

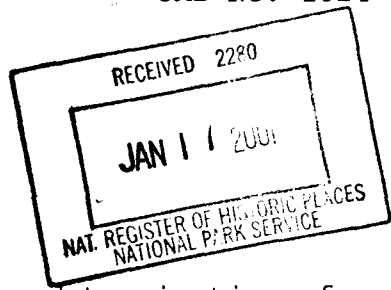
66000869

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018

AD

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 How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A).

Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Theodore Roosevelt Island

other names/site number Mason's Island, Analostan Island

2. Location

street & number n/a not for publication
city or town Washington, DC vicinity
state District of Columbia code DC county District of Columbia code 001
zip code 20500

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this x 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 x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

=====

Clayton M. Smith

Jan. 16, 2001

Signature of certifying official

Date

National Park Service

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register
criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

S. M. Easton April 28, 2000
Signature of commenting or other official Date

DC Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the
National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the
National Register
- removed from the National Register
- ✓ other (explain): Additional Documentation Accepted

Gabson W. Beall 2/16/01
Signature of Keeper Date
GB of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- X public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- X district
- site
- structure
- object

=====
Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>	buildings
<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>10</u>	<u>8</u>	structures
<u>11</u>	<u>43</u>	objects
<u>27</u>	<u>54</u>	Total

List of Resources Included in This Nomination

Non-Contributing

ranger station (Non-Contributing Building)
storage building (Non-Contributing Building)
comfort station (Non-Contributing Building)
pedestrian bridge (Non-Contributing Structure)
Theodore Roosevelt Bridge (Non-Contributing Structure)
chain-link fence (Non-Contributing Structure)
fourive social trails (Non-Contributing Structures; one along northern half
western shore, one along southern half western shore, one looping trail along
north shore, one trail from north transverse trail to monument)
boardwalk through marsh and swamp, including bridge across inlet (Non-
Contributing Structure)
one rustic log fence (Non-Contributing Structure)
ten numbered signposts (Non-Contributing Objects)
NPS bulletin board (Non-Contributing Object)
three other signs (Non-Contributing Objects)
three water fountains (Non-Contributing Objects)
high-water marker (Non-Contributing Object)
remains of two NPS wharves (Non-Contributing Objects)
five NPS Mall-type benches on boardwalk in marsh and swamp (Non-Contributing
Objects)
18 waysides (Non-Contributing Objects)

Contributing

North plateau, woodland landscape (Contributing Site)
South plateau, woodland landscape (Contributing Site)
Marsh and swamp landscape (Contributing Site)
Little Island landscape (Contributing Site)
Mason house ruins (Contributing Site)
Mason icehouse ruins (Contributing Site)
raised earthen mound on which Mason house stood (Contributing Structure)
Theodore Roosevelt Memorial (Contributing Structure; including trail leading to
it, all structures comprising it, and landscaping on and immediately around it)

=====
Four trails: Woods Trail, Upland Trail, northern section of Swamp Trail, and main trail along northern half of western shore (4 Contributing Structures: trails whose current alignment corresponds to alignment in Olmsted Brothers General Plan of 1945)
north transverse trail (Contributing Structure: historic road trace across north end of island, between ferry site and causeway)
remnants of historic Mason's Causeway, from Theodore Roosevelt Island shore across Little River channel to Virginia shore (Contributing Structure)
two retaining walls, at the south end of island and along the southwest shore (Contributing Structures)
remnants of four (approximately) ferry wharves along north shore (Contributing Objects)
ruined boat or scow beached on north shore (Contributing Object)
six Washington benches (Contributing Objects)

Significant species composition of landscape

Species retained or added by Olmsted firm should be considered significant, contributing features of the landscape. This does not mean each particular plant, but the general makeup of the vegetation on different parts of the island. Additionally, following Olmsted's directives, particularly large or fine specimens of native forest species, or promising smaller specimens, should be preserved.

Vegetation Data and Lists: Olmsted Plan

Various documents produced by Olmsted Brothers or associates listed the plant species required for the replanting of Roosevelt Island. Certain existing specimens of these or other species were to be retained if they were exceptionally large or fine, or if they were promising smaller specimens.

Names of species were obtained from the following documents (listed chronologically):

Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., to Arno B. Cammerer, Director, Office of National Parks, Buildings & Reservations. Letter, 17 January 1934. Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress.

Olmsted Jr. "Roosevelt Island: Memorandum for Mr. Finnan in regards to suggested clearing and weeding." 19 January 1934 (rev. 5 February 1934). Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress.

Olmsted Jr. "Draft of Preliminary Report upon a Plan for the Permanent Development of Roosevelt Island," 16 May 1934. Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress.

Hans J. Koehler. "Roosevelt Memorial Island: Report of Visits November

=====
14, 15, 1934." Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress.
Olmsted Brothers. "Roosevelt Memorial Island: Notes to Accompany Plan No. ? [sic]" 29 May 1935. Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress.
Olmsted Jr. "Outline of projected improvement work by the CCC for the period ending March 31, 1936, in pursuance of the general plan set forth in the report of May, 1934." 15 June 1935. Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress.
H.A. Hubler (Camp Roosevelt Island, NP-8, Rosslyn, Virginia). "Plant Materials Required to Complete Planting Roosevelt Island." October 1936. Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress.

General

Trees, Deciduous

Acer sp. (maple)
Betula nigra (river birch)
Carya sp. (hickory)
Celtis sp. (hackberry)
Cercis canadensis (redbud)
Cornus florida (flowering dogwood)
Diospyros virginiana (persimmon)
Fraxinus sp. (ash)
Liquidambar styraciflua (sweetgum)
Liriodendron tulipifera (tulip poplar)
Maclura pomifera (Osage orange)
Magnolia glauca (or *Magnolia virginiana*; sweetbay magnolia)
Morus sp. (mulberry)
Platanus sp. (plane)
Quercus sp. (oaks, both white and black)
Robinia sp. (locust)
Sassafras albidum (sassafras)
Ulmus sp. (elm)

Trees, Evergreen

Ilex opaca (American holly)
Juniperus virginiana (red cedar)
Magnolia grandiflora (evergreen or Southern magnolia)
Pinus sp. (pine)
Tsuga canadensis (Canada hemlock)
Tsuga sp. (hemlock)

Shrubs, Deciduous

Alnus incana (speckled alder)
Rhododendron nudiflorum (downy Pinxterbloom)

=====
Lindera benzoin aestivale (spicebush)
Cornus amomum (silky or red willow dogwood)
Hydrangea arborescens (smooth hydrangea)
Symphoricarpos vulgaris (coralberry)
Viburnum opulus (European cranberry bush)
Viburnum sp.

