve park visitors, and which retain their integrity to the present. An aerial photograph of the park taken in 1927 reveals an open area in the tree canopy where the current location of the tennis courts exists, but additional documentation has not confirmed if the area was utilized for tennis courts. Research does confirm that the courts were extant in the early 1970s.

⁸ Louis Berger Group, "Culvert Architectural Feature Assessment Reconstruction and Rehabilitation of Rock Creek & Potomac Parkway from P Street Through Beach Drive" (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, 2005), 2.

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

1.4. Comfort Stations

1.4.1. Comfort Station, Grove #24, 16th and Kennedy Streets, 1950

1.4.2. Comfort Station, Grove #10, Beach Drive, 1930, 1950

1.4.3. Comfort Station, Grove #6, Beach Drive, 1950

1.4.4. Comfort Station, Grove #1, South of Tilden and Beach Drive, 1954

In the 1950s, improvements included a small number of comfort stations in order to improve the visitors' experience of the park and address deferred maintenance of facilities. In total, the NPS constructed three comfort stations (restrooms), renovated one, and moved another to a different location. Constructed as part of the Mission 66 era building campaign, these comfort stations were often built in proximity to or in direct association with picnic shelters for park visitors. The comfort station and shelter at Grove #1 is located across from Peirce Mill. The building features a T-shaped plan composed of front-gable comfort station with an attached gable shelter. Planned as a single unit in 1954, the shelter portion was attached to the restroom between 1958 and 1964.

The one-story comfort station at Grove #1 was constructed on a concrete foundation and is clad in seven-course, American bond brick. The upper gable end has board and batten wood siding. The north and south elevations containing the entrances to the restrooms are further embellished with irregular coursed, ashlar stone veneer walls. Adjoining the comfort station, the shelter is set on a concrete pad. The open gable roof is supported by wood posts. A stone fireplace anchors the east end of the shelter, directly opposite of the comfort station.⁹ The other comfort stations constructed in the 1950s follow the same basic plan and similar design, but did not feature attached shelters.

1.5. Pavilion and Picnic Shelters

1.5.1. Pavilion Shelter, Grove #24, 16th and Kennedy Streets, ca. 1926

Designed by George Oakley Totten, Jr. and constructed circa 1926, the pavilion shelter at Picnic Grove #24 represents the rustic architecture favored by the National Park Service during its era of construction. In its use of natural materials, such as the utilization of tree trunks and branches as framing members, the pavilion is an example of the Adirondack-style variant of rustic architecture. Measuring 20' by 32', the pavilion has large red cedar trunk supports with smaller red cedar bracing members. The side-gable roof is supported by a wooden king post truss system.¹⁰

1.5.2. Pavilion Shelter, Grove #16, Beach Drive, 1970 (amended: demolished)

1.5.3. Pavilion Shelter, Grove #18B, Glover Road, 1970 (amended: demolished)

1.5.4. Pavilion Shelter, Grove #23, 16th and Colorado Streets, 1970 (amended: demolished)

These resources have been demolished since the completion of the 1991 National Register documentation, where they were listed as non-contributing resources. Therefore, they have not been counted in the amended resource inventory.

⁹ National Register of Historic Places, Multiple Property Listing, *Mission 66-Era Visitor Centers, Administration Buildings, and Public Use Areas in the National Capital Region of the National Park Service*, 2012: E:12.

¹⁰ Richard Quin, *Determination of Eligibility, Picnic Grove 24 Pavilion, Rock Creek Park, National Park Service, National Capital Region*, 2001.

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

1.6. Bridges – Vehicular

1.6.1. Beach and Sherrill Drives, 1959

1.6.2. Beach at Milkhouse Ford, 1957

1.6.3. Joyce Luzon Bridge, 1950

1.6.4. Joyce Bridge #2, Joyce Road and Beach Drive, 1955

1.6.5. Blagden Avenue Bridge, 1956

1.6.6. Beach Drive at Broad Branch (Broad Branch Creek Bridge), 1957

1.6.7. Glover (Ridge) Road at Broad Branch, 1956

1.6.8. Beach Drive and Piney Branch Parkway, 1957

1.6.9. Klinge Road and Beach Drive, 1947

The Mission 66 program allocated monies to allow for numerous bridge projects and other related road improvements. During this initiative, the NPS designed structures in the Park Service Modern style, which lacked ornamentation and employed textured concrete, stone veneers, steel columns, flat roofs, and cantilevers to add architectural interest and remain unobtrusive. As a result, each of the vehicular bridges constructed between 1947 and 1959 in Rock Creek Park feature pre-stressed concrete girder spans, tubular steel or aluminum railings, and concrete abutment and wing walls that are faced with a horizontally-coursed, gneiss stone veneer.

1.7. Old Bingham Road Street Lights (LCS No. 100189)

Constructed between 1920 and 1930, the lampposts found on Old Bingham and Park Roads are examples of the early street light system used within the park. During the development of Rock Creek Park's road system, planners chose to use electric lights rather than gas fixtures due to fear of fire in the heavily wooded park. Although the exact number of original lights is unknown, these remaining light standards are the only surviving examples of a formerly park-wide system.

Two street lights are located at Old Bingham Road, one directly on Old Bingham Road and one located at the end of the road near Horse Stable Road. Each light fixture is composed of a straight, fluted base that is painted black. It rises approximately 13' to a small arch, ending in a bell-shaped green glass canopy. The posts have decorative metal work inside the arch.

1.8. Park Road Street Lights (LCS No. 45125)

One street light is located on Park Road near the tennis courts; it is similar to the lamps found on Old Bingham Road. Also an example of the early electric light fixtures constructed in the park between 1920 and 1930, this lamp is composed of a painted black straight base, which rises approximately 13' to a small arch, and ends in a bell-shaped green glass canopy.

1.9. Blagden Mill Footbridge Piers (LCS No. 100207)

Located at the south side of Beach Drive across from the Picnic Area #3 parking lot, the Blagden Mill Footbridge Piers were determined eligible for the National Register in 1999 according to the List of Classified Structures maintained by the NPS. These piers are the remnants of a cantilevered foot bridge from the 1920s and are part of the pedestrian circulation system in the park. The piers are constructed of stone, metal and concrete. Clad in irregularly coursed stone, the piers stand 6' high and

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Washington, D.C.

Name of Property

County and State

5' wide. The west pier is banked into the stream bank, and the east pier is freestanding. Some rebars are visible near the tops of the piers.

1.10. *Old Joyce Road Bridge Abutments (LCS No. 100204)*

The Old Joyce Road Bridge abutments are located on Joyce Road, near the golf course, and just east of the Military Road Bridge on the south side of the road. Constructed in 1927, the abutments represent the only extant reminder of a Howe truss-style bridge which crossed the Luzon tributary of Rock Creek Park. The bridge was part of the historic circulation system which was designed and built within the park beginning in the early nineteenth century. Constructed of wood and stone, the U-shaped abutments are of rustic construction, with the abutments 35' long and the wing walls measuring 10' long.

1.11. *Piney Branch Parkway Embankment (LCS No. 179)*

This embankment was constructed in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps, in order to protect the Piney Branch Parkway from flooding on the small branch stream. The embankment is a stone, rubble embankment wall that extends approximately 200' and stands about 15' high on the south bank of the stream immediately east of the Beach Drive crossing. The native granite stone is embedded with cement.

2. Mission 66 Visitor Services Resources

2.1. *Horse Center Area, Glover Road*

2.1.1. Rock Creek Stables, 1958

2.1.2. Equitation Field, ca. 1945

2.1.3. Mounting Block, Equitation Field, ca. 1945

2.1.4. Training Stable, 1972 (misidentified as Rock Creek Stables in 1991 registration form)

2.1.5. Training Ring, 1972 (non-contributing)

2.1.6. Maintenance Shed, 2010 (non-contributing)

Funded by the Mission 66 initiative, the NPS approved the construction of the Rock Creek Stables, the first public stable within the limits of Rock Creek Park. The stable was constructed from an architectural plan by the Engineering Branch of National Capital Parks.

Rock Creek Stables is located to the south of Military Road and east of Glover Road. A single access road leads to the Nature Center and the Stables. Accommodating 40 horses, the building features an L-shaped plan. The concrete block structural system is typically exposed on the lower field of the wall and clad with vertical redwood siding above the window openings and in the upper gable ends. Dormer windows pierce the gable roof and a cupola is located at the intersection of the gable roofs. The stable included a lobby, tack room, office, storage, and bathrooms. A \$104,000 contract was awarded to Sun Construction Company in 1958 to erect the structure.

Rock Creek Stables is also served by Equitation Field, located south of the horse center area adjacent to Glover Road and accessible by the White Horse Trail. The field had been located at

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Washington, D.C.

Name of Property

County and State

this present location by 1945. Both resources continue to reflect their historic period of significance.

The horse center area also includes a training ring, constructed in 1972, and a maintenance shed, constructed in 2010, that are considered non-contributing resources, due to lack of integrity and date of construction, respectively.

The training stable identified in the 1991 registration form and given a construction date of 1972 was misidentified and was referring to the Rock Creek Stables.

2.2. Nature Center, Glover Road

2.2.1. Nature Center (Visitor Exhibition Center and Planetarium), 1959

Integrated into the surrounding landscape, the Rock Creek Park Nature Center and Planetarium is a good representative of NPS Mission 66-era design. The Nature Center incorporates the structural elements of the existing caretaker's dwelling constructed in the 1930s. The Nature Center is composed of three distinct, but contiguous sections defined by the roof line: there is a shallow gable roof on the southern end, followed by V-shaped shed roofs at the center, and a pyramidal roof on the northern end. All three roof forms are covered with asphalt shingles.

Set on a brick foundation, the wood-framed southern section incorporates the existing 1936 caretaker's dwelling. The six-bay section is clad with a combination of stone veneer and vertical wood siding. Typical fenestration consists of 1/1 windows with precast concrete sills. The southeast corner of the block features a recessed porch. The interior consists of offices and a small reading room.

The centrally located, V-shaped shed roof section serves as the focal point and primary entrance of the Nature Center. In this section, architect William Max Haussmann successfully integrated the building into its surrounding environment while incorporating character-defining features of the Modern Movement and Mission 66. The two-story section is banked into a hill, creating the effect of a single story from the façade. Set on a concrete-block foundation, the masonry structural system is primarily clad with stone veneer. The building is capped with symmetrical shed roofs of asphalt shingles that reflect one another to create a V-shaped roof plan, a form widely utilized by Modern architects. The eastern shed encompasses the majority of the interior, while the western shed extends over the interior lobby and exterior concrete porch. As the shed roof rises above the porch, the roof is extended further to the west at its northern end, resulting in an angled portico; it is supported by three slender posts and a stone pier. The porch provides access to the main entry, consisting of elongated, double-leaf, aluminum-framed glass doors with single-light sidelights and a four-light transom. To the north of the porch, the stone-veneered wall is pierced with 1-by-1, slider windows with a continuous precast stone sill. On the rear elevation, both the first and second stories are visible. The walls are not clad in stone veneer, thereby exposing the concrete-block structural system. The rear elevation is defined by the first-story wood viewing deck accessed from the exhibition space. From the deck, a wood stair leads to the nature trail to the east of the center.

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

A small recessed hyphen with a single-leaf door connects the V-shaped shed roof section with the northern end pyramidal roof section. The one-story, northern section houses the planetarium. Set on a concrete foundation, the masonry building is clad with vertical wood siding and has no fenestration or additional ornamentation.

The Nature Center retains its integrity as it continues to reflect its historic period of significance. The building remains in its original location and setting with no obtrusions from new development. Typical to visitor centers, alterations include the infill or replacement of a number of the doors and windows. The character defining massing, roof, covered entrance, deck, and stone and wood veneer, however, remain intact. The building continues to house the nature center and planetarium, thereby retaining its integrity of association and feeling.

2.3. Rock Creek Golf Club House and Shelters, 16th and Rittenhouse streets

2.3.1. Clubhouse, Rock Creek Golf course, 1964

2.3.2. Shelter #6, 1960

2.3.3. Shelter #14, 1960

2.3.4. Shelter #16, 1960

2.3.5. Storage Shed and Garage, 1982 (non-contributing)

Designed by local architects John Hans Graham & Associates, the Rock Creek Golf Course Clubhouse was completed in 1964. The Mission 66 building replaced an existing farmhouse that functioned as the clubhouse since the golf course's construction in 1923. The clubhouse utilizes the natural topography to hide its scale. The façade consists of a single story facing the entrance drive, but the rear elevation looking onto the golf course is two stories tall. The structural system is faced with both brick and vertical wood siding on all four elevations. The building is capped with a shallow side-gable roof at its extents and highlighted by a shed roof at its center. The cantilevered shed roof corresponds to the lounge area, allowing for taller glass windows overlooking the course that visually connects interior and exterior spaces. The clubhouse, particularly the use of traditional and non-traditional roof forms, siding, and materials, represents both traditional and Park Service Modern design elements.

The associated shelters complement the clubhouse in their form and design and also reflect the influence of Mission 66. The buildings continue to reflect their historic period of significance as minimal alterations have occurred to the design or materials. Further, they continue to be associated with the golf course, thereby retaining integrity of feeling and association.

2.4. Carton Barron Amphitheater Area, 16th Street and Colorado Avenue

2.4.1. Carter Barron Amphitheater and Stage, 1950

The *Mission 66 Era of National Park Development, 1945-1972* described the amphitheater:

Carter Barron takes advantage of the natural slope of its site for its seating area, with the stage located at the bottom of the slope. A sheltered promenade stands at the top of the seating area, flanked by restrooms. Wings and dressing rooms flank the stage, and a box office stands between the parking lot constructed for the

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

facility and the black metal entrance gates. The wings and rear walls of the amphitheater are surfaced in a stone veneer, as are the entrance gate piers and wing walls. Other materials used include wood, concrete, and concrete block. With the exception of the entrance gates and the stone veneer, Carter Barron's structures feature little ornamentation. The remainder of the slope on which the amphitheater stands is heavily wooded, disguising the development's presence, although the large parking lot is entirely visible.¹¹

The amphitheater represents a transition in NPS's architectural paradigm. The ashlar veneer recalled earlier park service architecture and its use of traditional building materials. On the other hand, the amphitheater's poured concrete and concrete block construction and its lack of ornamentation reflects the Modern Movement.

The amphitheater retains its integrity as it continues to reflect its historic period of construction. The location and setting of the amphitheater remains intact with minimal changes to the surrounding natural environment or site plan. Alterations to the structure include the addition of steps, replacement of seats, changes to the seating plan, replacement of the curtain track system, and improvements to the bathrooms. All of these changes, however, are typical of modernizations to entertainment venues. The amphitheater continues to be utilized for public performances, thereby retaining its integrity of feeling and association. Other elements contributing to the historic significance of the amphitheater's design include the ticket office and guard house.

2.4.2. Carter Barron Ticket Office, 1950

The one-story, concrete block ticket office has a rectangular plan with a rear ell. The standing-seam metal roof slopes gently upward toward the façade of the main block of the building. The rear ell features a similar shed roof, but its slope mirrors the main block resulting in a V-shaped roof plan recalling influences of the Modern Movement. The ticket office has a full-width covered porch supported by square wood posts that functions to shelter patrons while interacting with ticket agents. The seven-bay façade (east elevation) features wood weatherboard siding. An offset single-leaf metal door with single-light sidelights is flanked by single-light wood windows pierced by a speak-through. The bottom rails of the windows are notched to allow for ticket transaction. Each window is delineated by pipe rails extending to the termination of the porch to facilitate the formation of orderly lines. On the remaining elevations, the concrete block walls are exposed. On the north elevation, fenestration consists of a single ticket window with a brick sill likely installed after the initial period of construction as evident by the infill of bricks.

The ticket office has integrity of setting and location as it remains in its historic location and its relationship to the amphitheater and parking lots is intact. Alterations to the building have diminished its integrity of design, workmanship, and materials. The ticket office has been expanded to its north by approximately ten feet and a small, sympathetic addition has been constructed on its south elevation (rear). Changes to the façade include the removal and replacement of the original single-leaf door, ticket windows, and light fixtures. Further, the exposed rafters of the porch roof have been covered. A number of character-defining features,

¹¹ National Register of Historic Places, Multiple Property Listing, *Mission 66-Era Visitor Centers, Administration Buildings, and Public Use Areas in the National Capital Region of the National Park Service*, 2012, E:11.

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

however, remain extant, including its shed roof of standing-seam metal, porch supported by square wood posts, and wood siding. These changes, however, are typical with modernizations to entertainment venues in order to provide the necessary level of service. Coupled with its continuous function as the ticket office for the amphitheater, the building retains its integrity of association and feeling.

The main entrance gate is adjacent to the ticket office. The entrance gate is composed of a geometric pattern black metal gate set on stone-veneered piers.

2.4.3. Carter Barron Parking Lot Guard House, 1950

The United States Park Police guard house is a small, one-story, single-bay, wood-framed square building facing the parking lot on a small triangular patch of grass. The structure has a concrete block foundation, vertical wood siding, and an asphalt-shingle pyramidal roof with overhanging eaves and a boxed wood cornice. The entry to the guard office is accessed by a masonry stair and landing with a wood balustrade. The stair wraps around the southwest corner of the structure leading to a single-leaf metal door pierced by a single-light. The north elevation contains a single-light fixed window, and the east and west elevations consist of paired casement windows. All provide views of the surrounding area.

Based on its materials and design, limited alterations have occurred to the guard office. The structure retains its historic integrity as it continues to be associated with the amphitheater and function in its original purpose.

2.4.4. Carter Barron Entrance Gates, 1951-1952

The main entrance to the Carter Barron Amphitheater is located adjacent to the ticket office and access road. The cast iron decorative gates, embellished with a pair of medallions commemorating the Sesquicentennial of the federal government's move from Philadelphia to Washington, are supported by a pair of entrance gate piers. The piers are constructed of stone veneer to match the stone veneer of the wings and rear walls of the amphitheater.

2.4.5. Carter Barron Bus Shelter, 1950 (demolished)

This resource has been demolished since the completion of the 1991 National Register documentation, where it was listed as a non-contributing resource. Therefore, it has not been counted in the amended resource inventory.

3. Connector Reservations

Each of the connector reservations are adjacent to and lead into the primary land area known as Rock Creek Park (Reservation 339). These tributary park extensions follow natural and constructed features, including stream valleys and roads, providing natural buffers leading into Rock Creek Park. Each reservation is a natural, green area with substantial vegetation. The park parcels incorporate trails, and the parkway reservations incorporate abandoned roadways or trails, retaining walls, and culverts.

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

3.1. Klingle Valley Parkway (Reservation 356)

Running west from Rock Creek along the north side of the Zoological Park, Klingle Valley forms the southern boundary of Reservation 339. Klingle Road was abandoned and the area is now used as a pedestrian access trail into the Rock Creek valley.