Shrubs, Evergreen

Kalmia latifolia (mountain laurel)

Vines, Deciduous

Campsis radicans (trumpet vines)
Vitis sp. (grape)

Vines, Evergreen

Hedera helix (English ivy)

Groundcover

Vinca minor (periwinkle)

North Plateau

(see also "Theodore Roosevelt Memorial" list, below)

Trees, Deciduous

Acer saccharinum (silver maple)
Asimina triloba (pawpaw)
Betula nigra (river birch)
Fraxinus sp. (ash)
Gleditsia (honey locust)
Liriodendron tulipifera (tulip poplar)
Platanus occidentalis (sycamore)
Ulmus sp. (elm)

Herbaceous Plants

Aquilegia sp. (columbine, native)
Cornel sp. (silky cornel)
Matteuccia (ostrich fern)
Mertensia sp. (mertensia)
Osmunda sp. (osmunda)
Polygonatum sp. (Solomon's seal)
Polypodiaceae sp. (fern, various species)
Saxifraga sp. (saxifrage, native)
Thalictrum sp. (thalictrums)
Uvularia (bellwort)

=====

South Plateau

Trees, Deciduous

Acer saccharinum (silver maple)
Carpinus sp. (hornbeam)
Carya cordiformis (bitternut)
Catalpa sp. (catalpa)
Cornus sp. (dogwood)
Fagus sp. (beech)
Fraxinus sp. (ash)
Gleditsia (honey locust)
Gymnocladus dioica (Kentucky coffee tree)
Juglans nigra (black walnut)
Liriodendron tulipifera (tulip poplar)
Paulownia tomentosa (paulownia)
Prunus serotina (black cherry)
Quercus alba (white oak)
Quercus muehlenbergii (yellow chestnut oak)
Quercus rubra (red oak)

Trees, Evergreen

Tsuga sp. (hemlock)

Shrubs, Deciduous

Cornus sp. (silky cornel)
Lindera benzoin (spicebush)
Staphylea sp. (bladdernut)
Viburnum lentago (viburnum, black haw)
Viburnum prunifolium

Vines, Evergreen

Hedera helix (English ivy)

Groundcover

Vinca minor (periwinkle)

Herbaceous Plants

Actaea sp.
Claytonia sp. (spring beauty)
Dicentra cucullaria (Dutchman's breeches)
Erythronium sp.
Hydrophyllum sp. (waterleaf)
Matteuccia (ostrich fern)
Mertensia sp.
Podophyllum peltatum (mandrake; mayapple)
Polystichum acrostichoides (Christmas fern)

=====

South Plateau, East-facing Slope Southeast of Mason House Site

Trees, Evergreen

Cedrus sp. or *Juniperus virginiana* (cedar)
Tsuga sp. (hemlock)
Pinus echinata (short-leafed pine)
Pinus virginiana (Virginia pine)
Pinus strobus (white pine)

Herbaceous Plants

Erythronium sp.
Mertensia sp.
Podophyllum peltatum (mandrake; mayapple)
Polygonatum sp. (Solomon's-seal)
Polystichum acrostichoides (Christmas fern)
Thalictrum sp.
Trillium sp.

Marsh and Swamp

Trees, Deciduous

Acer negundo (box elder)
Acer saccharinum (silver maple)
Betula nigra (river birch)
Fraxinus americana (white ash)
Fraxinus sp. (ash)
Platanus occidentalis (sycamore)
Quercus prinus (basket oak)
Salix sp. (willow)
Taxodium distichum (bald cypress)
Ulmus sp. (elm)

Shrubs, Deciduous

Alnus sp. (alder)
Cephalanthus (buttonbush)
Cornus sp. (silky cornel)
Sambucus sp. (elder)

Herbaceous Plants

Hibiscus sp. (mallow)
Iris pseudacorus (water iris)
Peltandra sp.
Polypodiaceae (ferns)
Typha sp. (cattail)

=====
Myosotis sp. (forget-me-not)
"pragmites" (probably "phragmites")
"squaw weed" (possibly ragwort [*Senecio Jacobaea*] or other species)

Little Island

Trees, Deciduous

Acer sp. (maple)
Acer saccharinum (silver maple)
Betula nigra (river birch)
Carya cordiformis (bitternut)
Fraxinus sp. (ash)
Platanus occidentalis (sycamore)
Salix sp. (willow)
Ulmus sp. (elm)

Shrubs, Deciduous

Lindera benzoin (spicebush)
Sambucus sp. (elder)
Viburnum sp.

Herbaceous Plants

Claytonia sp. (spring beauty)
Lilium canadense
Matteuccia (ostrich fern)
Osmunda sp.
Phlox divaricata
Podophyllum peltatum (mandrake; mayapple)
Polygonatum sp. (Solomon's seal)
Thalictrum sp.

North Plateau: Theodore Roosevelt Memorial

Additional landscape planting was performed c. 1965-1967 in conjunction with construction of the monument on the north plateau.

Information derived from planting plans in Cartographic Division, NARA II, College Park, Maryland; two plans titled "Trails, Vista Clearing & Planting" and dated 15 February 1965: NCR 8.1-151A.1 and NCR 8.1-151A.2

Trees, Deciduous

Betula nigra (river birch)
Carpinus carolinia (American hornbeam)
Platanus occidentalis (sycamore)
Prunus serotina (black cherry)

=====
Quercus alba (white oak)
Quercus phellos (willow oak)
Sassafras albidum "officinale" (sassafras)

Shrubs, Deciduous

Lindera benzoin (spicebush)
Sambucus canadensis (American elder)

Shrubs, Evergreen

Buxus sempervirens (Boxwood)
Buxus sempervirens "suffruticosa" (Boxwood)

Vines

Hedera helix (English ivy)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National
Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part
of a multiple property listing.)

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub: <u>single dwelling</u>
<u>DOMESTIC</u>	<u>secondary structure</u>
<u>DOMESTIC</u>	<u>camp (military)</u>
<u>AGRICULTURAL</u>	<u>agricultural field</u>
<u>AGRICULTURAL</u>	<u>horticultural facility</u>
<u>AGRICULTURAL</u>	<u>agricultural outbuilding</u>
<u>DEFENSE</u>	<u>military facility</u>
<u>LANDSCAPE</u>	<u>garden</u>
<u>TRANSPORTATION</u>	<u>water-related</u>
<u>TRANSPORTATION</u>	<u>road-related</u>

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>RECREATION & CULTURE</u>	Sub: <u>work of art</u>
<u>RECREATION & CULTURE</u>	<u>outdoor recreation</u>
<u>RECREATION & CULTURE</u>	<u>monument/marker</u>
<u>LANDSCAPE</u>	<u>park</u>
<u>LANDSCAPE</u>	<u>forest</u>
<u>LANDSCAPE</u>	<u>unoccupied land (marsh)</u>
<u>LANDSCAPE</u>	<u>underwater</u>
<u>LANDSCAPE</u>	<u>natural feature (island)</u>
<u>LANDSCAPE</u>	<u>conservation area</u>

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Style of monument - modern movement

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone, concrete

roof n/a

walls n/a

other statue - bronze

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====
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 a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Art and Architecture
Conservation
Entertainment/Recreation
Military
Other-City Planning
Politics/Government

=====

Social History
Transportation

Period of Significance 1749-1833 (John Mason occupation)
1861-1865 (Civil War occupation)
1931-present (national memorial to president Theodore
Roosevelt)

Significant Dates 1748 (ferry)
1792ff (John Mason mansion)
1807 (causeway completed)
1861-65 (Civil War)
1931/32 (acquisition by Theodore Roosevelt Memorial
Association and transfer to federal government)
1932-45 (development of Olmsted Bros. Plan)
1967 (dedication of memorial monument)

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation _____

Architect/Builder Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr.
Henry V. Hubbard
Eric Gugler
Paul Manship

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====

9. Major Bibliographical References

=====

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)
 preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
 x 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-28
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data
 State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other

Name of repository: Library of Congress; National Archives, II; District of Columbia Libraries, Martin Luther King, Jr. Branch, Washingtoniana Collection; George Washington Memorial Parkway files; Library, National Capital Region, NPC

=====
10. Geographical Data
=====

Acreage of Property c. 90 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Roosevelt Island:

	Zone	Easting	Northing
northeast corner:	18	321300,	4307500
southeast corner:	18	321500,	4306350

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Kay Fanning, Ph.D., Architectural Historian
organization National Conference of SHPOs date 31 January 1999

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form
Theodore Roosevelt Island
Washington, D.C.
Historic Park Landscapes in National
and State Parks

(Page 16)

=====
street & number 1100 Ohio Dr., S.W. telephone (202) 523-5005
city or town Washington state DC zip code _____

=====
Additional Documentation
=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====
Property Owner
=====

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

=====
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. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

7. DESCRIPTION

Introduction

Theodore Roosevelt Island was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1967 with no supporting information. This nomination updates the listing by providing a thorough description and historical overview of the park. The update was commissioned by the National Capital Region of the National Park Service in February 1999 under a cooperative agreement with the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers.