3.2. Soapstone Creek Valley (Reservation 402)

Located east of Connecticut Avenue, south of Audubon Terrace, and north of Yuma Street, Soapstone Creek Valley is located in the vicinities of Linnaean Hill and Peirce Mill. A pedestrian access trail bisects this valley and provides access to Broad Branch Road.

3.3. Beach Parkway (Reservation 432)

Situated to the northeast side of Rock Creek Park, Beach Parkway is located between East Beach Drive and West Beach Drive. While the parkway extends across the D.C. and Maryland border, this nomination only includes that portion of the parkway under the jurisdiction of Rock Creek Park within D.C. An actual roadway was never constructed within this parcel.

3.4. Blair Portal (Reservation 433)

Located to the northeast side of Rock Creek Park (east of Beach Parkway), Blair Portal enters Rock Creek Park at 16th Street, and is set between South Portal Drive and North Portal Drive, east of their intersections with Beach Drive. Similar to Beach Parkway, an actual roadway was never constructed within this parcel.

3.5. Reservation 308A

This parcel is located at Tilden Street, east of 29th Street, N.W. This parcel is the location of the Peirce Mill Springhouse. The 1991 Rock Creek Park National Register registration form erroneously considered Reservation 308A to be part of Reservation 339 and thus counted the springhouse as a contributing resource. This amendment corrects that mistake, but still includes the Reservation within the historic district and still considers the springhouse a contributing resource.

3.6. Pinehurst Parkway (Reservation 545)

Located towards the northwest side of Reservation 339, Pinehurst Parkway is located south of Beech Street and north of Aberfoyle Place, N.W., connecting the park to Maryland across the District line. An actual roadway was never constructed within this parcel and a pedestrian access trail bisects this parcel.

3.7. Woodley Park (Reservation 635)

Woodley Park is located adjacent to Klingle Valley Parkway at its southeast side. The reservation is set to the north side of Cortland Place, N.W., between Klingle Road and Devonshire Place.

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

3.8. Melvin Hazen Park (Reservation 630)

Melvin Hazen Park is bound by Reno Road, Connecticut Avenue, Sedgwick Street and Rodman Street, N.W. A pedestrian access trail is located through this parcel.

3.9. Portion of North side of Zoological Park (Reservation 563)

A portion of the north side of Zoological Park, located along the south side of Klinge Road between Beach Drive and Adams Mill Road, N.W. This reservation provides a vegetative buffer between Rock Creek Park and the National Zoo.

4. Archeological Sites

Archeological investigations within the park in the mid-to-late twentieth century resulted in the identification of numerous historic artifacts and documentation of quarry sites, Native American camp sites, colonial farmsteads, and Civil War sites. The following sites are considered contributing archeological sites to the Rock Creek Park Historic District:

4.1. Clouin Course Site (Site No. 51NW193)

The Clouin Course Site is located near the northwestern tip of Rock Creek Park, near Wise Road, and measures approximately 125x100 feet. The site consists of remnants of a mid-eighteenth to early nineteenth-century tenant occupation. The site has been eroded and little topsoil remains, and two substantial piles of stones are located within the site, which could represent structural remains. The recovered artifact assemblage dates roughly to the period between 1760 and 1820, and yielded 434 artifacts, including ceramic sherds and nails.¹²

4.2. Carroll Tenancy Site (Site No. 51NW187)

The Carroll Tenancy Site is generally located between Bingham Drive and Wise Road. The site is located within the southern section of the Clouin Course tract on a ridge near Piney Branch. The site is focused on the area around the Claggett barn. The artifact assemblage dates the period of occupation to circa 1790. The site yielded 35 artifacts, including domestic debris such as ceramic sherds.¹³

4.3. Piney Branch Quarry Site (Site No. 51NW1)

The Piney Branch Quarry Site is located at the bluffs overlooking Piney Branch from the north, and was used by prehistoric occupants as a source of stone for toolmaking. The site was first investigated by William Henry Holmes in 1889 and 1890. Investigations begun in 2006 revealed that the quartzite boulder quarry remains much the same as it did when Holmes performed his investigation. The quartzite cobbles outcrop is approximately 30 feet below the summit of a southeast-facing hill, and the deposit extends for approximately 0.2 miles. The hill below reveals tested quartzite cobbles and

¹² Louis Berger Group, *Bold, Rocky, and Picturesque: Archeological Identification and Evaluation Study of Rock Creek Park* (Washington, D.C.: NPS, 2008), 2: 132-139.

¹³ Louis Berger Group, *Bold, Rocky, and Picturesque: Archeological Identification and Evaluation Study of Rock Creek Park*, 2: 139.

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Washington, D.C.

Name of Property

County and State

chipping debris. Holmes's excavation pits are no longer visible. Investigation in 2006 yielded quartzite debitage, whole and broken turtleback "preforms," and half of a large ax.¹⁴

4.4. Nature Center Quarry Site (Site No. 51NW2)

The Nature Center Quarry Site consists of approximately an acre of tested quartzite cobbles, flakes, and turtleback preforms, located on the slope of the hill near the Rock Creek Park's Nature Center. The crest of the hill has been disturbed, but the debitage concentration remains essentially intact at the bottom of the hill.¹⁵

4.5. Soapstone Quarry Site (Site No. 51NW60)

The Soapstone Quarry Site is located east of Rock Creek and south of the Piney Branch Parkway. The site is a cobble quarry for quartzite and a bedrock quarry for quartz.¹⁶

4.6. Oregon Avenue Site (Site No. 51NW143)

The Oregon Avenue Site is a large prehistoric site of more than four acres, located on an area adjacent to Oregon Avenue. The majority of the lithic material recovered at the site is quartzite, suggesting that the site was occupied during the Late Archaic or Early Woodland periods.¹⁷

4.7. Fort DeRussy Dump Site (Site No. 51NW159)

The Fort DeRussy Dump Site is located near Fort DeRussy, an earthen fort located within a wooden portion of the park. The site is a dump dating to the Civil War. The site yielded 507 artifacts, including a large number of ceramic sherds, nails, bullets, and two metal military buttons.¹⁸

4.8. Battery to the Left of Rock Creek Site (Site No. 51NW168)

4.9. Broad Branch Battery or Battery to the Right of Rock Creek Site (Site No. 51NW169)

These sites are two earthworks, representing Civil War batteries that are located uplands to the west and east of the Rock Creek Park Nature Center. The western battery is known as the Broad Branch Battery or "Battery to Right of Broad Branch" and the eastern battery is known as the "Battery to Left of Rock Creek." The Broad Branch Battery remnants consist of an ovoid flattened area measuring approximately 150x100 feet, encircled by a berm. The Rock Creek battery is near Ross Drive and measures approximately 300 feet east-west and 50 feet north-south. An earthen berm measuring approximately three feet surrounds a flat interior.¹⁹

¹⁴ Louis Berger Group, *Bold, Rocky, and Picturesque: Archeological Identification and Evaluation Study of Rock Creek Park*, 2: 49-61.

¹⁵ Louis Berger Group, *Bold, Rocky, and Picturesque: Archeological Identification and Evaluation Study of Rock Creek Park*, 2: 61.

¹⁶ Louis Berger Group, *Bold, Rocky, and Picturesque: Archeological Identification and Evaluation Study of Rock Creek Park*, 2: 64.

¹⁷ Louis Berger Group, *Bold, Rocky, and Picturesque: Archeological Identification and Evaluation Study of Rock Creek Park*, 2: 97.

¹⁸ Louis Berger Group, *Bold, Rocky, and Picturesque: Archeological Identification and Evaluation Study of Rock Creek Park*, 2: 148

¹⁹ Louis Berger Group, *Bold, Rocky, and Picturesque: Archeological Identification and Evaluation Study of Rock*

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

4.10. Battle of Fort Stevens Site (Site No. 51NW163)

The Battle of Fort Stevens Site is located at a gently sloping area on the east bank of Rock Creek, approximately one mile north of Fort Stevens. A few domestic artifacts and a larger number of military artifacts dating to the Civil War were recovered.²⁰

4.11. Jane Dickson Site (Site No. 51NW183)

The Jane Dickson Site is a quarter-acre property near the Horse Center Area at Glover Road. Investigation focused near the project location of a dwelling belonging to Jane Dickson in the late nineteenth century. The excavation recovered domestic artifacts dating to the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, which were likely derived from Dickson's dwelling.²¹

4.12. Sarah Whitby Site (Site No. 51NW185)

The Sarah Whitby Site is located in a grassy area near Glover Road. The property was formerly owned by the Whitby family in the late nineteenth century, and encompassed 5.2 acres along Broad Branch Road west of Rock Creek. A small depression located on a rise at the east end of the open field, marked the location of what appeared to be a former cellar hole. This yielded a number of artifacts dating to around 1900. The investigation also revealed brick and stone rubble related to the foundation of the Whitby residence.²²

4.13. Charles Dickson Site (Site No. 51NW198)

The Charles Dickson Site is located in one of Rock Creek Park's picnic areas, a grassy, level ridgetop, and is marked by a depression near the edge of a steep slope leading downward. Investigation was performed at the projected location of Dickson's house, and recovered a larger number of domestic artifacts dating to the period around 1900, as well as a smaller number of artifacts from the early nineteenth century and the second quarter of the twentieth century.²³

4.14. Blagden Mill Race Site (LCIS No. 100209)

The Blagden Mill Race is located on the west side of Beach Drive near one of Rock Creek Park's Picnic Areas. Although the Blagden Mill Race is no longer a formal race, the site remnant reflects one of three remaining structures of the Blagden Mill complex, which operated in the nineteenth century. The complex had two mill wheels and two mill structures, one a bone mill, and the other a wheat mill. The mill race passed between the two structures with a fall of 11'. Constructed in 1850, the mill race was abandoned in 1889. The race was likely lined with stone, with a substructure and superstructure

Creek Park, 2: 160.

²⁰ Louis Berger Group, *Bold, Rocky, and Picturesque: Archeological Identification and Evaluation Study of Rock Creek Park*, 2: 153.

²¹ Louis Berger Group, *Bold, Rocky, and Picturesque: Archeological Identification and Evaluation Study of Rock Creek Park*, 2: 204.

²² Louis Berger Group, *Bold, Rocky, and Picturesque: Archeological Identification and Evaluation Study of Rock Creek Park*, 2: 208-209.

²³ Louis Berger Group, *Bold, Rocky, and Picturesque: Archeological Identification and Evaluation Study of Rock Creek Park*, 2:204-208.

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

of earth. Today, the path of the mill race is visible during periods of low vegetation and consists of a 10' long vertical depression.

5. Component Cultural Landscapes

See *Narrative Description* above for additional information on these resources.

5.1. Peirce Mill (CLI No. 600108 and LCS No. 1235)

5.2. Linnaean Hill (CLI No. 600032 and LCS No. 11992)

NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

The following buildings and structures are considered non-contributing resources to the amended Rock Creek Park Historic District. The majority of the resources are considered non-contributing because they were constructed after the period of significance from 1791 to 1972. Several resources are considered non-contributing because their integrity has been compromised by significant alterations or additions. Finally, several resources have been demolished since the publication of the original registration form in 1991.

6. Rock Creek Park Headquarters and Maintenance Yard Area, Glover Road

Constructed primarily in the late 1950s, the Rock Creek Park Headquarters and Maintenance Yard Area were designed with pre-Mission 66 era site plans that consisted of a central work yard surrounded by lines of garage and utility buildings. The concrete block buildings, however, represented the Modern Movement with their economical, mass-produced materials and standardized plans.²⁴ Hidden by the surrounding wooded area, the maintenance yard's buildings were painted a dark color to further obscure them from view.

The facility does not retain integrity of design, materials, and workmanship due to numerous alterations. The majority of the fixed 12-light windows have been infilled and a large number of garage doors have been altered or infilled with their respective interiors converted to office space. The Maintenance Yard no longer conveys its historic period of significance due to a lack of integrity of materials, workmanship, and design, and changes in the use of the buildings.

6.1. Administration Office and Storage, 1959

6.2. Storage Room and Garage, 1959

6.3. Salt Storage Shed, 1960

6.4. Storage Shed, 1950

6.5. Tool Shed, 1979

6.6. Gas Storage Shed, 1974

6.7. Sewer Injection House, 1970

²⁴ National Register of Historic Places, Multiple Property Listing, *Mission 66-Era Visitor Centers, Administration Buildings, and Public Use Areas in the National Capital Region of the National Park Service*, 2012: E:6.

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

7. Park Police Buildings, Oregon Avenue

The U.S. Park Police Stables was constructed in 1954 to accommodate an expansion of mounted patrols within the park. As originally built, the structure consisted of a one-story masonry block, capped by a gabled roof covered in asphalt shingles and featuring pre-cast concrete lintels. In 1970, an addition to match the existing building was constructed, and the two were attached via a breezeway. The complex was damaged extensively by a fire in 1980, and the original 1954 block was replaced in 1982. In 2012, the stable was crushed beneath a large tree after Hurricane Sandy and will need to be rebuilt again. As a result of these reconstructions, the building lacks integrity and is considered a non-contributing resource.

These resources have been demolished since the completion of the 1991 National Register documentation, where they were listed as non-contributing resources. Therefore, they have not been counted in the amended resource inventory.

- 7.1. H-3 Park Police Stable, 1954, 1970 (amended: reconstructed 1982; heavily damaged 2012)*
- 7.2. H-3 Park Police Trailer, 1980 (amended: demolished)*
- 7.3. Dog Pound Shelter, Oregon Avenue, 1970 (amended: demolished)*
- 7.4. Dog Pound, Oregon Avenue, 1970 (amended: demolished)*

8. Trail Bridges

Constructed as part of the expansion of Rock Creek Park's circulation network between the late 1960s and early 1980s, several trail bridges as inventoried in the original 1991 registration form are considered non-contributing due to demolition since 1991, or a lack of integrity.

- 8.1. Oregon Avenue and Beach Drive, 1970*
- 8.2. S. of Tilden Beach Drive, 1982*
- 8.3. Grove #1 Beach Drive and Tilden Street, 1980*
- 8.4. Beach Drive and West Beach Drive, 1970*
- 8.5. ¼ mile North of Milkhouse Ford, 1970*
- 8.6. Pierce Mill Bicycle Bridge, 1968 (amended: demolished)*

9. Recreational Facilities and Miscellaneous

These sites and structures included in this category—including open fields, barbecue pits, and other miscellaneous recreational facilities—were all constructed or substantially modernized in the 1970s and 1980s. Although they do not detract from the park's natural setting, many are in poor condition and lack the physical integrity necessary to be considered contributing resources.

Those resources below that have been demolished since the completion of the 1991 National Register documentation have not been counted in the amended resource inventory.

- 9.1. Rock Creek Tennis Stadium, 1987-88*
- 9.2. Baseball Diamonds, Softball Diamonds, Basketball Courts, Parcourse Exercise, Picnic Groves, Barbecue Pits, ca. 1970s*
- 9.3. Storage Shed, Tennis Courts, Park Road, 1970 (amended: demolished)*
- 9.4. Ticket Booth, Tennis Courts, Park Road, 1970 (amended: demolished)*
- 9.5. Bicycle Rental Concession, Grove #24, 16th and Kennedy Streets, 1970 (amended: demolished)*

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

- 9.6. *Brightwood Recreation Center Building, Stage and Kennedy Streets, 1971 (amended: demolished)***
- 9.7. *Badminton Court, Football Fields, Soccer Fields, Volley Court, Bicycle Rental Stand, Day Camps, Dog Obedience Course, Orienteering Map Course, Horseshoe Pits, ca. 1970s (amended: demolished)***
- 9.8. *Park Furniture, Fences, Signs, Flagpoles, Drinking Fountains, ca. 1970s (amended: demolished)***

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Washington, D.C.

Name of Property

County and State

RESOURCE INVENTORY

General Park Resources

	Resource Name	Sub-Resource/Alternate Name	Resource Type	Date	Status
1.1	Historic Trails (LCS No. 545777)	Foot Trails	Structure		Contributing
		Bridle Trails	Structure		Contributing
1.2	Culverts and Retaining Walls	LCS No. 092512 and LCS No. 092517, respectively	Structure		Contributing
1.3	Park Road Tennis Courts, Park Road	Tennis Courts	Structure	1971-1973	Contributing
1.4	Comfort Stations	Comfort Station, Grove #24, 16th and Kennedy Streets	Building	1950	Contributing
		Comfort Station, Grove #10, Beach Drive	Building	1930, 1950	Contributing
		Comfort Station, Grove #6, Beach Drive	Building	1950	Contributing
		Comfort Station, Grove #1, South of Tilden and Beach Drive	Building	1954	Contributing
1.5	Pavilion and Picnic Shelters	Pavilion Shelter, Grove #24, 16th and Kennedy Streets	Building	ca. 1926	Contributing
		Pavilion Shelter, Grove #16, Beach Drive		1970	Demolished: Amended from non-contributing to uncounted
		Pavilion Shelter, Grove #18B, Glover Road			
		Pavilion Shelter, Grove #23, 16th and Colorado Streets			
1.6	Bridges - Vehicular	Beach and Sherrill Drives	Structure	1959	Contributing
		Beach at Milkhouse Ford	Structure	1957	Contributing
		Joyce Luzon Bridge	Structure	1950	Contributing
		Joyce Bridge #2, Joyce Road and Beach Drive	Structure	1955	Contributing
		Blagden Avenue Bridge	Structure	1956	Contributing
		Beach Drive at Broad Branch (Broad Branch Creek Bridge)	Structure	1957	Contributing
		Glover (Ridge) Road at Broad Branch	Structure	1956	Contributing
		Beach Drive and Piney Branch Parkway	Structure	1957	Contributing
		Klinge Road and Beach Drive	Structure	1947	Contributing
1.7	Old Bingham Road Street Lights	LCS No. 100189	Structure	1920-1930	Contributing
1.8	Park Road Street Lights	LCS No. 45125	Structure	1920-1930	Contributing
1.9	Blagden Mill Footbridge Piers	LCS No. 100207	Structure	ca. 1920	Contributing

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
 Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Washington, D.C.

Name of Property

County and State

1.10	Old Joyce Road Bridge Abutments	LCS No. 100204	Structure	1927	Contributing
1.11	Piney Branch Parkway Embankment	LCS No. 179	Structure	1933- 1948	Contributing

Mission 66 Visitor Services Resources

	Resource Name	Sub-Resource/Alternate Name	Resource Type	Date	Status
2.1	Horse Center Area, Glover Road	Rock Creek Stables	Building	1958	Contributing
		Equitation Field	Structure	ca. 1945	Contributing
		Mounting Block, Equitation Field	Structure	ca. 1945	Contributing
		Training Stable			Misidentified as Rock Creek Stables in 1991 registration form
		Training Ring	Structure	1972	Non-Contributing
		Maintenance Shed	Building	2010	Non-Contributing
2.2	Nature Center, Glover Road	Nature Center (Visitor Exhibition Center and Planetarium)	Building	1959	Contributing
2.3	Rock Creek Golf Club House and Shelters, 16th and Rittenhouse streets	Clubhouse, Rock Creek Golf course	Building	1964	Contributing
		Shelter #6	Building	1960	Contributing
		Shelter #14	Building	1960	Contributing
		Shelter #16	Building	1960	Contributing
		Storage Shed and Garage	Building	1982	Non-Contributing
2.4	Carton Barron Amphitheater Area, 16th Street and Colorado Avenue	Carter Barron Amphitheater and Stage	Building	1950	Contributing
		Carter Barron Ticket Office	Building	1950	Contributing
		Carter Barron Parking Lot Guard House	Building	1950	Contributing
		Carter Barron Entrance Gates	Structure	1951- 1952	Contributing
		Carter Barron Bus Shelter		1950	Demolished: Amended from non- contributing to uncounted

Connector Reservations

	Resource Name	Sub-Resource/Alternate Name	Resource Type	Date	Status
3.1	Klinge Valley Parkway	Reservation 356	Site	ca. 1913- 1950	Contributing
3.2	Soapstone Creek Valley	Reservation 402	Site		Contributing
3.3	Beach Parkway	Reservation 432	Site		Contributing
3.4	Blair Portal	Reservation 433	Site		Contributing

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
 Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Washington, D.C.

Name of Property

County and State

3.5	Reservation 308A	Erroneously listed as part of Reservation 339 in 1991 registration form	Site	1890	Contributing
3.6	Pinehurst Parkway	Reservation 545	Site	ca. 1913- 1950	Contributing
3.7	Woodley Park	Reservation 635	Site		Contributing
3.8	Melvin Hazen Park	Reservation 630	Site		Contributing
3.9	Portion of North side of Zoological Park	Reservation 563	Site		Contributing

Archeological Sites

	Resource Name	Sub-Resource/Alternate Name	Resource Type	Date	Status
4.1	Clouin Course Site	Site No. 51NW193	Site		Contributing
4.2	Carroll Tenancy Site	Site No. 51NW187	Site		Contributing
4.3	Piney Branch Quarry Site	Site No. 51NW1	Site		Contributing
4.4	Nature Center Quarry Site	Site No. 51NW2	Site		Contributing
4.5	Soapstone Quarry Site	Site No. 51NW60	Site		Contributing
4.6	Oregon Avenue Site	Site No. 51NW143	Site		Contributing
4.7	Fort DeRussy Dump Site	Site No. 51NW159	Site		Contributing
4.8	Battery to the Left of Rock Creek Site	Site No. 51NW168	Site		Contributing
4.9	Broad Branch Battery or Battery to the Right of Rock Creek Site	Site No. 51NW169	Site		Contributing
4.10	Battle of Fort Stevens Site	Site No. 51NW163	Site		Contributing
4.11	Jane Dickson Site	Site No. 51NW183	Site		Contributing
4.12	Sarah Whitby Site	Site No. 51NW185	Site		Contributing
4.13	Charles Dickson Site	Site No. 51NW198	Site		Contributing
4.14	Blagden Mill Race Site	LCIS No. 100209	Site	1850	Contributing

Component Cultural Landscapes

	Resource Name	Sub-Resource/Alternate Name	Resource Type	Date	Status
	Linnaean Hill	CLI No. 600032; LCS No. 11992; and Site No. 51NW156	Site	1823-1933	Contributing
	Peirce Mill Complex	LCS No. 1235	Site	1829-1897, 1934-1936	Contributing

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Washington, D.C.

Name of Property

County and State

Non-Contributing Resources

Resource Name	Sub-Resource/Alternate Name	Resource Type	Date	Status
6.1	Administration Office and Storage	Building	1959	Non-Contributing
6.2	Storage Room and Garage	Building	1959	Non-Contributing
6.3	Salt Storage Shed	Building	1960	Non-Contributing
6.4	Storage Shed	Building	1950	Non-Contributing
6.5	Tool Shed	Building	1979	Non-Contributing
6.6	Gas Storage Shed	Building	1974	Non-Contributing
6.7	Sewer Injection House	Building	1970	Non-Contributing
7.1	H-3 Park Police Stable, 1954, 1970 (amended: reconstructed 1982; heavily damaged 2012)	Building	1954, 1970, 1982	Non-Contributing: Reconstructed
7.2	H-3 Park Police Trailer (amended: demolished)		1980	Demolished: Amended from non-contributing to uncounted
7.3	Dog Pound Shelter, Oregon Avenue, (amended: demolished)		1970	
7.4	Dog Pound, Oregon Avenue (amended: demolished)		1970	
8.1	Oregon Avenue and Beach Drive	Structure	1970	Non-Contributing
8.2	S. of Tilden Beach Drive	Structure	1982	Non-Contributing
8.3	Grove #1 Beach Drive and Tilden Street	Structure	1980	Non-Contributing
8.4	Beach Drive and West Beach Drive	Structure	1970	Non-Contributing
8.5	¼ mile North of Milkhouse Ford	Structure	1970	Non-Contributing
8.6	Pierce Mill Bicycle Bridge (amended: demolished)		1968	Demolished: Amended from non-contributing to uncounted
9.1	Rock Creek Tennis Stadium	Building	1987-1988	Non-Contributing
9.2	Baseball Diamonds, Softball Diamonds, Basketball Courts, Parcourse Exercise, Picnic Groves, Barbecue Pits	Structure	ca. 1970s	Non-Contributing
9.3	Storage Shed, Tennis Courts, Park Road		1970	Demolished: Amended from non-contributing to uncounted
9.4	Ticket Booth, Tennis Courts, Park Road		1970	
9.5	Bicycle Rental Concession, Grove #24, 16th and Kennedy Streets		1970	
9.6	Brightwood Recreation Center Building, Stage and Kennedy Streets		1971	

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
 Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Washington, D.C.

Name of Property

County and State

9.7	Recreational Facilities and Miscellaneous	Badminton Court, Football Fields, Soccer Fields, Volley Court, Bicycle Rental Stand, Day Camps, Dog Obedience Course, Orienteering Map Course, Horseshoe Pits		ca. 1970s	Demolished: Amended from non- contributing to uncounted
9.8		Park Furniture, Fences, Signs, Flagpoles, Drinking Fountains		ca. 1970s	

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Community Planning and Development

Conservation

Entertainment/Recreation

Industry

Other: Horticulture

Landscape Architecture

Archeology/Prehistoric; Historic – Non-Aboriginal

Period of Significance

3000-600 B.C.E and C.E. 1740-1900 (archeology)

1791-1972

Significant Dates

1820

1890

1918

1933

1972

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Peirce, Joshua

Cultural Affiliation

Late Archaic

Early Woodland

Architect/Builder

William M. Haussmann

Olmsted, Frederick Law, Jr.

Olmsted, John C.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The 1991 National Register registration form for the Rock Creek Park Historic District limited its boundaries to Reservation 339, which included both the park's original 1890 boundaries as well as the addition of Piney Branch Parkway. This amended nomination includes a boundary expansion that captures nine additional connector reservations. Each of the connector reservations are adjacent to and lead into Reservation 339. These tributary park extensions follow natural and constructed features, including stream valleys and roads, providing natural buffers leading into Rock Creek Park. These connector reservations are integral to the history of Rock Creek Park, as they are representative of changing trends in landscape and park philosophy as it has undergone several phases of planning and management from the late nineteenth century into the present. Between ca. 1913 and 1950, park planners expanded the boundaries of Rock Creek Park in order to protect the park's natural scenery, improve access, and add resources such as circulation networks and trails. Since 1933, this development has occurred under the guidance and direction of the NPS, which has directed the evolution of this cultural landscape and its component environmental resources, buildings, and circulation networks.

In addition to the boundary expansion, the National Register documentation for Rock Creek Park is being amended to expand the period of significance and to discuss the corresponding Areas of Significance. The amended nomination includes archeological sites with a period of significance of 3000 to 600 B.C.E. and C.E. 1740 to 1800 and expands the park's existing (1791 to 1941) period of significance to 1972. The new periods of significance represent the contribution of Rock Creek Park's archeological sites in understanding prehistoric settlement, colonial tenant farming, Civil War battlefields and sites, and African American tenants. Further, the expansion of the existing period of significance reflects the inclusion of the park's continued development as a historic cultural landscape, including improvements made following World War II and under the federally sponsored Mission 66 and Parkscape U.S.A. programs of the NPS from 1956 to 1972. Since the majority of the contributing resources that were constructed between 1941 and 1972 are integral to the modern development of the park and most are more than 50 years old, Criterion G will not be applied for those resources that do not meet the 50-year age requirements. The 1991 registration form described the historic district as architecturally and historically significant under National Register Criteria A, B, and C with architectural and historic qualities and associations related to nine Areas of Significance. This amended nomination expands the discussion of five of the previous Areas of Significance: *community planning and development*, *conservation*, *landscape architecture*, *architecture*, and *entertainment/recreation*. The additional information has been added primarily to acknowledge Rock Creek Park's importance as an evolving cultural landscape. This narrative also recognizes Rock Creek Park as significant under Criterion D for *archeology*.

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Community Planning and Development

As noted in the 1991 Rock Creek Park Historic District registration form, Rock Creek Park has strong associations with the planning history of Washington, D.C. The park also represents important regional and nationwide planning efforts. Rock Creek Park is significant as a cultural landscape that has been shaped by a number of planning agencies and efforts. In the park's earliest years, the Board of Control of Rock Creek Park operated without a comprehensive planning document for the park, but nonetheless adhered to a consistent policy in undertaking park improvements. The board was guided by Section 7 of the Rock Creek Park Authorization Act of 1890. Within that text, Congress instructed park planners to provide for necessary improvements, including roadways and bridle paths, but also mandated that they institute regulations that provided "for the preservation from injury or spoliation of all timber, animals, or curiosities within said park, and their retention in their natural condition, as nearly as possible."²⁵ Such ideas were formalized in later park planning documents, most prominently in the 1918 Rock Creek Park Plan by the Olmsted Brothers, the landscape architecture firm charged with creating a planning document to guide the park into the future. In its opening statement, the document reminded park planners that "The dominant consideration, never to be subordinated to any other purpose in dealing with Rock Creek Park, is the permanent preservation of its wonderful natural beauty, and the making of that beauty accessible to people without spoiling the scenery in the process."²⁶

In the 1920s, Rock Creek Park became associated with regional planning efforts, as concern over urbanization and the environment heightened, and parkland acquisition became a major objective across the country. In the District of Columbia, a regional approach to park planning was motivated by concerns over the environmental quality of Rock Creek and its watershed. The National Capital Park Commission was created in June 1924 to address these concerns, and the commission was authorized to acquire parkland within the District, Virginia, and Maryland in order to preserve Rock Creek Park's natural environment.

In 1933, Rock Creek Park came under the management of the NPS, which has continued this work into the present. Rock Creek Park is an example of the continued development of this country's national park system under the direction of the NPS in the mid-twentieth century. NPS's own 1916 enabling legislation called on the agency to "...conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife....and to provide for the enjoyment...of future generations."²⁷ The development of Rock Creek Park has continued to be influenced by these goals, as they have been formalized within the system-wide

²⁵ For more information regarding the act authorizing the establishment of Rock Creek Park by the Fifty-First Congress, Session I, Chapter 1001, September 27, 1890, see United States Department of State, *The Statutes at Large of the United States of America from December, 1889, to March, 1891, and Recent Treaties, Conventions, and Executive Proclamations* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1891), 492.

²⁶ *Rock Creek Park; A Report by Olmsted Brothers*, December 1918.
<http://www.nps.gov/rocr/historyculture/index.htm>.

²⁷ National Park Service, "Organic Act of 1916," accessed July 7, 2014,
<http://www.nps.gov/grba/parkmgmt/organic-act-of-1916.htm>.

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

planning and design guidelines of the NPS. It has been noted that “Centrally planned, system-wide improvement of National Park Service properties” has taken place during two main periods.²⁸ Each period has dealt with the mission of balancing preservation and accessibility within the park system, while coping with increased usage by visitors and automobiles that place more intensive stress on these natural and cultural resources.

Rock Creek Park’s first era of improvement under the NPS occurred in the 1930s under President Franklin Roosevelt’s New Deal programs, particularly the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). NPS worked with the CCC to actively pursue the development of national, state and local parks. The finished work represented a growing trend in the 1930s towards the acceptance of recreational development in natural areas.²⁹ The CCC undertook important maintenance and improvements projects in Rock Creek Park, including landscaping, clearing creek channels, and building bridle paths. In 1936, workers from Camp NP-8-VA demolished the existing comfort station in Rock Creek Park. They then constructed a replacement stone comfort station as an addition to the recently finished Police Lodge. That year they also built 2.2 miles of horse trails with .3 miles of log jumps. After reorganization as Camp NP-14-DC in 1938, workers continued maintenance work in conjunction with the NPS. The camp was dissolved in 1942.³⁰

The second major period of improvement in Rock Creek Park took place following World War II with the inception of the nationwide Mission 66 program. While the CCC had provided funding and labor for park maintenance and development, these sources of support disappeared with the arrival of World War II. Following the conclusion of the war, many national parks experienced a significant increase in visitors and automobile use, but unfortunately, a park system suffering from deferred maintenance was left unprepared. NPS responded to the issue by constructing more recreational facilities and a small number of comfort stations, but it was clear that a more complete program was necessary. In the mid-1950s, NPS undertook an ambitious nationwide program for park improvement. Under the supervision of director Conrad L. Wirth, the NPS conceived and created the Mission 66 program in 1955.³¹ The comprehensive program for improvement began in 1956 and concluded in 1966, and included such goals as increasing access to park resources, upgrading visitor facilities, protecting natural resources, and preservation of historic buildings.

The fundamental challenge that Wirth and his planners undertook was to facilitate access to an increasingly large number of visitors, while continuing to protect park landscapes and cultural resources; this challenge highlighted the tenuous balance between preservation and use that dates back to the origins of both the NPS and Rock Creek Park. Rock Creek Park experienced the same challenges that faced parks nationwide, including increasing visitor numbers compounded by inadequate visitor resources that threatened to compromise the park’s mission of recreation and interpretive services, as well as natural resource conservation and preservation of historic sites. The National Capital Parks Mission 66

²⁸ National Register of Historic Places, Multiple Property Listing, *Mission 66-Era Visitor Centers, Administration Buildings, and Public Use Areas in the National Capital Region of the National Park Service*, 2012, E:1.

²⁹ Lisa Pfueller Davidson and James A. Jacobs, “Civilian Conservation Corps Activities in the National Capital Region of the National Park Service,” *Cultural Resource Management Journal* 2 no. 2 (Summer 2005): 90; available from: http://www.nps.gov/history/CRDI/publications/CRM_Vol2_02_Research_Reports.pdf.

³⁰ Lisa Pfueller Davidson and James A. Jacobs, “Civilian Conservation Corps Activities in the National Capital Region of the National Park Service,” *Cultural Resource Management Journal* 2 no. 2 (Summer 2005): 41; available from: http://www.nps.gov/history/CRDI/publications/CRM_Vol2_02_Research_Reports.pdf.

³¹ Wirth acted as NPS director from December 9, 1951 to January 7, 1964.

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

prospectus outlined this NPS unit's most pressing needs at the time, including additional visitor facilities and circulation improvements. As a result of Mission 66 planning and funding, Rock Creek Park benefitted from the construction of improved visitor facilities, like the Rock Creek Park Nature Center and Planetarium, and great improvement to its vehicle circulation system in particular through the replacement of ten bridges between 1956 and 1960. Other improvements included road repair and widening, and improvements to pedestrian and bridle trails.

Conservation

This amended nomination expands the boundaries of the historic district to include several reservations that have historical associations with Rock Creek Park. The protection of Rock Creek's watershed has been a significant part of its history and management since its inception. Therefore a number of contiguous and noncontiguous parcels of land were assembled as public reservations in the early-to-mid-twentieth century to act as both access routes into the park and as a means of preserving the watershed. This amendment considers these reservations as contributing resources to the mission and history of Rock Creek Park, supporting its significance as a historic cultural landscape. The following reservations eligible for inclusion within the Rock Creek Park Historic District are: Reservation 356 (Klinge Valley Parkway); Reservation 402 (Soapstone Creek Valley); Reservation 432 (Beach Parkway); Reservation 433 (Blair Portal); Reservation 545 (Pinehurst Parkway); Reservation 635 (Woodley Park); Reservation 630 (Melvin Hazen Park); and Reservation 563 (Portion of the north side of the Zoological Park). These land areas are significant for their contribution to conservation of Rock Creek Park's natural environment, for their association with the planning and development of the park, and have also played a significant role in the park's recreation goals.

Landscape Architecture

Rock Creek Park has developed as a historic cultural landscape since its creation in 1890, first under the direction of the Board of Control of Rock Creek Park, under the direction of the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds beginning in 1918, and finally under the jurisdiction of the NPS from 1933 to the present. Each of these periods has witnessed development and change within the landscape, as park planners have acted to improve public access to the park while continuing to protect natural and cultural resources. Each undertaking has left an imprint on the cultural landscape, whether by adding land parcels and creating access to protect Rock Creek itself, constructing visitor facilities within the landscape, or improving the circulation network. A significant contribution to Rock Creek Park's historic cultural landscape has been the continued development of the park's trail system within Reservation 339 and added reservations. The current trail system accounts for a significant portion of the park's overall circulation network and accommodates both recreational and commuter needs. Many of these trails evolved from early farm or carriage roads that serve as a reminder of historic circulation networks that predate the creation of the park. The establishment of Rock Creek Park led to the creation of a bridle and foot trail system, intended to both provide for public access, as well as to preserve the surrounding environment. Planners utilized the existing carriage roads to create the original trail system. The initial period of improvement within the park, from about 1897 through 1910, proved to be the most intensive period for trail development. Since that time, work on the trail system has largely consisted of eliminating, reopening or adjusting existing paths. Trails created or organized in various periods of the park's history have attained significance to the landscape, including pedestrian and bridle trails created by the CCC in the 1930s, and bridle and multi-use trails constructed during the Mission 66 era. The design focus of the trail system incorporated the use of stone walls, wood bridges, and natural materials for the

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

trail tread. The design of the trails was to incorporate into the landscape of the forest and blend into the surrounding scenery.

Improvements to Rock Creek Park's circulation network were a major portion of Mission 66 funds allocated to the park. In addition to the trail system noted above, NPS improved or replaced a number of inefficient roads, bridges, and culverts in their efforts to accommodate increased visitor and automobile traffic. Such resources improved or constructed in this period are considered contributing resources to the Rock Creek Park cultural landscape. Additionally, the Mission 66 program allocated money to construct a number of new bridges and related road improvements in the 1950s and early 1960s. The new bridges were designed in the Park Service Modern style, and are also considered significant architectural resources from this time period.