Description Summary

Theodore Roosevelt Island is located at the fall line in the Potomac River, where the rocky Piedmont Plateau meets the sandy soils of the Coastal Plain (figs. 1 & 2). The river flows to either side of the island in two channels. The narrower channel on the west or Virginia side is known as the "Little River" while the channel on the east or Georgetown side is known as the "Georgetown Channel." The island is an outcropping of micaceous schist which has served as a base for the steady accumulation of sedimentary soils. Over the last 200 years, soil deposits from the river have increased the island's size by about 20 acres, from 70 to its current size of approximately 90 acres (fig. 3).¹ The island has two high points, both about 44' above sea level, one to the north and the other to the south. Along the east side, a peninsula extends from the northeast corner and runs south. The peninsula is composed of both a swamp and a marsh area; the swamp is composed of somewhat higher and drier land, and the marsh is subject to the tidal flow of the river. Through the center of the marsh runs a narrow tidal inlet.

South of the main island and separated from it by a narrow channel of water is a smaller island of about 1.5 acres, known variously as "Little Island," "South Island," or "Swan Island."² Little Island, which can be reached only by boat, is included within the legal boundaries of Theodore Roosevelt Island.

Roosevelt Island's location at the fall line – the furthest reach of tidal ocean waters in the river, where falls and rapids create an impediment to navigation – has given it great ecological diversity. Historically, it has been a natural passage across the river and a locus of commercial and transportation activity. The island encompasses a large number of ecological zones (11 by one count³); the most important of these are upland forest, swamp, and tidal marsh. It is home to a wide variety of birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians, and many fish swim and migrate in its waters.

The island was bought by the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Association in October 1931; it was then transferred to the federal government in March 1932 to serve as a national memorial to President Theodore Roosevelt. The island honors the 26th president primarily for his role as a leader in conservation, and the natural features of the island itself – its lands, waters, flora, and fauna – was conceived of as the memorial. Subsequent development of the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

island by the National Park Service has sought to enhance its character as a “native” forest and an area for passive recreation and nature study. In 1967, a large open-air architectural monument commemorating Roosevelt with sculpture and inscriptions was completed on the northern end of the island.

Roosevelt Island is part of the George Washington Memorial Parkway, a national parkway of over 7,000 acres created between 1928 and 1965 to protect the natural, historic, and scenic resources along the Potomac River. Comprised of lands that would have been familiar to George Washington, the parkway extends almost 40 miles along the river, from Mount Vernon to Great Falls, where the remains of Washington’s Potowmack Canal can still be found. While the majority of the parkway lies in Virginia, it also includes lands in Maryland and both Columbia and Roosevelt Islands in the District of Columbia.⁴

Historical Summary

Historically, Theodore Roosevelt Island has been referred to by many names: My Lord’s Island, Barbadoes, Analostan (also rendered as Anacostien or Annalostan), and Mason’s Island, reflecting its many changes in ownership over the more than 300 years since its discovery by Europeans. Never a part of Virginia, the island remained within the boundaries of Maryland until the founding of the District of Columbia in 1791.⁵

Through the 18th century, the Potomac River valley was a meeting place for different Native American tribes, where members of the Five Nation Iroquois and other groups conducted trade with Algonquian-speaking peoples of the Potomac Valley. Numerous fishing and farming villages lined the river from below Great Falls to its mouth.⁶

There is no evidence of European occupation of the island before John Mason (son of George Mason of Gunston Hall, author of the Virginia Bill of Rights) built a large house there sometime in the 1790s (though some structure may have been built earlier in connection with Mason’s Ferry, established in 1748). Native American occupation before the 18th century is almost certain, but only a small amount of substandard archeological survey work has been conducted in the past and none since the early 1970s.⁷ Evidence – including pottery sherds, fire-cracked rock, projectile points, and stone flakes – has been found suggesting intensive and long-term prehistoric use. Colonial and/or early American artifacts have also been found (see *Appendix A*).⁸

From 1717 to 1833, the island was owned by the illustrious Mason family of Virginia. Because of its location at the fall line, the island provided a natural crossing point over the river. It served as a terminus for a ferry, known as Mason’s Ferry, from 1748 until about 1867.⁹ The ferry ran from the Maryland side of the river (where Georgetown was established in 1751); the wharf was probably located near the beginning of the old Rock Creek Road, or the foot of High or 32nd Street, while, on the island, there were probably one or more landings on the north shore. In 1807, during the ownership of John Mason, a dam carrying a road or causeway, known as Mason’s Causeway, was built from the northwest corner of the island across the Little River to the Virginia shore. A road on the island connected ferry landings and causeway. This passage served as a major route between Maryland, the District, and Northern Virginia for over a century.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 3

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

From about 1792 to 1833, John Mason developed the island as a small plantation estate, raising crops, grazing livestock, and creating extensive gardens (fig. 3). He probably relied on slave labor to build, farm, and maintain his estate. He built a large neoclassical mansion surrounded by many outbuildings within a landscaped setting; north of the house spread open parklands and cultivated fields, and to its south were terraced lawns and gardens.

John Mason lost the island in a bank foreclosure in 1833. It was then leased or purchased by a succession of people, at least one of whom cultivated commercial gardens there. The island was also a popular local resort. In 1851, former D. C. mayor William A. Bradley bought the island. Bradley died in 1867 and the island remained the property of his estate until 1913.¹⁰

During the Civil War, Union forces occupied Mason's Island and used it for number of purposes, most importantly, from May to September 1863, as a training camp for the 1st United States Colored Troops (1st USCT), an infantry regiment of African American soldiers.¹¹ The Union Army ran a ferry and a pontoon bridge from Georgetown to the northern shore of the island (fig. 4). The camp was organized along the historic road which connected the ferry landings with the causeway. The Army destroyed some of Mason's stone retaining walls, using the stone to build boat landings.

Following the war, the island was used for a wide variety of generally short-term recreational purposes. Much of the vegetation probably grew unchecked. A few new structures were built, though none has survived. Earlier structures and landscape features deteriorated. An amphitheater was built for people to watch balloon ascensions. The Great Falls Ice Company may have built icehouses on the island, for storing ice cut in the Little River.¹² From 1889-1892, the Columbian Athletic Club leased the island, building ball fields, tennis courts, a running track, and a grandstand, probably to the north.¹³ In the 1890s, the Analostan Boat Club leased the island and constructed a boathouse, though its location is not known.¹⁴

In 1902, a journalist for the *Washington Times* reported that "the interior aspect of Analostan is desolate in the extreme," with the ruins of the Mason house "hidden in the dense growth of trees which has overrun the island."¹⁵ Since the causeway was "partially destroyed," the island could be reached only by boat. The reporter found the ruin of a "small, roofless structure, picturesque in its decay, its dilapidated walls overgrown with moss and ivy."¹⁶ He identified as "slave quarters" a building which had been inhabited by "divers natives of Georgetown,"¹⁷ most recently a "notorious river character" who was still in residence.¹⁸ A photograph, identified as the "Old Slave Quarters," depicted a roofless structure of four or five bays. Another photo showed a three-bay building.