In addition to Rock Creek Park's significance as a distinct cultural landscape in and of itself, the park contains several component landscapes, such as Linnaean Hill and the Peirce Mill Complex, that have been identified since the publication of the 1991 National Register registration form. A component landscape is a landscape that has been determined to have a distinct physical history and character that sets it apart from the overall park landscape. Both Linnaean Hill and Peirce Mill have been determined to have a distinct physical history and character that sets them apart from the overall park landscape, as well as character that cannot be found elsewhere within Washington, D.C. Linnaean Hill is particularly significant as one of the most intact historic country estates in the District of Columbia. Further, the current spatial organization of the site reflects the evolution of the property from an early-nineteenth century horticultural enterprise, to its later design as a Picturesque garden, and finally, to its current use as the administrative center for the NPS in Rock Creek Park. The Peirce Mill Complex is significant as the city's only surviving historic agricultural/industrial complex. It also represents the history of the development of the park as well as the evolving nature of preservation treatments and philosophy within federal parks. The extant landscape and buildings represent the site's historic uses as a milling and agricultural enterprise in the nineteenth century, a private tea house and picnic grounds in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and as a living history museum under the tenure of the NPS beginning in the 1930s. The property continues as a visitor recreation and historic interpretive programming area today, influenced by the preservation philosophy of the NPS.

Architecture

This amended nomination adds several contributing architectural resources to the Rock Creek Park Historic District, including buildings and structures that were constructed in the post-World War II and Mission 66 eras, reflecting a new phase in national park design. Immediately following World War II, many national parks constructed recreational and small visitor facilities to address visitor use, accessibility, and comfort needs. In Rock Creek Park, this work included the design and construction of the Carter Barron Amphitheater and associated structures in 1950, the Rock Creek Stables in 1959, and several comfort stations in the early 1950s. The comfort stations recall the continued tradition of the Park Rustic style, introduced in the 1930s. On the other hand, the Carter Barron Amphitheater reflects a transition in NPS architecture towards the Modern Movement. Carter Barron Amphitheater was constructed of ashlar veneer that recalled NPS's earlier architecture and its use of traditional building materials, but its concrete block construction and lack of ornamentation reflects the influence of the Modern Movement.

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

Mission 66 initiated a new era of park architecture. The prevalent influence of “Park Service Modern,” which utilized concrete, prefabricated materials, standard layouts and minimal ornamentation, is seen throughout Rock Creek Park. These contemporary buildings were not only cheaper to construct, but were considered to be easier for visitors to visually comprehend, more efficient, and more conducive to increased interpretive programmatic space. Moreover, proponents of the style argued that these new structures blended with the environment rather than competed with it. Contributing resources to the Rock Creek Park Historic District that represent the Park Service Modern style include the Rock Creek Park Stables, the Nature Center and Planetarium, and the Rock Creek Golf Club House.

As noted, the immediate post-war period and the Mission 66 era also had a significant influence on the development of circulation systems within park design. In the early 1950s, the NPS erected a series of bridge and grade separations consisting of “sparse reinforced concrete structures at Tilden Street, Harvard Street, Piney Branch, Sherrill Drive, Kalmia Road, Glover Road, and Blagden Avenue.”³² During the Mission 66 era, the NPS constructed culverts and bridges with pre-stressed concrete girders, aluminum railings, and concrete abutments occasionally faced with stone to harmonize with existing structures.³³ Bridges and culverts replaced or constructed as a result of the Mission 66 program include Glover Road at Broad Branch (1956), Joyce Bridge #2 at Beach Drive (1955), Beach Drive at Milkhouse Ford (1957), Beach Drive at Piney Branch Parkway (1957), Beach Drive at Broad Branch (1956), Joyce Luzon Bridge (1950), Beach Drive at Milkhouse Ford Road (1957), and Beach and Sherrill Drive (1959).³⁴

Entertainment/Recreation

As noted in the 1991 National Register registration form, leisure activities have been an important component of Rock Creek Park since its inception. More active recreational pursuits, such as field sports, tennis, and golf, were accommodated by the 1920s and have continued to develop in the park. Mid-twentieth-century improvements made to the trail system, and construction of the tennis courts, horse stables, golf clubhouse, Carter Barron Amphitheater, and Nature Center and Planetarium, are considered contributing resources to this theme.

Archeology

Archeological investigations within the park have resulted in the identification of numerous historic artifacts. Rock Creek Park contains evidence of human interaction with the environment from pre-history through the present day. An archeological survey of Rock Creek Park conducted between 2003 and 2007 identified 51 archeological sites within 1,300 acres of surveyed park land. Eleven of those sites were archeological components of previously recorded historic sites, such as Linnaean Hill, and 40 of the sites were new discoveries that included quarries, Native American camp sites, colonial farmsteads and mills, nineteenth-century dwellings, and Civil War sites. These include the Piney Branch, Nature Center, and Soapstone Quarries that represent pre-historic archeology; the Clouin Course Site and the Carroll Tenancy Site that represent colonial settlement; nineteenth-century milling and farmstead archeology at Linnaean Hill; Civil War sites including the Battle of Fort Stevens, Fort DeRussy Dump, and the Batteries at Broad Branch and Rock Creek; and nineteenth century African American tenancies at the Sarah Whitby Site and the Charles Dickson Site.

³² Historic American Engineering Record, *Rock Creek Park Road System*, HAER No. DC-55, 2011: 262.

³³ National Register of Historic Places, Multiple Property Listing, *Mission 66-Era Visitor Centers, Administration Buildings, and Public Use Areas in the National Capital Region of the National Park Service*, 2012, E:33.

³⁴ Historic American Engineering Record, *Rock Creek Park Road System*, HAER No. DC-55, 2011: 6-18.

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

DEVELOPMENTAL HISTORY and Additional Historic Context Information

Component Cultural Landscapes

Linnaean Hill

Linnaean Hill is significant individually and as a component historic cultural landscape of Rock Creek Park. Today, Linnaean Hill is “a remnant landscape of a nineteenth-century nursery and a Picturesque-styled tree park that functions in the twentieth-century as a recreational area and minimally interpreted historic site.”³⁵ The current spatial organization of Linnaean Hill therefore reflects the evolution of the property from an early-nineteenth century horticultural enterprise, its later design as a Picturesque garden, and finally, its current use as the administrative center for Rock Creek Park.

As a component cultural landscape, Linnaean Hill is considered significant as an altered horticultural and aesthetic landscape of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries:

The natural systems—the forest growth, large scale topography and creek alignment— influenced the development and orientation of the site. For instance, the evolution of the mid-nineteenth-century Picturesque-style garden, took advantage of the existing steep topography and vegetative patterns to control views into and out of the garden. In the early twentieth century, these same natural systems helped to define the areas of hiking trails and park visitor passive recreation. The major topographic and hydrological features that existed during the nineteenth century, such as the alignment of Rock Creek, remain essentially extant. Such continuity contributes to the integrity of the natural systems on the site.³⁶

Later alterations to the landscape in the mid-to-late twentieth century, such as the Colonial Revival-style landscape design implemented by the NPS in the 1930s, are significant in relationship to the development of the Park as a whole. As part of Rock Creek Park since its formation in 1890, and under the direction of the NPS since 1933, Linnaean Hill today has a distinct character that cannot be found elsewhere within Rock Creek Park or Washington, D.C. Today, the property serves as Rock Creek Park’s administrative headquarters, and remains a minimally interpreted historic site that recounts the history of the site during the time of horticulturist Joshua Peirce and his nephew, Joshua P. Klingle, and later during its tenure as part of Rock Creek Park. Its buildings, structures, circulation systems, materials and organization contribute to the historic horticultural and picturesque-designed landscapes associated with Peirce, and also speak to the property’s evolution within and contribution to Washington, D.C.’s historic Rock Creek Park. As a cultural landscape, Linnaean Hill is historically significant under National Register criterion A. The landscape possesses the essential level of integrity to represent its significance as an early-nineteenth century horticultural nursery and country estate, as a mid-to-late-nineteenth-century picturesque designed landscape, and as an altered landscape serving the purposes of Rock Creek Park under the direction of the NPS. Linnaean Hill is also significant under Criterion D, as initial testing has shown that the potential for archeological artifacts at the site is highly likely.

³⁵ National Park Service, “Spaces & Places: America’s Cultural Landscapes, Linnaean Hill,” available from: National Park Service, http://www.nps.gov/cultural_landscapes/snp/600032.html (accessed December 19, 2012).

³⁶ “Cultural Landscape Inventory: Linnaean Hill, Rock Creek Park” (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, 1998, Revised 2003, 2009), 3a:2.

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

Peirce Mill

The 1991 Rock Creek Park Historic District registration form did not consider the Peirce Mill site as a significant, contributing landscape, stating that “Although the site could not be considered a significant designed historic landscape, it does retain its topography and sufficient plant material to recall its nineteenth century creek side setting.” This updated National Register Nomination for the Rock Creek Park Historic District has reevaluated the significance of the Peirce Mill site as a historic cultural landscape, based on extensive research and studies performed in the 1990s and 2000s, which found that the complex possesses a distinct historic industrial character no longer found within Washington, D.C., as well as significant ability to represent park land development and preservation philosophy in a federal park.

Three periods of development define the Peirce Mill area as a cultural landscape, encompassing the years from 1794 to the present. The first period, from 1794 to 1890, is defined by the land’s use for privately owned milling and agricultural enterprises by Isaac and Abner Peirce and Peirce Shoemaker. The landscape was adapted for industrial use, as noted above, as well as for orchards, agricultural clusters, pastures land, and the necessary transportation routes to make such an enterprise feasible. The second period, from 1891 to 1932, is defined by the transfer of the complex to Rock Creek Park in 1890, and its subsequent renovation as a picturesque tea house within the mill building, surrounded by picnic grounds and equestrian trails. The third period, beginning in 1933, is defined by the complex’s restoration as a living history museum interpreting the site’s nineteenth-century milling activities. The landscape was first modified for the purpose of a 1934-1936 New Deal project. The site continues to concentrate on visitor recreation and historic interpretive programming, today under the direction of the NPS in partnership with the Friends of Peirce Mill.

The *Cultural Landscapes Inventory* and the *Cultural Landscape Report* further divide the Peirce Mill component cultural landscape into several “landscape character areas.” Three types of landscape character areas were defined: the landscapes defined by historic structures and landscape features (such as the historic core including the mill and the headrace area); landscapes including naturalistic environments (such as the wooded buffer area at the borders of the property); and landscapes used as picnic groves.³⁷ These landscape character areas reveal that the Peirce Mill Complex retains significant cultural landscape elements related to each of its periods of development. The 1998 *Cultural Landscapes Inventory* states that:

The Peirce Mill component landscape retains significant landscape elements as defined through complicated interactions among remnants of a nineteenth-century utilitarian landscape, an early twentieth century picturesque design and a mid-twentieth-century living history interpretative site. These eras are then overlaid with the current ecologically oriented management approach, which reflects the need to accommodate an increasing variety of visitor uses.³⁸

³⁷ National Park Service, “Peirce Mill Complex: Cultural Landscape Report” (Prepared by Quinn Evans Architects for National Park Service, August 2009), 1:6.

³⁸ “Cultural Landscape Inventory: Peirce Mill, Rock Creek Park” (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, 1998, Revised 2003, 2009), 1:5.

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

This has resulted in a multi-layering of history within the landscape that represents the property's evolution as a historic industrial site and its later development as a park site influenced by the preservation philosophy of the NPS.

As such, this component landscape is historically significant under National Register criterion A. The 2009 Cultural Landscape Report presented the following Statement of Significance:

There are three periods of significance for the Peirce Mill landscape, spanning the years 1800 to 1951. The three periods of significance correspond to the first three periods of significance for Rock Creek Park overall (1800-1890, 1891-1932, and 1933-1951). During the first period of significance, 1800 to 1890, the milling operation was redeveloped and agricultural enterprises were established on the property by Isaac and Abner Peirce and Peirce Shoemaker. The landscape was utilitarian in character with developments directly related to the milling and agricultural activities. From 1891 until 1933 the site was used for passive recreation, equestrian trails, and as a picturesque tea house and picnic grounds important in the development of early Rock Creek Park recreational and interpretive programs. The associated picturesque landscape included ornamental plants, fences, and other features designed specifically to enhance the scenic beauty of the site. The final period of significance spans from 1934 to 1951, an era during which the mill was restored and the surrounding landscape was designed to complement the mill's use as a living history museum. The rehabilitation, funded by the Works Progress Administration as part of the New Deal legislation, was undertaken by the Civilian Conservation Corps and overseen by Thomas T. Waterman, considered a master of architectural restoration by his contemporaries. The landscape was manipulated to compliment the structures and provide a representation of the functional relationship between the creek and the mill as well as to serve the visitors in a park-like environment. The emphasis on the landscape was not to restore it to its historic conditions.³⁹

The Peirce Mill Complex continues to be used to the present, and it continues to evolve as a recreational and interpretive landscape within Rock Creek Park, as managed by NPS. Features that reflect the evolution of this historic landscape remain on the site, as do the natural physical features that have influenced the site's spatial organization throughout history. These historic and natural features provide a backdrop for the park's contributing structures, for its man-made water and landscape elements, and for its roads and circulation systems, all of which illustrate nineteenth-century utilitarian use, designed early-twentieth-century parkland enhancement, and later rehabilitation as a visitor destination.

Connector Reservations

Introduction

The National Register Nomination for the Rock Creek Park Historic District, prepared in 1991, established the boundaries of the district as those tracts of land legally defined as public Reservation 339. Those boundaries were roughly defined as 16th Street to the east, Oregon Avenue and Branch Road to the west, Klinge Road to the south, and the District line and Parkside Drive to the north. Reservation 339

³⁹ Quinn Evans Architects, "Peirce Mill Complex: Cultural Landscape Report" (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, 2009), 5:1.

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

was the land set aside as Rock Creek Park by Congress in 1890, with about 100 acres of related boundary rectifications and additions. Further, this land area was surveyed and included in the 1918 Olmsted comprehensive plan for the park. The 1991 registration form did not include reservations that were not contiguous to Reservation 339, such as Soapstone and Klinge valleys. These discontinuous reservations, however, are now recognized to have direct associations with Rock Creek Park. The original registration form also did not include reservations such as Melvin Hazen Park and Pinehurst Parkway that are contiguous to Rock Creek Park, but had less well-documented associations with Reservation 339.

This Rock Creek Park Historic District Amendment has reevaluated these contiguous and noncontiguous parkland reservations. As noted in the 1991 registration form, these reservations “were acquired and integrated into Washington’s Park system between 1913 and 1950 as access routes and a means of preserving the watershed of the Rock Creek Valley.”⁴⁰ As such, this Amendment considers these reservations as contributing resources to the mission and history of Rock Creek Park, supporting its significance as a historic cultural landscape. Therefore, this Amendment adds the following reservations to the Rock Creek Park Historic District boundaries: Reservation 356 (Klinge Valley Parkway); Reservation 402 (Soapstone Creek Valley); Reservation 432 (Beach Parkway); Reservation 433 (Blair Portal); Reservation 545 (Pinehurst Parkway); Reservation 635 (Woodley Park); Reservation 630 (Melvin Hazen Park); Reservation 563 (Portion of the north side of the Zoological Park). As noted previously in this document, this amendment also corrects the technical error in the 1991 registration form that classifies Reservation 308A (parcel containing Peirce Springhouse) as being part of Reservation 339, but makes no changes to the boundary or to the contributing status.

History

Since its founding in 1890, Rock Creek Park has grown through boundary expansions and the addition of tributary parks that have acted to both preserve Rock Creek’s watershed and the park’s natural scenery, as well as to provide scenic access routes into the park. These additions have occurred through a number of administrative actions and resolutions, resulting in land acquisitions and transfers to create the parkland. The acquisition of these land areas for the dual purpose of both preservation and access speaks to the balance between conservation and public use that park planners have worked to realize since Rock Creek Park’s inception. Agitation for the acquisition of additional parkland began as early as the late nineteenth century, and work was undertaken in that direction throughout the early part of the twentieth century. Beginning in the 1920s local organizations began to work together to fold these earlier acquisitions into the Rock Creek Park system, and to acquire further property.

By the 1920s, “the impact of urbanization on the environmental quality of Rock Creek Park reached crisis proportions.”⁴¹ As officials began to fear that development in the Rock Creek Valley watershed would reduce the creek to a trickle, they began to take steps towards its protection. The acquisition of parkland became a major objective, and national and local organizations like the American Planning and Civic Association lobbied for legislation to create a park commission with regional planning powers. This regional approach to park planning was motivated by concerns that Rock Creek and its parkland in the District of Columbia would suffer significant degradation if the creek’s Maryland watershed also was not

⁴⁰ National Register of Historic Places, *Rock Creek Park Historic District*, Washington, D.C., National Register # 91001524, 1991, 10:2.

⁴¹ National Register of Historic Places, *Rock Creek Park Historic District*, Washington, D.C., National Register # 91001524, 1991, 8:50.

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

protected. As a result, the National Capital Park Commission was created by legislation passed on June 6, 1924.⁴²

The National Capital Park Commission (NCPC) was composed of a number of prominent officials including: “the chief engineers of the U.S. Army, the engineer commissioner of the District of Columbia, the director of the NPS, and the chief of the House and Senate committees on the District of Columbia.”⁴³ The officer in charge of Buildings and Grounds acted as the executive officer of the NCPC, and oversaw the land acquisition program. The NCPC was authorized to acquire parklands within the District, Virginia and Maryland, in order to preserve the flow of water into and prevent the pollution of Rock Creek. In addition to its charge to preserve the forests and natural scenery in the District of Columbia region, the Commission was further instructed “to provide for the comprehensive, systematic, and continuous development of park, parkway, and playground system.”⁴⁴ In 1926, with expanded planning powers afforded by new legislation, the agency was renamed the National Capital Park and Planning Commission (NCPPC).⁴⁵ This 1926 legislative amendment gave the NCPPC the added directive to develop “a comprehensive, consistent, and coordinated plan for the National Capital and its environs in the States of Maryland and Virginia.”⁴⁶

The Capper-Cramton Act of 1930 similarly worked to integrate regional planning activities for the Washington, D.C. metropolitan region. In September 1925, Colonel Sherrill, executive secretary of the NCPC wrote Maryland Governor Albert C. Ritchie to enlist Maryland’s cooperation in park planning and acquisition. Ritchie agreed and in 1927 the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCP&PC) was created. To encourage Washington, D.C.’s neighbors to cooperate, federal aid was offered. In 1929, Representative Louis C. Cramton, chairman of the House subcommittee dealing with park appropriations, proposed legislation that would have the federal government grant one-third and advance two-thirds of the cost of extensions of Rock Creek and Anacostia River parkland into Maryland. In December of that year, Cramton stated that the MNCP&PC had coordinated with the NCPC to plan for the Rock Creek Park extension, and was prepared to repay the federal advance. The bill was passed by the House of Representatives and was forwarded to the Senate Committee on the District of Columbia, chaired by Senator Arthur Capper. After resolving minor differences between the House and the Senate, the Capper-Cramton Act was signed into law on May 29, 1930. Conrad Wirth, a landscape architect on staff with the NCPPC (and later to become the director of the NPS during the Mission 66 era), worked with the MNCP&PC and completed a report on the extended Rock Creek Park boundaries in September 1930. By August of the following year, land acquisition was underway to allow for proposed boundary extensions. Another powerful legislative measure from the time period was the Shipstead-Luce Act, passed in May 1930. The act gave the Commission of Fine Arts the authority to review designs of private construction projects that abut specified areas of the National Capital, including Rock Creek Park.