In 1907, the *Washington Post* recorded a "scene of dismal desolation," with the ruins of the Mason house, "stone and brick barns and stables," smokehouses, and slave quarters standing amidst dense undergrowth.¹⁹ The article referred to a "large level open space of more than two acres surrounded by splendid trees," probably the former athletic field to the north (now the site of the Theodore Roosevelt monument).²⁰

In 1913, the Washington Gas Light Company purchased the island from William Bradley's heirs as a site for the future construction of gas tanks and other industrial structures. In October 1931, the Roosevelt Memorial Association (RMA; later called the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Association, or TRMA) purchased the island, then popularly known as "Analostan Island," offering it to the federal government later that month to be used as a memorial to Theodore Roosevelt. In November, a reporter for the *Sunday Star* paid a visit to the island, and found the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 4

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

“highland... covered with trees and bushes” and “deep carpets of honeysuckle.” The swamp was a “thick mass” of grasses and cattails through which a “feeble brook trickle[d].” Clearings which had formerly been lawns were filled with sunflowers, and the impression was of “a bit of English parkland on a haunted estate.” The island was inhabited by a “caretaker and his family” living in a home or shack standing in a clearing of about ½ acre; this dwelling, he wrote, was “known to nearly every one in Washington.”²¹

The deed conveying the island from the TRMA to the United States is dated October 27, 1932; the official land transfer is dated March 2, 1933.²² At first the island came under the jurisdiction of the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital, which in August 1933 was transferred to the National Park Service under the name “National Capital Parks.” The Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Association retained planning responsibility for development of the island memorial, and in May 1932 it hired the landscape architecture firm of Olmsted Brothers, along with architect John Russell Pope, to prepare plans for development.²³

Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., assumed primary responsibility for the creation of the plan. He envisioned the island landscape slowly developing over the decades and centuries into a native “climax” forest (fig. 15). From 1934 to 1937, Olmsted directed young men from the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the work of clearing the island of most non-native vegetation, including most remnants of John Mason’s plantings, and the subsequent planting of about 20,000 native hardwood trees and shrubs (fig. 16).²⁴ Olmsted paid regular visits to Washington through the early 1940s to consult with NPS officials and others and to inspect completed work (other members of the Olmsted firm also reviewed work). In 1936, a team from the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) excavated and recorded the remains of the John Mason mansion before they were removed (the excavation work was performed by the CCC). In the 1930s, the Olmsted office developed a preliminary general plan for the island along with planting and work plans to guide the CCC work (fig. 5).²⁵ Their General Plan was completed in 1945 (fig. 6).

The overall goal of the Olmsted Brothers plan was the establishment of a native woodland which would memorialize Theodore Roosevelt for his achievements as a leader in conservation policy, and also commemorate the primeval forests of the Potomac River valley. The plan called for the preservation of mature hardwood trees and the addition of thousands of additional mostly native trees and shrubs, along with some groundcover and herbaceous plants.

The Olmsted design included plans for new structures within the forest, including a terraced hillside at the south end of the plateau which would have served as a platform to view the Lincoln Memorial and other monumental structures to the south, and also as a potential platform for some future commemorative structure (fig. 17). Plans for this Outlook Plateau (also called the “Outlook Terrace”) were abandoned in the 1950s after the decision was made to build a new highway bridge over the southern tip of the island. The monument to Roosevelt, however, was built. Initial plans called for an enormous armillary sphere, designed by architect Eric Gugler and sculptor Paul Manship, to be built on the Outlook Plateau (fig. 18). After widespread public ridicule, Gugler and Manship changed the design to a large paved plaza featuring a bronze statue of Roosevelt, inscribed tablets, fountains, and a moat. The site was moved to the northern end of the island, far removed from the bridge. The design was approved in 1961 and the structure completed in 1967.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 5

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

During World War II, the island was used for training purposes by various government agencies, including the OSS; the FBI trained agents there after the war.²⁶ Also during the war, the War Department built a pontoon bridge between Georgetown and Virginia which passed over the island.²⁷ Though the island was open to the public from the late 1930s, NPS ferry service began only in 1954 (fig. 20); before then, visitors presumably arrived by private craft or perhaps by taking the old causeway from the Virginia shore to the north end of the island (figs. 7 & 8, 19).²⁸ A pedestrian causeway was built across the middle of Little River, probably in the 1950s or 1960s. Roosevelt Island was officially dedicated in 1958, during the centennial year of TR's birth.²⁹

For over 50 years, the NPS has managed the woodland planted in accordance with the directives laid down by Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., and Olmsted Brothers as a native forest. Few, if any, additions have been made to the vegetation, other than the plantings around the monument from the 1960s (fig. 16), and new, naturally occurring growth. The Olmsted planting plans stated that a few plants remaining from the Mason landscape should be retained, particularly English ivy (*Hedera helix*). Retaining the ivy has posed more of a problem than anticipated, and there is today an active program of ivy abatement conducted by the GWMP natural resources staff with volunteer help. Recently, abatement efforts have been concentrated on keeping ivy out of trees, so that it cannot seed, and controlling its growth in two specific areas: at the end of the pedestrian bridge and along the southeast slope.

Theodore Roosevelt Island lies within the boundaries of the George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP) unit of the National Capital Region of the NPS. Because they are located in the Potomac River, both Roosevelt Island and Columbia Island to its south are the only District of Columbia properties within the GWMP. A pedestrian footbridge (completed in 1979) leads to the island from a parking lot on the Virginia shore.

Landscape areas of Roosevelt Island

For ease of discussion, it has been helpful to divide the island into four landscape areas: the north and south portions of the plateau, the marsh (including the swamp), and Little Island (fig. 12). The boundary between the north and south plateau areas is taken as a line extending due east from the end of the present-day footbridge to the eastern edge of the plateau. These four areas have been determined on the basis of topography, historical use, and the Olmsted plans.

A. North plateau

This area encompasses the northern end of island, including the historic causeway site at the northwest, the shoreline facing Georgetown, the historic ferry wharf sites along the northern shore, and the road which connected wharves and causeway. On the northern part of the island, John Mason cultivated fields, grazed livestock in pastures, and planted orchards. A formal tree-lined drive or allée led from the road south down the center of the island to his mansion. During the Civil War, barracks appear to have been oriented along the east-west route between causeway and wharves. Later in the 19th century, many of the sporting events and other recreational activities held on the island

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 6

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

were probably staged in a large clearing near the high point. At the beginning of NPS development, the few existing vernacular structures were removed. In the 1960s, the large monument to Theodore Roosevelt was built on the north plateau, probably in the clearing. The NPS has built several small vernacular structures on this part of the island, including a ferry landing at the island's northeast corner; the only ones which remain are a ranger station and a storage shed located just north of the monument.

B. South plateau

The south part of the plateau is a narrow rocky spine, with steep banks on either side descending to the Little River or the marsh. The site of John Mason's mansion is located on the highest point near the southern end. The fields and pastures of the Mason estate continued along the plateau from the northern end to just north of the house. On the terraced landscape south of the house, Mason developed kitchen gardens, flower gardens, and lawns. The Mason house site is roughly defined by an artificial mound on which the house stood. Following Olmsted's recommendation, the foundations remain as a picturesque feature within the woodland, along with some remnants of Mason's landscape vegetation. The foundations of at least one outbuilding, an icehouse, still remain northwest of the house site.

The island plateau terminates in a narrow rounded promontory to the south, where Olmsted planned to build his Outlook Plateau. The southern end of the island is a low, flat area, spreading below the stony plateau and heavily overgrown and threaded by social trails. The Theodore Roosevelt Bridge passes over this end of Roosevelt Island.

C. Marsh and Swamp

This peninsula on the east side of the island is of relatively recent formation, composed of a tidal marsh and a drier swamp area, most of it alluvial accretion deposited only in the last 200 years. The two areas are distinguished from each other by their relative elevation. The higher, drier land of the swamp runs to the west, north, and east of the tidal marsh. A tidal inlet extends north through the marsh.

The marsh had begun to form in the Mason era, though it does not seem to have been used for any purpose. The Olmsted plan stipulated that the marsh and swamp should be allowed to develop naturally. Existing vegetation was augmented with appropriate plants and a footpath was constructed through the center of the swamp. In the 1950s, another NPS ferry landing was built about halfway down the shore; there are today some concrete and metal remnants. The trail was replaced in 1997 with a boardwalk made of recycled plastic materials.

There is also a marsh area along the western shore of the upland plateau, primarily to the south.

D. Little Island

Little Island, separated from the southeastern end of Roosevelt Island by a narrow channel, resulted from the deposition of silt in the river, caused by the impediment of the larger island. Little Island can be reached only by boat,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 7

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

and no structures or trails have ever been built here. Olmsted planned to develop Little Island as a landscape foreground for Roosevelt Island, with clumps of trees arranged to frame views from the Outlook Plateau south to the Washington and Virginia shores and down the river. Theodore Roosevelt Bridge passes over the narrow channel separating Roosevelt and Little Islands before crossing the southern tip of the larger island.

Landscape and Design Features

Circulation

Historically, circulation was concentrated on the north end of island, the site of the road which connected the ferry from 1748 with the northwestern shore, where the causeway was built in 1807. The allee leading to John Mason's house, probably constructed in the 1790s, led south from this road.

During NPS ownership, there have been approximately three versions of a circulation system, from the Olmsted plans of the 1930s and 1940s, through the first NPS system of footpaths of the 1950s, to the system of footpaths present on the island today. The system has become increasingly simplified over the years. The Olmsted Brothers' "Preliminary General Plan," dated January 1936, shows a complex layout of foot paths, bridle trails, and service roads at both the north and south ends.³⁰ The northern trails converged at a small *rond point* at the northwest corner before leading to a bridge over the rebuilt causeway. To the south, trails led down to the southern shore from a formal oval path around the Outlook Plateau. Essentially the same trail layout appears on the final "General Plan" of May 1945, except that the *rond point* has been eliminated (fig. 6).³¹ An NPS map from June 1953, the month that ferry service began, and before the construction of the Roosevelt Bridge and Roosevelt Memorial, shows that trail patterns had been altered on both the south and north ends (fig. 7).³² Trails were pulled back from the island's perimeter, most noticeably at the north end.

Today, certain trails generally conform to the original Olmsted layout: the outer perimeter trails (though to the north the transverse trail has been moved slightly south), the path circling the former Outlook Plateau area at the southern end, and the trail through the marsh. The complex of trails in the northern and southern parts of the island has been more substantially altered. The current map distributed on Roosevelt Island shows an even simpler system, with three main trails named "Woods," "Upland," and "Swamp" (fig. 2).

While Olmsted deemed the provision of convenient public access to the island as essential, he placed primary emphasis on preserving "the quality of isolation or seclusion proper alike to a forest and to a memorial island."³³ The island, he believed, should be kept free of cars:

*For the essential qualities of a perfected island forest are such as can be fully appreciated and enjoyed only by those who move through it somewhat slowly and at leisure...*³⁴

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 8

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

Both footpaths and bridle paths were to resemble “foot-worn forest trails, somewhat irregular in width and alignment and surface,” rather than formal urban park paths.³⁵ The main trails were planned to be 7 to 9 feet wide in order to accommodate service vehicles. They were to have “substantial and well-drained foundations of stone and coarse gravel” covered with about four inches of compacted sand-clay soil.³⁶ Apparently, much of the material for path construction was obtained from regrading of the southern overlook.³⁷

Olmsted wanted small plants to encroach on the trails, and, in general, sought the appearance of social trails:

*A slightly ragged and irregular edge... determined by actual wear, as in woodland trails of the agreeable sorts which come into existence solely by the movement of people and animals along them...*³⁸

He wrote: “The footways... are to be as little conspicuous and as closely fitted to the ground as possible.”³⁹

Today, the circulation system consists solely of footpaths of varying widths. As far as is known, the NPS constructed the trails following Olmsted’s recommendations, following natural contours rather than historic circulation patterns (with the possible exception of the north transverse trail). Since the 1950s, the NPS has maintained the trails with little alteration.

Structures

Relatively few structures have ever been built on Roosevelt Island. None are known to have been built before John Mason commenced his farming activities, though it is possible that there might have been some structure built in connection with the ferry. At least one ferryhouse stood in the 19th century, probably on the northeast shore, above a prominent spit of rocks (fig. 14); there is today a distinct depression in the ground here and perhaps some foundations remain.

The focal point of Mason’s plantation was his mansion, a neoclassical structure possibly designed by architect George Hadfield. Around this were grouped various outbuildings, most of which had disappeared by the 1930s. Numerous documents and maps refer to three Mason outbuildings, which survived into the 20th century and were located a short distance northwest of house, on the brow of the slope leading down to Little River; these included an icehouse, a storage house, and a building which may have contained slave quarters (the foundations of which are visible in fig. 5).⁴⁰ A few accounts from the early 19th century also refer to other small outbuildings located to the south of the Mason house, probably connected with slave activities.⁴¹ A summerhouse stood in the gardens directly south of the house.

Some new construction occurred after Mason left. The house was still used as a dwelling. There was extensive construction on the island during the Civil War, primarily along the road across the north end, where more than 20 frame structures were built, including barracks and a hospital (fig. 4). The Union Army reused many of the Mason structures. In the later 19th century, the Mason house may have been adapted for use as a dancehall and clubhouse. There are no visible remains of these activities.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 9

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

In the 1930s, topographic maps prepared for the Olmsted project note a "rock wharf" located about midway down the western shore, above the Little River, and a small dwelling, surrounded by a few smaller outbuildings (fig. 5) at the north end. The authors of the HABS "Report" refer to an old graveyard as being located near this dwelling.⁴² There are no visible remains of dwelling or graveyard; if the graveyard did, in fact, exist, it would possess potential archeological significance.

Olmsted decided to retain remnants of the Mason house ruins (fig. 21). He planned for several new structures, most importantly the Outlook Plateau; bridges over the Little River and the channel separating Roosevelt and Columbia Islands; a new causeway; a shelter and restroom structure at the north, perhaps incorporating the old dwelling; a restroom near the Outlook Plateau; and a shelter and new ferry landing at the south end (figs. 6 & 17). These utilitarian structures were meant "to be inconspicuous, built not to last forever but rather for the greatest practicable length of economic life in relation to their cost..."⁴³ The sole building to have been completed according to the original Olmsted scheme is the small comfort station built in 1955 at the southern end of the plateau.

Today, the major structure on the island is the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial (completed in 1967), an open architectural monument bearing the same name as the island itself (fig. 22). Other NPS structures are minor and non-contributing: the comfort station (1955; fig. 23) near the south end; the pedestrian footbridge (1979; fig. 24) leading to the center of the Little River shore, which replaced the pedestrian causeway built by the NPS; and a small A-frame ranger station and a larger shed-roof storage building (c. 1980s), both wood frame and located north of the monument. The ruins of some historic structures are known to remain: the foundations of the Mason house and the Mason icehouse, and the remnants of the Mason causeway. The foundations of other structures may still remain: the ferry house on the eastern shore, other outbuildings north and south of the Mason house, and the stone wharf on the western shore.