⁴² National Park Service, “Laws & Policies: Enabling Legislation for National Capital Park Commission, June 6, 1924,” accessed December 18, 2012, <http://www.nps.gov/cahi/parkmgmt/lawsandpolicies.htm>.

⁴³ National Park Service, “Laws & Policies: Enabling Legislation for National Capital Park Commission, June 6, 1924,” Accessed December 18, 2012, <http://www.nps.gov/cahi/parkmgmt/lawsandpolicies.htm>.

⁴⁴ National Register of Historic Places, *Rock Creek Park Historic District*, Washington, District of Columbia, (1991): 8:50.

⁴⁵ National Park Service, “Laws & Policies: Act of Congress, April 30, 1926,” accessed December 19, 2012, <http://www.nps.gov/cahi/parkmgmt/lawsandpolicies.htm>.

⁴⁶ National Park Service, “An Administrative History-Other Additions,” accessed December 19, 2012, <http://www.nps.gov/rocr/historyculture/adhi3a.htm>.

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Washington, D.C.

Name of Property

County and State

Planning and conservation measures continued into the 1930s, and preservation of Rock Creek's watershed was further enhanced. The addition of several tributary stream valleys to the park helped to support this goal. "Border" parkways were one such model for preservation. A regional study published by MNCP&PC in 1937 stated that these border parkways called for "eventual acquisition [of] selected stream valley 'strip parks' [to] be protected by public purchase of scenic easements in all parks of the area.' While these do not possess extraordinary scenic qualities, they protect the floodplain and 'assure provision of open spaces to prevent uninterrupted built-up areas.'"⁴⁷ There are more than 12,000 acres of neighborhood 'stream valley,' or 'strip' parks that protect crucial systems in the park system; many sit adjacent to Rock Creek Park.⁴⁸

In 1975, Rock Creek Park became a separate division of the National Capital Parks within the NPS. In October 1976, an administrative reorganization brought several tributary and other bordering reservations to the Rock Creek Division: Pinehurst Parkway, Soapstone Valley Park, Melvin C. Hazen Park, Klinge Valley Parkway, Normanstone Parkway, Dumbarton Oaks Park, Montrose Park, Beach Parkway and Blair Portal. Its boundaries enlarged, Rock Creek Park became a distinct organizational entity in August 1977, leaving the umbrella of the division of the National Capital Parks.⁴⁹

Added Reservations

One early addition to the Park was the Piney Branch Parkway, acquired by the federal government in 1907 and expanded in the 1920s. Although it was not within the original 1890 bounds of the Park, Piney Branch Parkway is legally a part of Reservation 339 and was included in the 1991 boundaries of the Rock Creek Park Historic District.

Piney Branch Parkway was not the only early park extension, however, as land acquisition and park and parkway creation continued throughout the twentieth century. The boundaries of the historic district are being expanded to include the following connector reservations, which are adjacent to and lead into Reservation 339.

Reservation 356 (Klinge Valley Parkway):

Along with Piney Branch Parkway, Klinge Valley Parkway was one of the first parkway extensions added to Rock Creek Park. Running west from Rock Creek along the north side of the Zoological Park, Klinge Valley also forms the southern boundary of Reservation 339.

Klinge Valley has a long history in the area, its use as an access point dating to the early nineteenth century. Before east-west road connections were constructed in the District, Rock Creek was only passable at fords, where the creek was shallow enough to cross by foot. The most often used were Milkhouse Ford, which was alternatively known as Rock Creek Ford, and Klinge Ford. Klinge Ford was located near the mouth of Klinge Creek approximately where the Porter Street Bridge is currently situated. In 1831, Klinge Road was laid out by Joshua Peirce as a connection between Linnaean Hill to

⁴⁷ National Register of Historic Places, Multiple Property Listing, *Parkways of the National Capital Region*, 1913-1965, 1991, E:2.

⁴⁸ National Register of Historic Places, Multiple Property Listing, *Parkways of the National Capital Region*, 1913-1965, 1991, E:2.

⁴⁹ Barry Mackintosh, *Rock Creek Park: An Administrative History* (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, 1985), 72-73.

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Washington, D.C.

Name of Property

County and State

the west and Peirce Mill Road to the east. By the end of the nineteenth century, the road followed the entire course of the stream valley, extending to Woodley Lane Road to the west.⁵⁰ In June 1885, Klingle Road was conveyed to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia for use as a “public highway.”⁵¹ With the creation of Rock Creek Park in 1890, Klingle Road was one of only three roadways, including Peirce Mill Road and Military Road, which provided connection through Rock Creek Valley north of the District of Columbia.⁵² The roadway continued as a gravel road until about World War I, when it was paved. In 1991, the section through Klingle Valley Parkway was closed after stormwater erosion damaged the roadway and its infrastructure. The District of Columbia, in cooperation with the National Park Service, is constructing a new, permeable-surface multi-use trail incorporating the original road corridor, which will continue to provide non-vehicular access from the Klingle Valley to Rock Creek Park.

The acquisition of Klingle Valley was one of the earliest priorities for those interested in protecting the beauty of the Rock Creek Valley. Local newspaper articles from the first quarter of the twentieth century reported a strong public desire to add Klingle Valley to the park. In 1912, legislation was presented to Congress to add a parkway strip along Klingle Road from Rock Creek Park to Woodley Road, although it did not pass committee. In January 1913, the *Washington Post* published an article entitled “Waste is Horrible: Engineer Commissioner Urges Early Purchase of Klingle Valley.”⁵³ The article reported that the engineer commissioner of the District, Lieut. Col. W.V. Judson, had announced that the commissioners had placed a number of new park items within their estimates, including Klingle Valley, which Judson called “a beautifully wooded ravine.” The article noted that the valley formed “a natural entrance to the park system, by an easy grade.” Judson focused on the pressing nature of the issue, stating that “The immediate acquisition of this valley is essential to its conservation, as its owners are desirous of making it a dumping ground in grading operations... The value of this ravine to future residents of Washington is beyond all comparison with what it can be bought for today.”⁵⁴

Campaigning for protection of the valley continued throughout that decade, as an appropriation bill to purchase land made its way through the Senate. A 1916 *Washington Post* article noted a Senate District Committee meeting on a bill that would provide “for the acquisition of 15 acres in Klingle Ford valley as a park and to provide a new entrance into the Zoo park.”⁵⁵ By 1917, the issue was still under debate as the *Post* reported that the Connecticut Avenue Citizens’ Association had sent a protest to the Senate following an agreement on the District appropriation bill that would eliminate the allowance of \$87,000 for acquisition of Klingle Valley.⁵⁶ In October 1919, Melvin C. Hazen, District surveyor, recommended the purchase of five sites to be added to the District’s public park system in his annual report. These sites

⁵⁰ EHT Traceries, Inc., “Klingle Valley Trail Assessment of Effects: Historic Resources” (Washington, D.C.: District Department of Transportation, 2010).

⁵¹ EHT Traceries, Inc., “Klingle Valley Trail Assessment of Effects: Historic Resources” (Washington, D.C.: District Department of Transportation, 2010).

⁵² EHT Traceries, Inc., “Klingle Valley Trail Assessment of Effects: Historic Resources” (Washington, D.C.: District Department of Transportation, 2010).

⁵³ “Waste is Horrible; Engineer Commissioner Urges Early Purchase of Klingle Valley,” *Washington Post*, January 5, 1913, 1.

⁵⁴ “Waste is Horrible; Engineer Commissioner Urges Early Purchase of Klingle Valley,” *Washington Post*, January 5, 1913, 1.

⁵⁵ “Urge Klingle Valley Park: Senators Newlands and Brady Are Among Those Advocating Bill,” *Washington Post*, June 1, 1916, 5.

⁵⁶ “Move to Protect Klingle Valley: Citizens’ Association in Protest to Senate on Cut in Bill,” *Washington Post*, February 27, 1917, 10; also: “Again Ask Park Purchase: Connecticut Avenue Association Urges Klingle Valley Project,” *Washington Post*, March 18, 1917, E10.

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Washington, D.C.

Name of Property

County and State

included Piney Branch Parkway, as well as Klinge Road Valley “from the southerly entrance to Rock Creek Park along Klinge road valley, crossing Woodley road at about Thirty-first street, connecting with Normanstone drive extended and the Naval Observatory, giving a parkway around the Zoo Park.”⁵⁷ While both the Klinge Valley and Normanstone parkways were eventually completed, the connection between the two was never made.

By 1924, land had not yet been acquired, but advocates were coming closer to their goal. On March 8, the House District Committee voted to favorably report the park extension bill to the House of Representatives, which would allow for the acquisition of park sites in Klinge Valley, Piney Branch and the Patterson tract.⁵⁸ Several days later, the *Post* reported on the favorable reports by the Senate and House District committees on the bill for park extension. The article noted that the need for additional park space was not a new issue, stating “For several Congressional terms the demand for park extension has been impressively apparent. With the city’s growth in population and expansion of congested areas, park space that was once adequate has become less and less so...”⁵⁹

In June 1924, Melvin C. Hazen began the preparation of a survey that would show the need for additional park lands in and around the District. The final report was to be submitted to the Engineer Commissioner Bell for approval and transmittal to the NCPC by the District commissioners. Included in the lands that he intended to recommend for purchase were Piney Branch, Klinge Valley and the Patterson tracts.⁶⁰ In March 1925, the NCPC, now renamed the NCPPC, took its first step in preserving Klinge Valley with the purchase of approximately 3.5 acres from developer Harry Wardman in a tract of land adjoining Connecticut Avenue. The *Washington Post* reported that acquisition of the land “will at once insure the preservation of the stream which runs through the valley and which is an important feeder to Rock Creek, and in addition will preserve the wooded and bluff fringe of Klinge ford as it enters Rock Creek park.” Building on this first purchase, the NCPPC continued to form the Klinge Valley Parkway through a series of acquisitions and transactions that continued into the 1950s.

Reservation 402 (Soapstone Creek Valley):

Located east of Connecticut Avenue, south of Audubon Terrace, and north of Yuma Street, Soapstone Creek Valley is located in the vicinity of Linnaean Hill and Peirce Mill. Like other park extension areas, while Soapstone Creek Valley was not included within the Rock Creek Park system until the 1920s, improvements were made to the land by the Army Corps of Engineers as early as 1898. The Soapstone Creek Culvert was constructed in the late nineteenth century as part of improvements to road and bridge construction in that period. The culvert is a direct result of and in line with efforts to improve the major thoroughways of Rock Creek Park. Following the April 1926 Act of Congress that established NCPPC, parcels were acquired from 1927 into the 1930s, and concluded in 1943.⁶¹ The reservation is significant as a trail access route into the park, and as a protector of Soapstone Creek’s natural resources.

⁵⁷ “Surveyor Urges Five More Parks,” *Washington Post*, October 14, 1919, 14.

⁵⁸ “Acquisition of Park Sites is Step Nearer Realization by City: House Committee Votes to Report Favorably Purchase of Three Tracts,” *Washington Post*, March 9, 1924, 8.

⁵⁹ “District Needs” *Washington Post*, March 11, 1924, 6.

⁶⁰ “Hazen To Report on Land for Parks,” *Washington Post*, June 14, 1924, 13.

⁶¹ Rock Creek Park Land Records, provided by National Park Service; “Additional Land Acquired for Rock Creek,” *Washington Post*, Jan 15, 1943, B1.

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

Reservation 432 (Beach Parkway):

Situated to the northeast side of Rock Creek Park, Beach Parkway is located between East Beach Drive and West Beach Drive, extending across the District of Columbia and Maryland border. Land acquisition for the purposes of the parkway began in 1927 and continued through 1937. Land records document that land was transferred to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia in 1941, 1954, and 1958 for highway purposes. A result of regional planning cooperation, Beach Parkway is significant as a border parkway that provides access into Rock Creek Park from Maryland, and preserves the view shed of the park.

Reservation 433 (Blair Portal):

Located to the northeast side of Rock Creek Park (east of Beach Parkway), Blair Portal enters Rock Creek Park at 16th Street, and is set between South Portal Drive and North Portal Drive, east of their intersections with Beach Drive. Following the formation of the NCPCC in April, in May 1926 *The Washington Post* reported that a northern portal entrance at 16th Street and “retention of desired land for parking purposes will probably be the first business to come before a newly created national city park and planning committee.”⁶² According to land records, the first parcels were added beginning in 1927, and land continued to be acquired into the 1930s, when the portal entrance received a new name designation. In February 1932, a resolution was passed to name the 16th Street entrance after the late Montgomery Blair, who had been Postmaster General under President Lincoln and whose family owned vast acreage in neighboring “Montgomery” County, Maryland.⁶³ Reservation 433 has since been known as “Blair Portal.” A result of regional planning cooperation, Blair Portal is significant as a trail access route that provides access into Rock Creek Park from Maryland, and preserves the view shed of the park.

Reservation 545 (Pinehurst Parkway):

Located towards the northwest side of Reservation 339, Pinehurst Parkway is located south of Beech Street and north of Aberfoyle Place N.W., connecting the park to Maryland across the District of Columbia line. Pinehurst Parkway was formed beginning in 1930, when these unimproved parcels, originally part of Reservation 339, were re-designated as Reservation 545.⁶⁴ Acquisitions and transfers continued through the 1930s and 1940s, concluding in 1944. A result of regional planning cooperation, Pinehurst Parkway is significant as a border parkway that provides pedestrian access into Rock Creek Park from Maryland, and preserves the view shed of the park.

Reservation 635 (Woodley Park):

Woodley Park is located adjacent to Klinge Valley Parkway at its southeast side. The reservation is set to the north side of Cortland Place N.W., between Klinge Road and Devonshire Place. While Woodley Park was officially incorporated into the Rock Creek Park system in the twentieth century, its historic roots in the District of Columbia lay in the eighteenth century. In 1790, General Uriah Forrest and his business partner, Benjamin Stoddard, purchased a tract of land encompassing 990 acres including Woodley Park. In 1794, Forrest sold 250 acres of his land to Philip Barton Key, uncle of Francis Scott Key, who built an

⁶² “New Board to Hear North Portal Plans” *Washington Post*, May 21, 1926, 12.

⁶³ “Lincoln Memorial Approach Favored” *Washington Post*, Feb 5, 1932, 18; also see: “Technicality Bars Committee Action on Delinquent Tax” *Washington Post*, Jan 7, 1932, 18.

⁶⁴ Rock Creek Park Land Records, provided by National Park Service.

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Washington, D.C.

Name of Property

County and State

estate named Woodley Park. By the 1880s, Woodley Park Lane was known as “a great pleasure drive” and “the most picturesque of all the suburban thoroughfares....”⁶⁵ By 1913, interested parties were seriously undertaking work to incorporate parcels of Woodley Park into Rock Creek Park. By that time, much of the surrounding suburban area was already being developed as a residential neighborhood, and work was undertaken to form Reservation 635 to act as a buffer between that development and Rock Creek Park. In March 1913, Melvin Hazen set to work, plotting out that section of the area that would be condemned for government use as a park.⁶⁶ This parcel was formerly known as Cortland Place Park, was renamed Woodley Park in 1942 according to land records.

Reservation 630 (Melvin Hazen Park):

Reservation 630, also known as Melvin Hazen Park, is bound by Reno Road, Connecticut Avenue, Sedgwick Street and Rodman Street, N.W. Prior to the acquisition of the land in the 1940s to form Melvin Hazen Park, this area was known as Bureau of Standards Valley.⁶⁷ The Bureau of Standards was founded in 1901 and had its main campus along Connecticut Avenue, NW.⁶⁸ Land records dating to May 20, 1942, note that this parkland would thereafter be known as Melvin Hazen Park, U.S. Reservation 630.⁶⁹ The park was named after District of Columbia Surveyor, Melvin Hazen, who did much to encourage the purchase and protection of parkland in the District of Columbia, and especially those land areas adjacent to and protecting Rock Creek Park.

Several newspaper articles speak to the interest in acquiring the land to form this reservation. In December 1938, the *Washington Post* wrote that requests had been made to extend D.C. Parks, including purchasing land in the Bureau of Standards Valley, which was described as “a deep wooded valley containing a perennial stream flowing into Rock Creek.”⁷⁰ A July 1939 article noted that 7 acres had been purchased within the Bureau of Standards Valley, and that it was “desired for addition to Rock Creek Park.” In 1944, significant plans were developed for the site, including an outdoor amphitheater, children’s play areas, picnic and seating areas. From these plans, only one feature was implemented, a trail blazed through the property that ran along Rock Creek and continued to the west side of Connecticut Avenue, then picking up on the east side of the avenue and continuing towards Peirce Mill.⁷¹

⁶⁵ “The Woodley Park Bridge: Why a New Structure is Needed and What It Will Cost,” *Washington Post*, February 10, 1888, 1; see also: “Historic Rock Creek: The Wild Sylvan Stream That Beautifies Washington,” *Washington Post*, August 18, 1889, 16.

⁶⁶ “Park Surveys Begin: Hazen Sends Squad to Plot Connecting Driveway,” *Washington Post*, March 22, 1913, 14.

⁶⁷ “New Navy Building is Discussed: Park and Planning Commission Also Weighs Historic Ship Museum,” *Washington Post*, July 15, 1939, 11.

⁶⁸ *Streets of Washington*, “The Lost Hilltop Home of the Bureau of Standards,” accessed February 8, 2013, <http://www.streetsofashington.com/2013/07/the-lost-hilltop-home-of-national.html#!/2013/07/the-lost-hilltop-home-of-national.html>.

⁶⁹ Rock Creek Park Land Records, provided by National Park Service: Memo dated May 20, 1942; Titled: Land Transfer Order No. 1204, Subject: Change in Property Designation; Signed: Frank T. Gartside, Assistant Superintendent; Letterhead: Department of the Interior NPS.

⁷⁰ “\$2,000,000 Asked to Extend D.C. Parks and Playgrounds,” *Washington Post*, December 13, 1938, 1.

⁷¹ *The Historic Trails of Rock Creek Park, Cultural Landscape Report*, Deana R. Poss and Frances McMillen, 2013, 167. Map: “Preliminary Plan for the Development of Melvin Hazen Park,” September 18, 1944.

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

Reservation 308A:

In September 1930, tracts of land containing 36,049.97 square feet in Tilden Street east of 29th Street, N.W., were acquired for park purposes. The area was known as U.S. Reservations 511 and 512, and part of 308-A, beginning with the tract closest to 29th Street.⁷² This parcel of land is the site of the Peirce Mill Springhouse (constructed circa 1801), which is an integral part of the Peirce Mill Complex. The springhouse is located to the west of the larger Peirce Mill Complex site, just outside the boundaries of Reservation 339. The spring house was included as a contributing resource in the original Rock Creek Park National Register registration form, but was incorrectly identified as located within Reservation 339.