Small-Scale Features

Few small-scale features have ever been built on the island, and only a few such features exist today. Located along trails, particularly in the southern part of the upland plateau, are at least six rustic NPS "Washington" benches made of square cedar timbers (fig. 25).⁴⁴ On the new boardwalk are cast-iron and wood benches of the type developed for use on the Washington Mall.⁴⁵

Recent NPS construction includes mostly non-contributing features: three water fountains, a bulletin board and a log fence near the island terminus of the footbridge, various signs, and 18 waysides. While the majority of the waysides interpret the island's natural history, some relate various aspects of the history of its human occupation as well. Along the western and southern shores of the island are two visible sections of low rough-faced stone retaining walls (figs. 12 & 26). They may date from the Mason era, but are more likely the result of the Olmsted work.⁴⁶ These walls are heavily overgrown with vegetation, much of it poison ivy, and they have not been carefully examined nor their extent identified.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 10

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

Vegetation

The woodland which covers much of the island, and the vegetation in the marsh, is a direct result of the plan developed by Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., and the Olmsted Brothers firm in the 1930s and carried out with CCC labor. Olmsted's primary goal for the island was the creation of a climax forest as a living memorial to Theodore Roosevelt. In June 1935, he prepared a general statement outlining his proposal for vegetation:

Broadly speaking, the purposes of the planting now proposed are these: first, to fill in with young trees of large-growing forest species appropriate to the locality, the numerous spaces, some small and some very large, between the existing remnants of old woodland and among and under the scattered trees which have sprung up as volunteers in the old clearings between these woodlands since the abandonment of cultivation on the Island during the 19th Century; second, to add flowering dogwoods and other small-growing native forest trees for enrichment and diversification; third, in limited areas, to add forest undergrowth shrubs where desirable for obtaining the appearance of intricacy characteristic of natural forests in this region and for limiting the sweep of views in undesirable directions. To avoid an appearance of artificial monotony for many years to come it is proposed to plant trees of various sizes, some as large as are ordinarily used in street tree planting, the rest of smaller and cheaper sizes.⁴⁷

The previous year, in May 1934, Olmsted had identified the dominant large trees he felt were necessary for a such a forest: tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), several kinds of oaks, both white and black (*Quercus* sp.), plane trees (*Platanus* sp.), river birches (*Betula nigra*), sweet gums (*Liquidamber styraciflua*), maples (*Acer* sp.), ashes (*Fraxinus* sp.), hickories (*Carya* sp.), elms (*Ulmus* sp.), and evergreen magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*). He noted other "worthy existing trees" which should be preserved, including two kinds of mulberry (*Morus* sp.), Osage orange (*Maclura pomifera*), and hackberry (*Celtis* sp.), as well as all trees of "any considerable size" and smaller specimens if they seemed promising. Secondary trees to be added or removed included sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*), persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*), locusts (*Robinia* sp.), dogwood (*Cornus* sp.), redbud (*Cercis canadensis*), and such evergreen conifers as pines (*Pinus* sp.), red cedars (*Juniperus virginiana*), and hemlocks (*Tsuga* sp.).⁴⁸

Olmsted recommended keeping most grapevines (*Vitis* sp.), trumpet vines (*Campsis radicans*), English ivy, periwinkle (*Vinca minor*), certain shrubs (such as viburnum, *Viburnum* sp.), and "in general any woody plants not known to be on the 'black list.'"⁴⁹ He recommended planting "trumpet-vine and Bignonia capriolata against certain trees..."⁵⁰ and suggested creating experimental plots to try and reestablish "smaller and more delicate native forest ground-cover plants" (he called the plots "Forest Improvement Plantations").⁵¹

The CCC were directed to remove "coarse herbaceous weeds and grasses" and all "fallen deadwood," and to attempt the "complete eradication" of certain weeds: blackberry (*Rubus* sp.), sumac (*Rhus* sp.), Joe Pye weed (*Eupatorium* sp.), poison ivy (*Rhus radicans*), and Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*), among others⁵²

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 11

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

(however, "islands" of honeysuckle may have been retained⁵³). The result was a woodland composed mostly of hardwoods with evergreens in some areas. Certain areas were to receive more detailed plantings, a greater variety or quantity of trees, shrubs, groundcover, and/or herbaceous plants, to highlight and increase the visual interest of notable features, such as rock formations and the edges of trails. These included an ivy glade north of the Mason house and a grove of hemlock trees in the south part of the plateau (fig. 27). Bald cypress trees (*Taxodium distichum*) were added to the marsh in two lots planted between 1934 and 1937 (fig. 28).⁵⁴ Plants were both purchased and "collected" from the wild.⁵⁵ No planting plan for the southern end of the island was prepared in the early 1930s, as it was felt to be more a complicated area that should await further study.⁵⁶

Only a limited amount of planting work was ever done after this. Lack of maintenance allowed Japanese honeysuckle and other weeds to become reestablished.⁵⁷ The NPS resumed regular maintenance in the late 1940s or early 1950s.⁵⁸ Some landscaping was done in the 1960s in connection with the new monument: boxwood (*Buxus* sp.) was planted on the plaza, and willow oak (*Quercus phellos*) and some other trees were grown around its perimeter (see below).

Today Roosevelt Island is managed as a native woodland, reflecting current understanding of what is appropriate for the ecology of a small wooded island in the Potomac River valley. The upland plateau is largely covered by a mature deciduous forest. Some areas face serious problems from invasive vines, particularly English ivy. Certain species which were added on Olmsted's recommendation are now recognized as not being appropriate to a true native woodland, such as the hemlock trees (*Tsuga canadensis*) in the Hemlock Grove, and the bald cypress trees in the marsh.

It is beyond the scope of a nomination to analyze or do more than list the vegetative species which were planted or meant to be planted, but all such trees, shrubs, groundcover, and herbaceous plants listed by the Olmsted firm and present today on the island should be considered contributing species. Also, any native growth which has developed naturally in last 60 years is contributing. The planting done in conjunction with the Theodore Roosevelt monument is also contributing.

Description of Island by Area

North Plateau

In the early 19th century, the land in the northern half of the island was composed of cultivated fields and open parkland with large trees, while the shores were fringed by a dense growth of trees.⁵⁹ A road across the north end linked the ferry landing or landings on the north shore with Mason's Causeway and the drive leading to John Mason's house.

Much of the circulation system in the northern part of the island follows the historic alignment laid out in the Olmsted Brothers' General Plan of 1945, which was simplified by the NPS in the early 1950s (figs. 6 & 7). The main footpaths include a trail along the western shore; the northern part of the Upland Trail; and a trail which leads down to

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 12

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

the Swamp Walk. The trail which leads west to east across the northern end of the island does not appear on the General Plan (which depicted a narrower trail running much nearer the northern shore), but appears to follow the route of the historic road dating from the 18th century. In this document, this northern trail is usually referred to as the "north transverse trail."

A trail leads from the island end of the pedestrian bridge and curves slightly south before leading uphill to the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial plaza, a short distance to the north. This trail is a contributing part of the monument. Another trail (Contributing Structure) leads north from the pedestrian bridge along the western shore. Parallel to this, a social trail (Non-Contributing Structure) runs near the Little River shoreline.

The trail main along the western shore leads to the north transverse trail, which in turn leads from the site of the historic Mason's Causeway on the northwestern shore to the spit of rocks on the northeastern shore, probably one of the historic ferry landing sites. In the 1950s, the NPS rebuilt the historic causeway as a service road to carry vehicles for construction on the island, primarily the Theodore Roosevelt monument. Mains and electrical cables were laid within the causeway foundations.⁶⁰ After completion of the pedestrian bridge in 1979, most of the visible parts of the causeway above water were removed.⁶¹ Today, a thick, broken slab of concrete on the northwest shore remains from the NPS service causeway, almost certainly covering remnants of Mason's Causeway (fig. 29). The remains of the historic Mason's Causeway – from the shores of Roosevelt Island, across the bed of the Little River channel, and onto the Virginia shore – constitute a Contributing Structure; the importance of the causeway from 1807 as a link in the passage by ferry and road across the Potomac River gives any remnants historic and archeological significance, though these features await further evaluation to determine their extent, condition, and precise significance.

The north transverse trail (Contributing Structure; fig. 30) runs east from the historic causeway site. Though it has probably been regraded in sections by the NPS, this broad foot trail appears to follow the alignment of the historic road across the island, which was perhaps established as early as 1748, the year Mason's Ferry was founded. The same route was likely used as the main road through the Civil War camp. Today the path is formed of dirt and sand laid over a bed of rounded river stones. Just north of the old causeway landing is a spring or inlet; there may have been a stone dam constructed in association with this, but there are no readily visible remains. A social trail branches off from the transverse trail to the north, leading through the woods and thick undergrowth to a small sandy beach on the northwest shore. On this beach, and at other points along the shore further east, are the remains of approximately four historic wooden wharves (Contributing Objects; fig. 31), probably dating from the 18th or 19th centuries. Also on the beach can be found the wooden skeleton of a boat or scow (Contributing Object; fig. 32). As with the remnants of Mason's Causeway, these features are associated with the historic Mason's Ferry and the route which passed over Mason's Island and are thus of clear historic significance, though they require further study.

During the Civil War, the Union Army built 20 or more structures on the island, including barracks for the 1st United States Colored Troops (fig. 4). Most structures were located along either side of the existing roadway. There is therefore the likelihood that this area possesses further archeological significance, and significance also as a historic African American site. The Union Army operated a ferry across the Potomac during the war. Judging by historic photographs, the landing appears to have been located near the prominent spit of rocks at the northeast end of the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 13

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

island, which may have been one of the earlier ferry landing sites as well.⁶² The military also built a pontoon bridge over the river, which appears from a historic photograph to have followed a route similar to that of the ferry and so may, perhaps, have replaced it (fig. 14).⁶³ Though it has left no visible remnants, this historic activity further indicates the potential archeological significance of the northern part of the island.

About halfway along its route, the north transverse trail intersects with a wide trail (Non-Contributing Structure) which leads south to the Theodore Roosevelt monument. A water fountain and a wayside (Non-Contributing Objects) stand at the intersection. A short distance further east, the transverse trail intersects with the Upland Trail (Contributing Structure), a footpath which runs to the southern end of the island along the eastern edge of the plateau.

The north transverse trail widens near its eastern end. In this area once stood a small frame dwelling surrounded by outbuildings (fig. 5). In 1936, the HABS historians conducting the survey of the Mason house ruins referred to a graveyard near this house, though they offered no further information or description, and there are today no visible remains.⁶⁴ In the 1950s, the NPS built an orientation station and a flagpole here, near the NPS ferry landing. None of these structures remain (fig. 8).

In this wide area, the north transverse trail intersects with the north end of the Swamp Trail (Contributing Structure). At the top of the slope leading down to the north end of the marsh, the Swamp Trail passes a large depression in the ground (Contributing Site) covered with English ivy; this is probably the foundation remains of a ferry house associated with the historic ferries. It is visible in an 1865 photograph showing the pontoon bridge to Mason's Island from the Georgetown shore (fig. 14), and is also probably the structure depicted in a painting which likely dates from 1879.⁶⁵ It is a site of potential archeological significance.

The north transverse trail terminates at the northeastern shore of the island. A metal pole (Non-Contributing Object) which measures high water stands on the shoreline next to a warning sign. An NPS ferry landing may have been located here from the 1950s; there are still remains of an NPS ferry landing and walkway a short distance to the south, attached to the prominent spit of rocks which extends out into the Potomac River (fig. 33). These remains (Non-Contributing Objects) consist of concrete slabs, metal piping and cable, and perhaps some other materials.

There are no significant historic views on the northern part of the island. Olmsted wrote that views from this area should be limited to glimpses of water under overhanging branches, as the Georgetown and Rosslyn shorelines at the time were industrial and unsightly.⁶⁶ Such glimpses can still be seen. Today, industrial uses have disappeared from the surrounding shorelines. From several points along the northern part of the island, a visitor can see views of the Virginia shore, including the landscaped roadway of the George Washington Memorial Parkway, and the tall commercial structures in Rosslyn; and of various commercial and residential structures and roads along the Georgetown waterfront. These views, however, are not contributing.

On the northern part of the island, the native woodland landscape (Contributing Site) has developed as a result of the Olmsted planting plan carried out by the CCC in the 1930s. The Olmsted plan called for the clearing of the island; the retention of certain native species of trees and shrubs, and of large mature trees; and the planting of native trees, shrubs, groundcover, and herbaceous plants, with the expectation that a typical and representative native woodland would gradually become established over the following decades. The species of trees, shrubs, groundcover,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 14

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

and herbaceous plants named by the Olmsted office on planting plans; trees which predate the 1930s; and more recent native species which have arisen naturally are all significant to the native species composition of the northern part of the island. Such a composition is an integral part of the Contributing Site and should be maintained.

However, in many areas of the north plateau the vegetation has been compromised by a heavy infestation of invasive vines, most seriously English ivy, which has smothered trees and much of the groundcover. In addition, construction of the monument in the 1960s and its new, more formal landscaping radically changed the character of this part of the woodland. Whether any of these species pose an invasive threat to the vegetation of marsh and swamp, and how that threat should be handled, should be considered in a future management plan for the island.

The pedestrian bridge (Non-Contributing Structure; fig. 24) was completed in 1979 and spans the Little River in a single high arch, leading from the parking lot on the Virginia shore and terminating on the island approximately at its midpoint. The concrete and steel bridge is about 20' wide, sufficiently wide to permit NPS vehicles to cross over, and has wooden railings of a simple design.⁶⁷ A standard NPS barrier at the west end prevents non-authorized vehicles from entering during hours when the park is closed. At the island end of the bridge stands a cluster of objects (fig. 25), including a Washington bench (Contributing Object), an NPS bulletin board (Non-Contributing Object), a couple of NPS regulatory signs (Non-Contributing Objects), and a low, rustic log fence (Non-Contributing Structure). The fence prevents visitors from going directly to the memorial up a wooded slope; instead, they must walk south to take the trail which then curves north to the monument.

The only major structure on the northern part of the island is the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial (Contributing Structure; fig. 22), designed by architect Eric Gugler, sculptor Paul Manship, and NPS landscape architect Lee Skillman, a large, paved plaza set in a clearing in the woodland near the high point of the northern plateau.⁶⁸ When the trees are bare, the memorial is just visible from the Virginia shore and the pedestrian bridge. Though it is placed relatively far north, the monument today forms a central meeting point for the island's trails. A short trail curves up to the memorial from near the pedestrian bridge. This trail (which branches in a "wye" to connect with the Woods Trail on the south plateau), and the relatively formal landscaping design done as part of the monument, are contributing elements of the monument design. The Upland Trail passes near the east side, and the broad trail leading to the north transverse trail begins at a point behind the statue.