Reservation 563 (Portion of the north side of Zoological Park):

Reservation 563 is a narrow sliver of land that is located on the south side of Klinge Road between Beach Drive and Adams Mill Road, N.W. In 1933, the former Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks acquired jurisdiction for park purposes 77,741 square feet of land from the Smithsonian Institution and 5,532.22 square feet of land from the Commissioners of the District of Columbia. The combined land was to be known thereafter as U.S. Reservation 563. The reservation then came under the jurisdiction of National Capital Parks under the NPS, which transferred it to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia for highway purposes in 1945. The reservation has since acted as an access route into the park as well as a protector of Rock Creek Park's view shed, as it provides a vegetative buffer between the National Zoological Park and Rock Creek Park.

Historic Bridle and Foot Trails

Introduction

A Cultural Landscape Report for the *Historic Trails of Rock Creek Park* was completed by the National Park Service, National Capital Region, Cultural Landscape Program in 2013. The report documented the history of the trail system within the park from pre-European contact to the present. Many of the trails evolved from early farm or carriage roads predating the founding of the park in 1890 and serve as reminder of historic circulation networks. The trail system accounts for a significant portion of the overall circulation network, accommodating both recreational and commuter needs. The following historic context summarizes pertinent information presented in *The Historic Trails of Rock Creek Park, Cultural Landscape Report*.⁷³

The establishment of Rock Creek Park led to the creation of a bridle and foot trail system to preserve the surrounding environment and provide access to the park itself. The existing circulation networks within the park's boundaries were shifted from a utilitarian function to recreational use. Planners utilized the existing carriage roads to create the original trail system; all but one mile of the existing 21 miles of carriage roads and informal bridle trails were omitted. The initial period of the park's improvement campaign (circa 1897-1910) proved to be the most dominant period for trail development. Since that time, park planners have largely eliminated, reorganized, reopened, and adjusted the existing paths in order to

⁷² Rock Creek Park Land Records, provided by National Park Service: Memo dated September 22, 1930; Titled: General Order No. 363; Subject: Acquisition of Land by Transfer; Signed: U.S. Grant, 3d, Director; Letterhead: Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital.

⁷³ *The Historic Trails of Rock Creek Park, Cultural Landscape Report*, Deana R. Poss and Frances McMillen, 2013.

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

accomplish the mission of protecting the park's historic resources and natural environment, while providing recreational uses.⁷⁴

1890-1917

On December 13, 1894, the Rock Creek Board of Control assumed management of the 1,605.976-acre park. Coupled with limited congressional appropriations, recurring issues including the lack of a sound management plan, inadequate foot trails, and insufficient public access plagued the early development of Rock Creek Park. Improvements to the park's road and bridle system exhausted financial resources, thereby limiting the development of foot trails. In response to the park's expanding popularity and demands for increased access, the board started to allocate significant funds to open and realign trails through the park in 1904. Early pedestrian paths completed included portions of the present-day Valley and Western Ridge Trails from Military Road to the National Zoo. By 1913, annual reports noted five miles of pedestrian trails and 22 miles of bridle trails.⁷⁵

The public's use of the pedestrian trail system rapidly expanded in 1914. On April 19, the Wanderlusters, a walking club, organized their first formal hike in Rock Creek Park. The event attracted close to one thousand visitors and led to the establishment of other walking clubs. Due to the increased accessibility of the park as a result of the expansion of streetcars, walking club membership expanded and contributed to the construction of additional pedestrian trails. Similarly, equestrian clubs—established prior to the park's creation—continued to request modifications and improvement to the trail system, resulting in the conversion of carriage roads to bridge trails, creation of new paths, and the widening of existing routes. Assessment of the bridle system, however, noted a haphazard system with no formal arrangement of routes.⁷⁶ Historic maps suggest the presence of 37.5 miles of bridle trails and 6.91 miles of foot trails by 1917.

1918-1932

Under the direction of Colonel Clarence O. Sherill and Colonel Clarence S. Ridley, the newly appointed Office of Public Buildings and Grounds (OPBG) approached the management of the trail system by limiting new construction and closing existing redundant trails, thereby simplifying the entire network. Trail creation at this time was planned under the direction of the 1918 Olmsted Plan, which directed that trails and bridle paths should be designed to appear as natural parts of the setting.⁷⁷ New pedestrian and bridle trails were created within the park, largely south of Military Road, and a number of bridle trails were converted to walking trails. In addition, the expansion of Rock Creek Park into Maryland necessitated the extension of pedestrian and bridle trails into the newly acquired areas. Historic maps indicate 25 miles of bridle trails (a decrease of 33 percent) and 7.84 miles of foot trails extant in the park by 1932.⁷⁸

⁷⁴ *The Historic Trails of Rock Creek Park, Cultural Landscape Report*, Deana R. Poss and Frances McMillen, 2013, 129.

⁷⁵ *The Historic Trails of Rock Creek Park, Cultural Landscape Report*, Deana R. Poss and Frances McMillen, 2013, 29-37.

⁷⁶ *The Historic Trails of Rock Creek Park, Cultural Landscape Report*, Deana R. Poss and Frances McMillen, 2013, 38-39.

⁷⁷ National Register of Historic Places, *Rock Creek Park Historic District*, Washington, D.C., National Register # 91001524, 1991, 8:48.

⁷⁸ *The Historic Trails of Rock Creek Park, Cultural Landscape Report*, Deana R. Poss and Frances McMillen, 2013, 51-54.

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

1933-1945

The NPS received control of Rock Creek Park in 1933. Similar to previous findings, assessments of the park noted a lack of a master plan and poor maintenance. Despite the difficult economic conditions resulting from the Great Depression, Rock Creek Park continued to receive money from civil works projects including the CCC and the Public Works Administration (PWA). Significant funds went towards the improvement of the roads and trail system. The civil work projects completed a bridle trail and pedestrian underpass below Peirce Mill Bridge, blazed more than 2.2 miles of bridle trails, eliminated defunct roads and trails, and constructed the Piney Branch Parkway.⁷⁹

New pedestrian trails corresponded with increased visitation and newly acquired parkland. Coupled with ongoing construction projects, park rangers initiated guided nature programs that attracted hikers and tourists to the park. As a result, naturalist Donald McHenry developed the Nature Trail (not the present-day Nature Trail) by combining several bridle trails to create a mile-long route. In 1941, the acquisition of Melvin Hazen Park resulted in the creation of a new trail, starting at Reno Road and Rodman Street and terminating near Peirce Mill. Other planned recreational sites and venues within the park were never realized due to the onset of World War II.⁸⁰

1945-1966

The NPS's post-war construction period significantly altered the trail system. The reconfiguration of the network included the designation of two main north-to-south orientated bridle trails, the Black Horse Trail and White Horse Trail located on the east and west sides of the park, respectively. East-to-west orientated feeder trails connected the main trails at various locations throughout the park. The new plan utilized many of existing trails, but resulted in the elimination of 16 miles of trails. Acting Superintendent T. Sutton Jett stated:

When the new system of nine foot trails was constructed, all other trails on the west side of the valley were abandoned with the expectation that they would heal over in time by natural forest growth. This is being accomplished slowly but surely.⁸¹

Complementing the new bridle trail system, the NPS constructed the first public equestrian facilities within the park's boundaries. Rock Creek Stables opened in 1958. A second public stables, Edgewater Riding Academy, was constructed just beyond the boundaries of Rock Creek Park within the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway boundaries in 1959.

Mission 66 initiatives resulted in improvements to the park's infrastructure and construction of the Nature Center, administration buildings, and other facilities. Pedestrian trails created during this period included the Pine, Holly, and Whittier Trails, which provided access to the park from neighborhoods along its eastern boundary. In addition, to complement and connect the Nature Center to the surrounding environment, the present-day Nature Trail adjoining the facility replaced the 1930s Nature Trail located near Sherrill Drive.⁸²

⁷⁹ *The Historic Trails of Rock Creek Park, Cultural Landscape Report*, Deana R. Poss and Frances McMillen, 2013, 62.

⁸⁰ *The Historic Trails of Rock Creek Park, Cultural Landscape Report*, Deana R. Poss and Frances McMillen, 2013, 62-63.

⁸¹ *The Historic Trails of Rock Creek Park, Cultural Landscape Report*, Deana R. Poss and Frances McMillen, 2013, 71.

⁸² *The Historic Trails of Rock Creek Park, Cultural Landscape Report*, Deana R. Poss and Frances McMillen, 2013, 71.

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

1967-1972

In the 1960s, environmental conservation awareness became a national social movement, prompting President Lyndon Johnson to address the threats of pollution and development to our county's cultural resources. In conjunction with these efforts, he called upon Congress to work with local, state, and federal partners to create a national trail system. In 1967, Congress appropriated \$30,000 to improve the bridle and pedestrian trails and \$60,000 to construct bicycle trails in Rock Creek Park. These plans accommodated the growing popularity of cycling, resulting from the formation of cycling clubs and invention of multi-gear bicycles. Three-and-a-half miles of trails north of the Nature Center were resurfaced and sections of other bridle and pedestrian trails were paved to allow for multi-user groups. In addition, Rock Creek Park was included as a component of the Fort Circle Parks trail plan, an initiative to connect the Civil War Defenses of Washington. Two-and-a-half of the three planned miles of multi-use trails was completed within the park's boundaries before the entire project was abandoned.⁸³

The Rock Creek Park bridle and foot trails are each listed as a contributing resource to the historic district. These listings are intended to capture all of the trails developed before the formation of Rock Creek Park as well as those created or improved between 1890 and 1972. The creation and evolution of these trails represent the entire history of park development for visitor use. Their alteration over time is representative of changing recreational and environmental preferences.

Post World War II Development to Mission 66

Post World War II Construction

The effects of World War II led the government to defer basic funding and maintenance of the country's national parks. Immediately after the war, the NPS was subject to further budget cuts due to the impending Cold War, the Korean War, and other changes in government priorities.⁸⁴ Visitation to the National Parks, however, continued to dramatically increase as allocation of funds decreased.⁸⁵ Park conditions deteriorated to the extent that Conrad Wirth, Director of the NPS, stated "It is not possible to provide essential services."⁸⁶ Additionally, the majority of park visitors accessed the area via automobile; however, adequate road systems and parking lots had not been fully established to manage vehicular traffic, further exacerbating poor conditions. Prior to the implementation of the Mission 66 program in 1956, new construction addressed the recreational needs of Washington, D.C. residents. Improvements included the Carter Barron Amphitheater and multiple comfort stations.

Carter Barron Amphitheater (1950)

In May of 1947, Congress authorized the construction of the amphitheater to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the federal government's transition from Philadelphia to Washington, D.C. The Sesquicentennial Commission provided the NPS with \$500,000 for the Sesqui- Amphitheater, later named after Carter Barron, the commission's vice chairman who championed the construction of an

⁸³ *The Historic Trails of Rock Creek Park, Cultural Landscape Report*, Deana R. Poss and Frances McMillen, 2013, 77-78.

⁸⁴ National Register of Historic Places, Multiple Property Listing, *Mission 66-Era Visitor Centers, Administration Buildings, and Public Use Areas in the National Capital Region of the National Park Service*, 2012, E:2.

⁸⁵ NPS budget decreased by 3.6 million between 1940 and 1950.

⁸⁶ National Register of Historic Places, Multiple Property Listing, *Mission 66-Era Visitor Centers, Administration Buildings, and Public Use Areas in the National Capital Region of the National Park Service*, 2012, E:2.

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

amphitheater for the performing arts.⁸⁷ NPS architect William M. Haussmann and engineer Robert C. Horne designed the 4,200-seat outdoor facility. On August 4, 1950, Paul Green's "Faith of our Fathers," an enactment of five days of George Washington's life, opened in the amphitheater and celebrated the sesquicentennial. On January 29, 1953, the commission transferred ownership to the NPS.⁸⁸ In the late 1960s, performances at the amphitheater shifted from operas, ballets, and musicals to more popular musical groups as a result of changing demographics.

The Mission 66 Era Visitor Centers, Administration Buildings, and Public Use Areas in the National Capital Region of the National Park Service Multiple Property Documentation Form described the amphitheater:

Carter Barron takes advantage of the natural slope of its site for its seating area, with the stage located at the bottom of the slope. A sheltered promenade stands at the top of the seating area, flanked by restrooms. Wings and dressing rooms flank the stage, and a box office stands between the parking lot constructed for the facility and the black metal entrance gates. The wings and rear walls of the amphitheater are surfaced in a stone veneer, as are the entrance gate piers and wing walls. Other materials used include wood, concrete, and concrete block. With the exception of the entrance gates and the stone veneer, Carter Barron's structures feature little ornamentation. The remainder of the slope on which the amphitheater stands is heavily wooded, disguising the development's presence, although the large parking lot is entirely visible.

The amphitheater represents a transition in NPS's architectural paradigm. The stone ashlar veneer recalled earlier National Park Service architecture and its use of traditional building materials. On the other hand, the amphitheater's concrete and concrete block construction and its lack of ornamentation reflects the Modern Movement. Other elements contributing to the historic significance of the amphitheater's design include the overall site plan, ticket office, guard house, president's gate (entrance gate), and the remaining mechanical elements of the original stage curtain.

William Max Haussmann, a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, served as the principal designer of the Carter Barron Amphitheater. After working on the restoration of Colonial Williamsburg, Haussmann moved to Washington, D.C. region and was employed by the NPS for thirty-three years, rising to Chief of the Office of Design and Construction for the National Capital Area in 1952. His works include the restoration of the Lee Mansion (Arlington, Virginia), Ford's Theatre (Washington, D.C.), Old Stone House (M Street, N.W., Georgetown), and design of the Harry T. Thompson Boat Center (Washington, D.C.), Watergate Concert Barges, Park Service Headquarters near Haines Point, and the Rock Creek Park Nature Center. Following his retirement in 1963, Haussmann designed numerous parks and churches in Northern Virginia.⁸⁹

Carter Barron Amphitheater and Rock Creek Park Nature Center are two of the best representations of Haussmann's designs and are significant examples of how Modernism coalesces with the natural environment. Haussmann includes core tenets of the Modernist Movement, such as expansive glass

⁸⁷ For the estimated expense see, Washington Post, "Bad Arithmetic Delays Sesqui Amphitheater," *Washington Post*, April 1, 1950, Proquest Historical Newspapers.

⁸⁸ National Register of Historic Places, Multiple Property Listing, *Mission 66-Era Visitor Centers, Administration Buildings, and Public Use Areas in the National Capital Region of the National Park Service*, 2012, E:11.

⁸⁹ "William Max Haussman," *Washington Post*, December 23, 1988, Proquest Historical Newspapers.

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

surfaces, the blurring of exterior and interior spaces, and the exposure of the underlying structural system, while remaining true to the ideals of the Mission 66, thereby concealing the building within the natural environment. His designs aptly consider the location and site, allowing for the structures' mass to be hidden from view. Further, the exposed concrete surfaces do not compete with the surrounding natural beauty, and the stone veneer and vertical wood siding complement the existing landscape.

Mission 66 Context

The post-war increase in visitation, the destructive nature of the automobile on ill-prepared circulation networks, and the lack of maintenance and guidance to visitors was negatively impacting the historic nature of National Parks. The NPS recognized the increasing deficiencies of the park system and called for a ten-year, \$670 million development plan to elevate the parks to modern standards of comfort and efficiency by the fiftieth anniversary of the NPS in 1966. Authorized in 1956 by President Dwight Eisenhower and Congress, Mission 66 called for new visitor centers, recreational facilities, maintenance yards and administrative complexes, improved transportation networks, increased number of employees, and protection of natural resources from contemporary developments. The NPS stated:

Mission 66 is a forward-looking program for the National Park System intended to so develop and staff these priceless possessions of the American people as to permit their widest possible use; maximum enjoyment for those who use them; and maximum protection of the scenic, scientific, wilderness, and historic resources that give them distinction.⁹⁰

Mission 66 marked a shift in the NPS's *modus operandi* from overnight use of the national parks (hotels, camping facilities, etc.) to a day-use model of visitation. The removal of such residential facilities to the periphery of the parks would lessen their impact to the historic resources, but necessitated the construction of efficient circulation networks capable of withstanding and facilitating increased traffic. As a result, the Mission 66 program resulted in the improvement to or construction of infrastructure, including roads, bridges, and parking facilities. Existing roads were widened, flattened, and graded to facilitate high speed traffic and increased number of automobiles.⁹¹

During this period, Modern architecture represented progress and efficiency resulting in its prevalence throughout American culture. Moreover, Modern architecture's economy of costs led the NPS to adapt the style in order to fully capitalize upon its budget. Before Mission 66, the Park Service designed buildings in a rustic style that utilized historically appropriate building materials and methods in order to impart the feeling of craftsmanship. The projects resulted in expensive materials, long construction periods, and the necessity of skilled craftsman. In direct contrast, the Park Service's adaptation of the Modern Movement utilized steel, concrete, glass, and other inexpensive materials that unskilled laborers were able to construct. Thus, the lower costs and less expensive laborers allowed the NPS to construct more buildings at a faster pace.⁹² Moreover, the Modernist buildings were easier for the visitor to visually

⁹⁰ John Milner Associates, Inc. *Discovery and Re-Discovery in the White River Badlands* (Badlands National Park, SD: National Park Service, 2006), 247.

⁹¹ National Register of Historic Places, Multiple Property Listing, *Mission 66-Era Visitor Centers, Administration Buildings, and Public Use Areas in the National Capital Region of the National Park Service*, 2012, F:58; National Register of Historic Places, Multiple Property Listing, *National Park Service Mission 66 Resources* (draft), 2006. Courtesy of Steve Doulis, National Capital Region.

⁹² Sarah Allaback, *Mission 66 Visitor Centers: The History of a Building Type* (Washington, D.C. : U.S.

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

comprehend, more efficient, and offered increased programmatic space. Proponents of Mission 66 contended that the contemporary buildings coalesced with the landscape by means of their simplicity of design and plain appearance, thereby becoming secondary to the surrounding environment instead of competing with it.⁹³

Parkscape U.S.A (1967-1972)

After the retirement of Conrad Wirth, George Hartzog separated himself from Mission 66 by establishing "Parkscape U.S.A." The new program, however, continued many of the initiatives and ideals of Mission 66, while focusing on the expansion of the national park system and recreation areas. The program anticipated another milestone of the National Park Service, the centennial of Yellowstone National Park. At the conclusion of the program and the retirement of Hartzog in 1972, the federal administration of national parks was changed by evolving public attitudes and congressional legislation stemming from the environmental movement. In addition, the position of Park Service Director became a political appointee with no professional background in cultural resource management. Therefore, the end of the Parkscape U.S.A. is an appropriate date to end the period of significance for the Mission 66 era of development.⁹⁴

Mission 66 Visitor Center and Park Service Modern Style

As a whole, the Mission 66 visitor centers epitomized the overall goals of the Mission 66 program and represent the NPS's acceptance of the Modern Movement. The architecture of the visitor centers reflected Modern principles; however, the NPS continued to utilize historical precedents. As a result, the Park Service's Modern style featured low horizontal profiles, flat roofs, cantilevered overhangs, terraces, and a lack of ornamentation, but retained interior courtyards and applied textured concrete, stone veneers, and painted columns to add architectural interest.⁹⁵

Strategically located to receive high volumes of automobile traffic, the centers provided a controlled point of entry, access to basic services, and orientation to the park's programs and guidelines. By merging all visitor services at a single location, planners mitigated potential damage to the park's natural environment caused by uneducated tourists. Moreover, the center combined visitor activities including museums, interpretive displays, auditoriums, and presentation spaces with administrative offices and public facilities. The continuity of the Mission 66 visitor center in terms of its interior program and spatial arrangement of these spaces reinforced the sentiment of a National Park system by creating a prevailing systematic sense of order.⁹⁶

Government Printing Office, 2000), 12-13.

⁹³ Sarah Allaback, *Mission 66 Visitor Centers: The History of a Building Type* (Washington, D.C. : U.S. Government Printing Office, 2000), 22-25.

⁹⁴ National Register of Historic Places, Multiple Property Listing, *Mission 66-Era Visitor Centers, Administration Buildings, and Public Use Areas in the National Capital Region of the National Park Service*, 2012, F:42.

⁹⁵ Sarah Allaback, *Mission 66 Visitor Centers: The History of a Building Type* (Washington, D.C. : U.S. Government Printing Office, 2000), 21-25; Sarah Allaback, "Appendix III: Registering Mission 66 Visitor Centers in the National Register of Historic Places," National Park Service, <http://www.cr.nps.gov> (accessed April 2, 2013).

⁹⁶ Sarah Allaback, *Mission 66 Visitor Centers: The History of a Building Type* (Washington, D.C. : U.S. Government Printing Office, 2000), 24-25; Sarah Allaback, "Appendix III: Registering Mission 66 Visitor Centers in the National Register of Historic Places," National Park Service, <http://www.cr.nps.gov> (accessed April 2, 2013).

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

In the 1960s, the environmental movement, part of the unprecedented societal changes that marked the decade, aspired to limit and correct the damage to nature by years of unchecked industrial and urban development. Bruce Noble, Chickasaw National Recreational Area Superintendent, contended that:

A known key to the success of the environmental movement of the 1960s from the very beginning was an informed and engaged public. Education was a fundamental tenant of the conservation movement throughout the twentieth century. Even more pressing than in previous decades, the modern environmental movement of the 1960s and 1970s required interpretive and educational programs that were sufficiently advanced so as ‘...to effect a greater understanding of our environmental problems and what must be done to correct them.’ As such, ‘the need for outdoor interpretative programs, nature centers, laboratories, and outdoor training for teachers and youth leaders (was) urgent.’⁹⁷

The purpose of nature centers were to provide facilities for outdoor programs and environmental education that promoted the retention and preservation of the natural environment. In particular, nature centers housed programs that targeted young children by exposing them to the wonders of nature in an attempt to build an early appreciation. The programs were later adapted to satisfy visitors of all ages.

Mission 66 and Rock Creek Park

Rock Creek Stables

Horseback riding remained popular in Washington, D.C. into the mid-twentieth century. The Great Depression and World War II forced many of the horse riding schools and stables in the area to close, but at least eight riding academies remained open. Riding, however, was still limited to affluent residents who could afford the costs of maintaining or renting a horse. Although horseback riding had been a popular activity within Rock Creek Park since its inception, the park had no riding academies or stables within its boundaries. Further, the closure of numerous private stables along the park’s boundaries led the NPS to construct two public stables as part of the Mission 66 program to improve visitor facilities. Both stables were constructed from the same design completed by the Engineering Branch of NCP. Completed in 1958, Rock Creek Stables was located off Glover Road near the Nature Center. The second stable, Edgewater Riding Academy, opened the following year, but is located outside of the boundaries of the Rock Creek Park Historic District.

Nature Center and Planetarium

The NPS initiated a pilot program at Linnaean Hill to operate a Nature Center in 1956. The program largely catered to school children. However, local residents complained to park officials about increased traffic from the facility, and voiced concern about Nature Center visitors trespassing on their properties. The Superintendent for National Capital Parks stated that the mansion’s inadequate facilities and the site’s limited-access required a new solution and led to the planning of the new facility on Glover Road. The NPS continued the precedent of Mission 66 visitor center siting by placing the new building in close proximity to Military Road, one of Rock Creek Park’s arterial roads bisecting the park, thereby creating

⁹⁷ National Register of Historic Places, *Travertine Nature Center*, Sulphur, Oklahoma, National Register # 10001180, 2010, 13.

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

an easily accessible central control point to orientate visitors. In addition, the site allowed the NPS to concentrate day-use facilities at a single location, including the Rock Creek Stables.⁹⁸

Designed by William Haussmann, the Nature Center incorporated a 1936 PWA wood-frame caretaker's dwelling, which consisted of five rooms. The two-story building's horizontality, shallow shed roofs, ribbon windows, and irregular-course stone veneer reflected the architectural principles of the Mission 66 ethos. Moreover, the placement of the building on a hill allowed the architect to conceal its massing, imparting the sense of a one-story building from the façade. The Nature Center opened on June 4, 1960.

The interior circulation network and the services offered at the Nature Center reflected the principles of the typical Mission 66 Visitor Center. Upon entering the building's lobby, visitors were greeted at the information desk. From this location, NPS staff directed individuals towards the exhibition room, planetarium, small library, and restrooms on the main level or the below-ground level auditorium for further orientation or lectures. Similar to other National Park visitor centers, the exhibition space featured a large expanse of windows and a viewing deck directly connecting interior and exterior spaces and exposing the visitor to the surrounding natural environment. After orientation and viewing the exhibition space, visitors could access the nature trail directly adjoining the ground level. Additionally, the building contained administrative offices combining multiple functions into a single space as Mission 66 espoused.

A historically significant aspect of the Nature Center was the attached planetarium, which is the only planetarium in the National Park System. After the Russians successfully launched Sputnik on October 4, 1957, the American education system, particularly within the fields of mathematics and science, was widely scrutinized for failing to teach basic astronomy to students. As a result, the construction of planetariums dramatically increased and played an important role in the exposure of children and young adults to science. At the time, educational theorists proposed that planetarium-trained students emerged better prepared to enter the field of science. According to historian John Marche:

Full attention was paid to school-age children, for whom it was argued that '[b]y starting astronomy early in the child's education,' a 'better comprehension and retention' of 'concepts and relationships,' along with a 'more rapid assimilation of knowledge,' became possible.⁹⁹

The Nature Center's planetarium, designed by Haussmann, is the direct result of the increased importance placed upon science and astronomy by the government in the late 1950s and 1960s. The facility continues its function as a planetarium and serves as a reminder of the Cold War and arms race.

Vehicular Circulation Network

Improvements to Rock Creek Park's circulation network constituted a major portion of Mission 66 funds allocated to the park. The Park Service successfully improved or replaced inefficient roads, bridges, and culverts, and built new infrastructure to accommodate increased traffic. In the early 1950s, park planners spent \$559,000 modernizing Beach Drive. Improvements consisted of:

⁹⁸ National Register of Historic Places, Multiple Property Listing, *Mission 66-Era Visitor Centers, Administration Buildings, and Public Use Areas in the National Capital Region of the National Park Service*, 2012, E:20-21.

⁹⁹ Jordan D. Marche, *American Planetaria, 1930-1970: Theaters of Time and Space* (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2005), 127.

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Washington, D.C.

Name of Property

County and State

...replacing the rapidly deteriorating old roadbed with a subgrade and pavement designed to accommodate modern automobiles rather than horse and buggies, reducing some of the sharpest curves, rebuilding outdated bridges, bypassing the remaining fords, and replacing traditional open gutters with drop-inlets, an underground drainage system, and mountable concrete curbs.¹⁰⁰

Road improvements necessitated the reconstruction of the Beach Drive and Military Road intersection to incorporate a new drainage system and culvert. Completed in 1955, the reinforced concrete culvert featured a stone-faced veneer.¹⁰¹

The Mission 66 program allocated an additional one million dollars to numerous bridge projects and other related road improvements. The new bridges were designed in the Park Service Modern Style featuring pre-stressed concrete girders, steel or aluminum railings, and stone abutment walls. Projects included: 1) the replacement of the ford that crossed Rock Creek immediately north of Bladen Avenue with a bridge; 2) the demolition and replacement of Pebble Dash Bridge due to its narrow nature; 3) the construction of a bridge at the intersection of Glover Road (Ridge Road) with Broad Branch; 4) the replacement of the timber bridge bypassing Milkhouse Ford; 5) the construction of a bridge across Kalmia Road at Rock Creek; 6) the demolition and replacement of the rusticated arch bridge crossing Beach Drive over Broad Branch; and 7) the demolition and replacement of the old military truss bridge on Sherrill Drive. These bridges were completed to improve infrastructure, create a more efficient circulation network, and increase access to the park's resources and recreational facilities as directed by the Mission 66 program.¹⁰²

Another major alteration to the park service's circulation network was the conversion of Military Road from "a narrow, winding, two-lane, park-like road" into a four-lane divided highway due to congestion. Completed by D.C. Highway's Department in 1960, the \$3.3 million expenditure necessitated the construction of new interchanges at Ross Drive and the bypassed section of Military Road, and at Beach Drive and Joyce Road. Similar to the Mission 66 bridges, the interchanges featured steel or precast girders and stone-veneered piers and abutments.¹⁰³

Golf Clubhouse

Continuing the improvement of the public's recreational facilities, the NPS constructed a new golf clubhouse and a number of shelters on the course in the early 1960s. In consultation with the National Capitol Office of Design and Construction, John Hans Graham & Associates designed a two-story clubhouse. The previous clubhouse, a former farmhouse—which reportedly was first built in the eighteenth century but had been burned, reconstructed, and modified a number of times—had been in use since the creation of the golf course in the 1920s. The farmhouse was demolished in 1964 to allow for the construction of the new John Hans Graham & Associates-designed clubhouse. Built into a hillside, the new building's siting and design represented the tenets of the Park Service Modern style. At the same time, the use of traditional and non-traditional materials recalls earlier design styles implemented by the

¹⁰⁰ Historic American Engineering Record, *Rock Creek Park Road System*, HAER No. DC-55, (2011): 260.

¹⁰¹ Historic American Engineering Record, *Rock Creek Park Road System*, HAER No. DC-55, (2011): 262.

¹⁰² Historic American Engineering Record, *Rock Creek Park Road System*, HAER No. DC-55, (2011): 261-265.

According to correspondence with the National Park Service in January 2013, the bridge at Kalmia has partially collapsed and is being replaced by DDOT.

¹⁰³ Historic American Engineering Record, *Rock Creek Park Road System*, HAER No. DC-55, (2011): 265.

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

park service. The new clubhouse featured a pro shop, lounge, kitchen, office, and men and women's locker rooms in an effort to consolidate uses as prescribed by Mission 66.¹⁰⁴

Archeological Resources

Introduction

The following information outlines the archeological significance of Rock Creek Park and has been summarized from Volumes I and II of "Bold, Rocky, and Picturesque: Archeological Overview and Assessment and Identification and Evaluation Study of Rock Creek Park," published by the Louis Berger Group for the NPS in August 2008, following archeological survey of park lands from 2003 through 2007. This study is considered the first comprehensive overview of the park's archeology, although the area has been studied by archaeologists as early as the 1880s. In addition to Rock Creek Park's more recent history as a nature preserve and recreational area, the area has a longer history of human use, from prehistoric time through the park's establishment. The land has served a variety of uses including hunting and quarrying activity, farming, milling, as the site of a Civil War battlefield, and domestic activity. The 2008 Berger study reviewed 51 new archeological sites and reassessed eleven previously known sites. The follow section presents those sites which were determined contributing resources within Rock Creek Park's boundaries, including three quarry sites, two Colonial tenancies, a nineteenth century farmstead and mill, four Civil War era sites, and three nineteenth century African American tenancies. These contribute to the primary contexts established by Berger in 2008.

Native American Settlement

Native Americans have lived in the Washington, D.C. region for approximately the past 13,000 years and were congregating at the Falls of the Potomac for at least 10,000 years. The Rock Creek Valley, however, was sparsely visited until 4,000 years ago when hunting parties and other nomads traversed the area. The small number of artifacts from the period suggests a lack of temporary or long-term settlements.¹⁰⁵

The Late Archaic Savannah River people (2000 to 1500 B.C.E.) established the first semi-permanent encampments in proximity to Rock Creek, Piney Branch, and Broad Branch due to the abundance of river cobbles.¹⁰⁶ Specifically, Native Americans quarried quartzite to create a wide, heavy spear point known as the Savannah Broad Spear. The inhabitants removed massive numbers of the cobbles from the bluffs of Rock Creek and chipped them into preforms (rough, oval, incomplete stone tools). After initial chipping, the tools were either abandoned or carried to nearby campsites to be completed. The remains of the discarded preforms cover the extant quarry sites. Other than creating stone tools, Native American carved tub-shaped cooking vessels with axes and wooden wedges. Archeological investigations have uncovered multiple substantial Native American quarries within the boundaries of Rock Creek Park, including the

¹⁰⁴ National Register of Historic Places, Multiple Property Listing, *Mission 66-Era Visitor Centers, Administration Buildings, and Public Use Areas in the National Capital Region of the National Park Service*, 2012, E:25.

¹⁰⁵ Louis Berger Group, *Bold, Rocky, and Picturesque: Archeological Identification and Evaluation Study of Rock Creek Park* (Washington, D.C.: NPS, 2008), 1:3.

¹⁰⁶ Rock Creek and its tributaries likely served as fishing grounds, but no archeological evidence confirms the hypothesis. *The Historic Trails of Rock Creek Park, Cultural Landscape Report*, Deana R. Poss and Frances McMillen, 2013, 11.

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

Piney Branch Quarry, Nature Branch Quarry, and Soapstone Quarry. The three sites represent unique aspects of the prehistory of the District of Columbia.¹⁰⁷

Piney Branch Quarry (Site No. 51NW1)

The Piney Branch site has been recognized as a critical archeological site since the late 1800s and best characterizes early Native American quartzite quarries in the region. In addition to its archeological significance, the site remains an important place in the history of American archeology. As stated by the Louis Berger Group:

The site figured importantly in the late nineteenth-century scholarly debate on the antiquity of human occupation of the North American continent, and also was a major project of William Henry Holmes, a founder of scientific archeology in the United States and also an artist of note.¹⁰⁸

Holmes researched the area extensively for the Smithsonian's Bureau of Ethnography between 1889 and 1894. He contended that his findings at the Piney Branch had "done more to clear up the story of man in America than any single piece of research in the United States."¹⁰⁹ Recent investigations by the Louis Berger Group confirm that the archeological resources of the quartzite boulder quarry remains largely intact as described in Holmes's survey at the turn of the twentieth century.¹¹⁰

Nature Center and Soapstone Quarries (Sites No. 51NW2 and No. 51NW60)

The smaller Nature Center and Soapstone Quarries express a "unique prehistoric landscape of quartzite quarries and 'implement shops.'"¹¹¹ The Nature Center Quarry, first mapped by Humphrey and Chambers in 1977, consists of an acre of discarded cobbles and preforms.¹¹² The Soapstone Quarry on the other hand contains other distinctive characteristics of the prehistoric landscape, including a "combination of a cobble quarry for quartzite and a bedrock quarry for quartz."¹¹³ At this location, the top-layer of coastal plain sediments covering the ancient Piedmont bedrock is particularly thin, allowing Native Americans to utilize the quartzite cobbles from the top-layer and extract the white milky quartz out of the bedrock.¹¹⁴

¹⁰⁷ Louis Berger Group, *Bold, Rocky, and Picturesque: Archeological Identification and Evaluation Study of Rock Creek Park* (Washington, D.C.: NPS, 2008), 1:3-5.

¹⁰⁸ Louis Berger Group, *Bold, Rocky, and Picturesque: Archeological Identification and Evaluation Study of Rock Creek Park* (Washington, D.C.: NPS, 2008), 2:224-225.

¹⁰⁹ Louis Berger Group, *Bold, Rocky, and Picturesque: Archeological Identification and Evaluation Study of Rock Creek Park* (Washington, D.C.: NPS, 2008), 1:3

¹¹⁰ Louis Berger Group, *Bold, Rocky, and Picturesque: Archeological Identification and Evaluation Study of Rock Creek Park* (Washington, D.C.: NPS, 2008), 2:57.

¹¹¹ Louis Berger Group, *Bold, Rocky, and Picturesque: Archeological Identification and Evaluation Study of Rock Creek Park* (Washington, D.C.: NPS, 2008), 2:225.

¹¹² Louis Berger Group, *Bold, Rocky, and Picturesque: Archeological Identification and Evaluation Study of Rock Creek Park* (Washington, D.C.: NPS, 2008), 2:61.

¹¹³ The site was historically misnamed as no soapstone is evident in the region.

¹¹⁴ Louis Berger Group, *Bold, Rocky, and Picturesque: Archeological Identification and Evaluation Study of Rock Creek Park* (Washington, D.C.: NPS, 2008), 2:226.

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

Oregon Avenue Site (Site No. 51NW143)

The four-acre site at Oregon Avenue contains substantial quantities of prehistoric material, mainly quartzite; however, a rhyolite biface edge fragment was recovered at the site. The predominance of quartzite suggests the site's occupation during the Late Archaic or Early Woodland periods. The artifacts recovered suggest that the site served in a greater capacity than a simple quarrying station.¹¹⁵

Colonial Settlement and Tenancies

Captain John Smith and his men were the first known Europeans to view Rock Creek during their voyage of the Chesapeake Bay region in 1608. Englishmen continued to explore and eventually settled the area after the removal of Indian tribes. While the first land patents were claimed along Rock Creek in 1688, few of the parcels were utilized due to the fear of Indian conflicts.¹¹⁶ As contended by historians:

Rock Creek was a source of fast-flowing water, ideal for water powered milling, and was accessible from the Potomac River. Fertile lands along Rock Creek would also have attracted those who wished to profit from tobacco farming, the regional staple at this time. But the power vacuum left by the Nacotchtancks' departure also allowed periodic forays into the area by potentially hostile Senecas and Susquehannocks, and by Algonquian-speakers displaced from the Chesapeake Region, such as the Nanticokes and Conoys. This persistent threat from Indian war parties deterred English settlers for several decades.¹¹⁷

In 1734, George Gordon purchased 300 acres near the mouth of Rock Creek to establish a ferry crossing and later a tobacco warehouse. The Tobacco Inspection Act of 1747 regulated all tobacco exports within Maryland; thereby, Gordon's inspection warehouse became a center of trade and may have encouraged further tobacco farming along Rock Creek.¹¹⁸

Property along the frontier of Maryland and Virginia, including land in proximity to Rock Creek, was often owned by absentee landlords. The owners rented the farmland to indentured servants who had completed their respective contract, but lacked the financial resources to purchase property. Typically, the owners supplied the tenant farmers with an ax, hoe, and seeds. In return, the landlord received a portion of the crop and retained any improvements made by the tenant to the property. Archeologists have discovered two colonial tenancies, named the Clouin and Carroll sites, within the Rock Creek Park National Register Historic District.¹¹⁹ While both archeological sites appear to date to circa 1740-1820, they are the earliest, intact, tenant sites within the District of Columbia area and shed light upon the lives of tenant farmers.

¹¹⁵ Louis Berger Group, *Bold, Rocky, and Picturesque: Archeological Identification and Evaluation Study of Rock Creek Park* (Washington, D.C.: NPS, 2008), 2:97.

¹¹⁶ Louis Berger Group, *Bold, Rocky, and Picturesque: Archeological Identification and Evaluation Study of Rock Creek Park* (Washington, D.C.: NPS, 2008), 1:17.

¹¹⁷ Louis Berger Group, *Bold, Rocky, and Picturesque: Archeological Identification and Evaluation Study of Rock Creek Park* (Washington, D.C.: NPS, 2008), 1:14.

¹¹⁸ Louis Berger Group, *Bold, Rocky, and Picturesque: Archeological Identification and Evaluation Study of Rock Creek Park* (Washington, D.C.: NPS, 2008), 1:35.

¹¹⁹ Louis Berger Group, *Bold, Rocky, and Picturesque: Archeological Identification and Evaluation Study of Rock Creek Park* (Washington, D.C.: NPS, 2008), 1:24-25.

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

Clouin Course Site (Site No. 51NW193)

Charles Carroll of Annapolis owned two tracts of land, Clouin Course and Girl's Portion, partially within the current boundaries of Rock Creek Park. Carroll leased a portion of his properties to tenant farmers. For a one hundred-acre tract, tenants were required to pay six hundred pounds of tobacco and plant one hundred apple trees. Utilizing metes and bounds and descriptions of the leased tracts, archeologists found two colonial house sites within Rock Creek Park and a third outside of the park boundary.¹²⁰

The Clouin Course Site was located on a narrow ridge overlooking a small stream. The site contains the archeological remains of a colonial tenant farm leased to William Hall on March 26, 1741. Archeologists found over 434 artifacts and contend:

The artifacts at this site were just what one expects at a small farm: nails, fragments of an iron kettle, pieces of clay tobacco pipes, and sherds of pottery. The pottery included coarse redware from crocks or bowls and refined ware used for plates and teacups. All but one sherd of the refined pottery can be dated to between 1762 and 1820... It is still possible, though, that the Clouin Course Site is one of the tenancies mentioned in 1740.¹²¹

The findings confirm assumptions about tenant farms in the region including the importance of Rock Creek as the primary source of water and regional construction preferences. The presence of over sixty nails denotes the construction of at least one frame building; however, the majority of nails were machine cut, indicating post-1790 construction. Archeologists inferred that the early residence of the tenants may have consisted of log construction due to the lack of wrought nails and documented presence of tenants prior to 1790. The small number of bricks unearthed suggests that the dwelling likely had a brick hearth, but a chimney of wood and mud.¹²² The large amount of artifacts indicates a long period of occupation, possibly over 100 years.

Carroll Tenancy Site (Site No. 51NW187)

The other unearthed tenant site within Rock Creek Park is the Carroll Tenancy. The site is located within the southern section of the Clouin Course tract on a ridge near Piney Branch. James Tomlinson established the tenancy farm on August 27, 1740.¹²³ In comparison to the Clouin Site, far fewer artifacts were recovered suggesting a short period of occupation circa 1790 (one-year occupancy, only?). The materials, however, are consistent with the artifacts excavated at the Clouin Site, including pieces of metal pots, clay tobacco pipes, olive green glass from wine bottles, coarse red earthenware, and finer

¹²⁰ Louis Berger Group, *Bold, Rocky, and Picturesque: Archeological Identification and Evaluation Study of Rock Creek Park* (Washington, D.C.: NPS, 2008), 1:31.

¹²¹ Louis Berger Group, *Bold, Rocky, and Picturesque: Archeological Identification and Evaluation Study of Rock Creek Park* (Washington, D.C.: NPS, 2008), 1:33.

¹²² Louis Berger Group, *Bold, Rocky, and Picturesque: Archeological Identification and Evaluation Study of Rock Creek Park* (Washington, D.C.: NPS, 2008), 1:33.

¹²³ Louis Berger Group, *Bold, Rocky, and Picturesque: Archeological Identification and Evaluation Study of Rock Creek Park* (Washington, D.C.: NPS, 2008), 1:31.

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Washington, D.C.

Name of Property

County and State

ceramics from plates and tea cups.¹²⁴ Further, the lack of nails at the Carroll Tenancy Site supports the presence of log dwellings in Rock Creek Valley.¹²⁵

Linnaean Hill

The decline of tobacco as the primary crop by the early nineteenth century led to the increase of other agricultural pursuits in the District of Columbia. In Rock Creek, the local economy shifted towards grain production, dairy operations, horticulture, and nurseries. The increase of wheat production necessitated the construction of mill sites to process the crop. Linnaean Hill (Site No. 51NW156), a commercial nursery, represents an important commercial aspect of the historic of Rock Creek Park in the mid-eighteenth century.¹²⁶ The site is individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is included in this amendment as a cultural landscape. Limited testing conducted by the Louis Berger Group revealed minor deposits, but the potential for archeological artifacts at the historically significant sites is likely.¹²⁷

Civil War Sites

At the onset of the Civil War, Washington, D.C. lacked the necessary fortifications to protect the city. After the First Battle of Manassas, Major General George G. McClellan established an intricate defense system featuring 68 forts and 93 batteries, including Fort DeRussy protecting the Rock Creek Valley. Four significant archeological sites associated with these defenses and other military engagements are located within the northern portion of Rock Creek Park's boundaries. The locations include the Battle of Fort Stevens, Fort DeRussy Dump, Battery to the Left of Rock Creek, and the Broad Branch Battery. These features document the area's military strategic planning, military engagements, and history during the Civil War era.¹²⁸

Fort DeRussy Dump (Site No. 51NW159)

Fort DeRussy, an earthen fort with a trapezoidal plan, was built in proximity to Milkhouse Ford Road. The fortification contained heavy artillery, spans of rifle pits, wood-frame barracks and mess halls, and log officers' quarters, stables, and a guard house.¹²⁹ Archeologists' discovery of one of the fort's trash dumps revealed military and domestic information regarding the hundreds of men who garrisoned there. The 507 items include .58 caliber bullets, a bayonet scabbard tip, military buttons, machine cut nails and one wire nail, ceramic sherds (four whiteware and one salt-glazed stoneware), glass bottles, glass windows, and tobacco pipe fragments.¹³⁰

¹²⁴ Louis Berger Group, *Bold, Rocky, and Picturesque: Archeological Identification and Evaluation Study of Rock Creek Park* (Washington, D.C.: NPS, 2008), 1:36.

¹²⁵ Louis Berger Group, *Bold, Rocky, and Picturesque: Archeological Identification and Evaluation Study of Rock Creek Park* (Washington, D.C.: NPS, 2008), 2: 218.

¹²⁶ Louis Berger Group, *Bold, Rocky, and Picturesque: Archeological Identification and Evaluation Study of Rock Creek Park* (Washington, D.C.: NPS, 2008), 1:38 and 44-45.

¹²⁷ Louis Berger Group, *Bold, Rocky, and Picturesque: Archeological Identification and Evaluation Study of Rock Creek Park* (Washington, D.C.: NPS, 2008), 2:228.

¹²⁸ Louis Berger Group, *Bold, Rocky, and Picturesque: Archeological Identification and Evaluation Study of Rock Creek Park* (Washington, D.C.: NPS, 2008), 2:228.

¹²⁹ Louis Berger Group, *Bold, Rocky, and Picturesque: Archeological Identification and Evaluation Study of Rock Creek Park* (Washington, D.C.: NPS, 2008), 1:52.

¹³⁰ Louis Berger Group, *Bold, Rocky, and Picturesque: Archeological Identification and Evaluation Study of Rock*

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

Battle of Fort Stevens (Site No. 51NW163)

In July of 1864, Confederate Lieutenant General Jubal Early led 14,000 soldiers into the District of Columbia. Historians believed that little remained of the Early's raid and the ensuing Battle of Fort Steven. Archeologists, however, unearthed artillery shells, shell fragments, and .58, .54, and .52 Sharps caliber bullets within Rock Creek Park.¹³¹ Confederate soldiers attempted to use the heavily wooded terrain to circumvent Forts Steven and DeRussy, but were stopped by Union artillery, militia, and cavalry. The location of the fired and unfired bullets supports the interpretation of the officer's reports and confirms that fighting occurred within the boundaries of Rock Creek Park. The archeological evidence provides the opportunity to examine and record physical evidence of the Battle of Fort Stevens, the only military engagement in the District of Columbia.¹³²

Batteries at Broad Branch and Rock Creek (Sites No. 51NW168 and No. 51NW169)

The two batteries appeared on the 1865 "Extract of military Map of N.W. Virginia Showing Forts and Roads" and remain recognizable elements of the Civil War defense system.¹³³ The Broad Branch and Rock Creek batteries were titled Battery Smeade and Battery Kingsbury, respectively.¹³⁴ The Broad Branch site consisted of an unarmed auxiliary battery with three vacant gun platforms. Today, the location features an ovoid flattened area, approximately 150x100 feet. The Rock Creek site had three additional gun platforms. Presently, a three-foot earthen berm surrounds a "plaza-like flat interior."¹³⁵

Nineteenth Century African American Tenancies

After the park's establishment in 1890, Rock Creek Valley remained a populated area, including farmers and tenants. The 1880 United States Census coupled with Records of the Rock Creek Park Commission indicates a racially diverse tenant population consisting of African Americans, Irish immigrants, and Caucasian males. The tenants were typically listed as day laborers, but also included teamsters, blacksmiths, farriers, seamstresses, and laundresses. Rock Creek Park contains three well-preserved African American tenant sites, consisting of the Sarah Whitby Site, Charles Dickson Site, and Jane Dickson Site. These three archeological deposits document the material life of African Americans in rural Washington, D.C. following the Civil War. No other such archeological sites have been identified within the District of Columbia.

The Sarah Whitby Site (Site No. 51NW185) consists of a 5.2-acre property along Broad Branch Road to the west of Rock Creek within the boundaries of the amended historic district.¹³⁶ In 1895, Sarah and

Creek Park (Washington, D.C.: NPS, 2008), 2:153.

¹³¹ Louis Berger Group, *Bold, Rocky, and Picturesque: Archeological Identification and Evaluation Study of Rock Creek Park* (Washington, D.C.: NPS, 2008), 2:156.

¹³² Louis Berger Group, *Bold, Rocky, and Picturesque: Archeological Identification and Evaluation Study of Rock Creek Park* (Washington, D.C.: NPS, 2008), 2:218.

¹³³ Louis Berger Group, *Bold, Rocky, and Picturesque: Archeological Identification and Evaluation Study of Rock Creek Park* (Washington, D.C.: NPS, 2008), 2:229.

¹³⁴ *Extract of Military Map of N.E. Virginia Showing Forts and Roads* (Washington, D.C.: Engineer Bureau, War Department, 1865).

¹³⁵ Louis Berger Group, *Bold, Rocky, and Picturesque: Archeological Identification and Evaluation Study of Rock Creek Park* (Washington, D.C.: NPS, 2008), 2: 160.

¹³⁶ Louis Berger Group, *Bold, Rocky, and Picturesque: Archeological Identification and Evaluation Study of Rock Creek Park* (Washington, D.C.: NPS, 2008), 2:208-209.

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

Elijay Whitby rented the dwelling for \$3 per month. Five years later, however, Sarah is listed as the primary owner, suggesting that Elijay had died.¹³⁷ Sarah's listed occupation was laundress. The Louis Berger Group uncovered an 11'x9' cellar hole that contained over 783 artifacts including glass bottles, buttons, ceramics, machine and wire cut nails, brick, corrugated metal, window glass, tobacco pipes, and other miscellaneous household items. The substantial number of buttons discovered supports Sarah's occupation; moreover, the buttons reveal the potential for rather wealthy clients based on the type unearthed. While the majority of items dated to the late 1800s, sherds of Colonoware, a type of pottery produced and used by slaves, possibly indicates pre-Civil War habitation of the site. In addition, the recorded rental price for the two-room house and stable suggests an older, dilapidated building.¹³⁸

Jane and Charles Dickson owned identical quarter-acre lots improved by a small house and garden. The Dickson's purchased both parcels from Adrianna Lynes in 1883. They were the only two African Americans to sell property to the United States Government for Rock Creek Park. The Dicksons, however, remained in the Rock Creek Valley and rented the land from the government. At the Jane Dickson site (Site No. 51NW183), archeologists unearthed late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century artifacts, including "cut nails, brick fragments, window glass, bottle glass, a small china button, and a sherd of whiteware."¹³⁹ The Charles Dickson site (Site No. 51NW198) revealed similar artifacts, but contained a "figurine...of a black cart driver, part of a toy manufactured around 1900."¹⁴⁰ All of these elements assist in identifying aspects of African American material culture in Washington, D.C. at the turn of the twentieth century.¹⁴¹

¹³⁷ Louis Berger Group, *Bold, Rocky, and Picturesque: Archeological Identification and Evaluation Study of Rock Creek Park* (Washington, D.C.: NPS, 2008), 1:77.

¹³⁸ Louis Berger Group, *Bold, Rocky, and Picturesque: Archeological Identification and Evaluation Study of Rock Creek Park* (Washington, D.C.: NPS, 2008), 2:208-210

¹³⁹ Louis Berger Group, *Bold, Rocky, and Picturesque: Archeological Identification and Evaluation Study of Rock Creek Park* (Washington, D.C.: NPS, 2008), 2:204.

¹⁴⁰ Louis Berger Group, *Bold, Rocky, and Picturesque: Archeological Identification and Evaluation Study of Rock Creek Park* (Washington, D.C.: NPS, 2008), 2:204.

¹⁴¹ Louis Berger Group, *Bold, Rocky, and Picturesque: Archeological Identification and Evaluation Study of Rock Creek Park* (Washington, D.C.: NPS, 2008), 1:82.

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

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Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Washington, D.C.

Name of Property

County and State

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Maps and Drawings

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Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.
County and State

Extract of Military Map of N.E. Virginia Showing Forts and Roads. Washington, D.C: Engineer Bureau,
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Additional Archives and Repositories

Rock Creek Park History Files. Rock Creek Park Nature Center, 5100 Glover Road, N.W., Washington,
D C.

Rock Creek Park Land Records, provided by National Park Service.

Washington Post, Proquest Historical Newspapers.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # DC-22; DC-68
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # DC-55
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1,826.77 acres

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 38°59'29.16" | Longitude: 77°2'13.65" |
| 2. Latitude: 38°59'29.28" | Longitude: 77°3'8" |
| 3. Latitude: 38°56'24.96" | Longitude: 77°4'3.64" |
| 4. Latitude: 38°56'16.88" | Longitude: 77°2'15.79" |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The current boundaries of the Rock Creek Park Historic District are limited to Reservation 339. This amended nomination adds the following reservations to the boundaries of the Rock Creek Park Historic District: Reservation 356 (Klinge Valley Parkway); Reservation 402 (Soapstone Creek Valley); Reservation 432 (Beach Parkway); Reservation 433 (Blair Portal); Reservation 308A (Parcel containing Peirce Springhouse); Reservation 545 (Pinehurst Parkway); Reservation 635 (Woodley Park); Reservation 630 (Melvin Hazen Park); Reservation 563 (Portion of the north side of the Zoological Park). These additions increase the acreage of Rock Creek Park from approximately 1,754 acres to approximately 1,826.77 acres.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The National Register Nomination for the Rock Creek Park Historic District, prepared in 1991, established the boundaries of the district as those tracts of land legally defined as public Reservation 339. Those boundaries were determined by legal and historical considerations. Reservation 339 was the land set aside as Rock Creek Park by Congress in 1890, with about 100 acres of related boundary rectifications and additions. The 1991 registration form elected not to include other urban parks that are contained within Rock Creek Park but are not contiguous to Reservation 339, such as the Soapstone and Klinge valleys. Other contiguous reservations, like Melvin Hazen Park and Pinehurst Parkway, were not included in the registration form as they were acquired and consolidated as parkland in the recent past and did not share legal associations with Reservation 339. This Rock Creek Park Historic District Amendment has reevaluated several of these reservations, including contiguous and noncontiguous parkland. Each of these reservations provides entry and exit to the park, as well as protects the park's natural resources and view shed. Further, each is under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service and is part of the Rock Creek Park system. The reservations are considered significant as contributing resources to the mission and history of Rock Creek Park.

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: John Liebertz, Kate Ritson, and Bill Marzella

organization: EHT Traceries

street & number: 1121 5th Street, NW

city or town: Washington state: DC zip code: 20001

e-mail: eht@traceries.com

telephone: (202) 393-1199

date: August 2014

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photograph Log

Name of Property: Rock Creek Park Historic District
(Amendment and Boundary Expansion)
City or Vicinity: Washington
State: District of Columbia
Photographer: EHT Traceries
Date Photographed: April 2013
Location of Original Digital Files: 1121 5th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001
Number of Photographs: 11

DC_RockCreekParkHDAAmendment_0001
Carter Barron Amphitheatre Ticket Office and Entrance Gate, looking NE

DC_RockCreekParkHDAAmendment_0002
Carter Barron Amphitheatre, Stage & Seats, looking E

DC_RockCreekParkHDAAmendment_0003
Pavilion Shelter, Grove #24, looking W

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended
Nomination and Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

DC_RockCreekParkHDAmdendment_0004
Nature Center, looking SW

DC_RockCreekParkHDAmdendment_0005
Glover Road Horse Center Area, looking E

DC_RockCreekParkHDAmdendment_0006
Clubhouse, Rock Creek Golf Course, looking W

DC_RockCreekParkHDAmdendment_0007
Bridge at Beach Drive, looking SE

DC_RockCreekParkHDAmdendment_0008
Melvin C. Hazen Reservation and Trail, looking W

DC_RockCreekParkHDAmdendment_0009
Comfort Station Grove #1, looking SW

DC_RockCreekParkHDAmdendment_00010
Bridle Trail off Ridge Road, looking NW

DC_RockCreekParkHDAmdendment_0011
Old Bingham Road Streetlamp, looking N

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Rock Creek Park Historic District (Amended Nomination and Boundary Increase)
Washington, D.C.

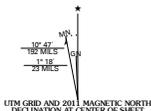


USGS Topographic Map

Washington West Quad, 7.5 Minute Scale, 2011

 Historic District Boundaries

SCALE 1:24 000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NORTH AMERICAN VERTICAL DATUM OF 1988









ROCK CREEK PARK
NATURE CENTER
AND PLANETARIUM
5900 BLANCK RD.