The memorial was constructed between 1960 to 1967 on an existing field or clearing which had previously been used for a variety of recreational purposes: just after the Civil War, it was a field for jousting tournaments, while later in the century a track for foot and/or bicycle races was built there.⁶⁹ The Olmsted plan recommended developing this area as a picnic grove, removing many of the trees, planting the clearing with grass, and constructing a shelter to the north (fig. 6). Some of this landscape work apparently had been done before the decision was made to construct the monument here. Extensive regrading and replanting was then carried out in connection with the memorial, and a formal landscape treatment developed immediately around it (figs. 10 & 11).

The large, slightly crowned oval plaza, 240' x 260', is paved with gray granite blocks set within a grid formed by strips of a lighter granite (fig. 34). The main axis runs approximately south to north, terminating at Manship's statue of Theodore Roosevelt (fig. 22). A cross-axis runs at right angles to the main axis, between two bridges which span the flanking moats (fig. 35). To either side along this cross-axis is a round pool surrounded by square granite

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 15

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

curbing; in the center of each pool stands a large, almost hemispherical granite fountain basin supported on four granite balls, each of which bears the presidential seal in bas-relief (fig. 36). The plaza descends around the fountains in three low, curved steps, which lead to the gravel walk which encircles the plaza area inside the moats.

Entering the plaza from the south, a visitor is immediately confronted by the 17'-high bronze figure of Theodore Roosevelt standing at the far end on a molded granite plinth in front of a 30-foot high, 17-foot wide granite stele (fig. 37). The president is shown in modern dress, standing in a "characteristic speaking pose," with one arm raised as if gesturing for emphasis.⁷⁰ Four granite monoliths, 20-foot high and 10-foot wide, flank the statue and carry inscribed quotations from TR's speeches and writings on the duties of citizenship under the headings "Nature, Manhood, Youth, and the State" (fig. 38; see *Appendix B*).⁷¹ Set on molded bases which stand on plain, rectilinear blocks, the monoliths themselves are simple slabs with square edges and no moldings.

On the plaza are four raised planting beds or parterres, one in each quadrant; molded granite curbing surrounds each bed, and they are planted with boxwood shrubs (fig. 22). Because the shrubs are overgrown, it is difficult to see the four monoliths from most areas of the plaza and impossible to read all at once.⁷²

Sixteen granite benches are symmetrically placed on both axes, along the sides of the parterres; there are eight along the main axis, four on the plaza along the cross axis, and then two on each bridge. Each bench consists of a granite slab with rounded edges supported by a pair of granite consoles carved in a classical scroll pattern (fig. 34).

A broad gravel walk circles the plaza and this, in turn, is bounded by a 40'-wide moat on either side (fig. 39). The moats, surrounded by low granite walls, were meant to act as reflecting pools and were probably intended to be read as a single water feature. The sections of moat which flank the four inscribed panels and the statue have raised planting beds, with molded granite curbs, along their inside edges; in these grow a smaller variety of boxwood shrubs (fig. 40).

Two bridges span the moats and lead to an unpaved circumferential trail (figs. 39, 41). Though they have relatively short spans, the bridges are broad and high, with heavy detailing; at either end of each bridge is a steep ramp formed of precipitously angled steps, paved in a fan pattern of granite blocks (fig. 41). The bridges bear heavy solid granite balustrades, which rise slightly at the crown and terminate in plinths.

The plaza is circled by a double ring of mature willow oak trees (*Quercos phellos*; see, in particular, figs. 39-41). Other, mostly native trees and shrubs were included in planting plans, perhaps in an attempt to soften the transition between the formal plaza and the surrounding woodland. Many of these specimens may have been collected from the immediate area. Planting plans also specified the addition of almost 5000 English ivy plants, though they do not indicate whether these were to be collected (from the island or another location) or purchased (fig. 11).⁷³

South Plateau

The trail system on the narrow south plateau today has been simplified from the systems shown on the General Plan of 1945 and represented on the 1953 NPS map (figs. 6 & 7). The Woods Trail (Contributing Structure) leads south from near the footbridge along the western slope of the hill. The Upland Trail (Contributing Structure) leads

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 16

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

from the north plateau to the south, looping around the Mason house site and curving around the end of the plateau (fig. 42). A social trail (Non-Contributing Structure) runs along the west shore, beginning near the pedestrian bridge. Further south the trail passes above a marshy shoreline along the Little River (fig. 43); here it becomes heavily overgrown, muddy, and uninviting, supported in sections by the historic retaining walls (Contributing Structures, fig. 26). This trail eventually leads under the Theodore Roosevelt highway bridge and around the south end of the island. Though a social trail, it is maintained by park staff. Near the end of the pedestrian bridge is a site formerly occupied by a stone wharf, present on maps from the 1930s and dating from at least the 19th century (fig. 5). While there is no readily visible evidence of this wharf, the potential for archeological remains exists.

The largely deciduous woodland (Contributing Site) covering most of the south plateau probably reflects the design intent of the Olmsted plan very closely. The Olmsted planting here has developed over the decades with little interference. Most of the deciduous trees are of a similar age, and therefore clearly date from the CCC planting. There are many older (pre-1930s) hardwood trees scattered throughout the woodland, and these would have been intentionally retained (see figs. 25 & 43).⁷⁴ A variety of deciduous trees grow at irregular but distinct intervals along the trails (fig. 44). Most are approximately the same age and were almost certainly planted as a design feature of the Olmsted plan to subtly reinforce the trail edges and add visual interest and variety. Olmsted intended there to be some areas of evergreen trees within the woodland; an occasional holly tree (*Ilex* sp.) grows along the trails,⁷⁵ and the Hemlock Grove called for in the Olmsted plan stretches across the plateau somewhat north of the Mason house site (see fig. 27). Since hemlocks are not native to this specific environment, the trees are not thriving and they have never reseeded themselves.

Sometime in the 1790s, John Mason built a substantial neoclassical house at a high point near the island's southern end, oriented to take advantage of views of the new capital city rising to the south (see fig. 3).⁷⁶ The house stood in the center of a low, raised circular mound, which extended virtually the entire width of this section of the plateau. A formal allee leading from the busy transportation corridor at the north end of the island ran along the central spine of the island and terminated in a circular drive just north of the house. South of the house, Mason divided the grounds into terraced kitchen gardens, flower gardens, and lawns, retained with stone walls.⁷⁷ Structures associated with the slave quarters probably stood south of the house, with one author noting that "servants' cottages and workshops" had been located along the "walled eastern shoreline."⁷⁸

Olmsted divided the lands immediately around the house site into several smaller planting areas which were to receive a more detailed planting treatment of native deciduous trees, shrubs, groundcover, and herbaceous plants (fig. 9).⁷⁹ He said that certain plants which were believed to be remnants of the Mason landscaping should be retained, among them periwinkle and English ivy; in fact, a small area northeast of the house was called the "Ivy Glade." Olmsted also decided to retain some exotic trees growing near the house site, in particular Kentucky coffee trees (*Gymnocladus dioica*); over the last several decades, an occasional newspaper or magazine article has mentioned that coffee trees were growing on the island.⁸⁰ A large number of honey locust trees now grows in this area, which appear to have been planted on the recommendation of a botanist who advised the Olmsted team.⁸¹

The species of trees, shrubs, groundcover, and herbaceous plants named by the Olmsted office on planting plans; trees which predate the 1930s; and more recent native species which have arisen naturally are all significant to

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 17

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

the native species composition of the southern part of the island. Such a composition is an integral part of the Contributing Site and should be maintained. The Mason house site retains remnants of its historic landscape vegetation as well, including some exotics, which Olmsted identified as features worth retaining. Such species include, but are not limited to, English ivy, periwinkle, and perhaps other vines and groundcovers, and Kentucky coffee trees. Whether these species pose an invasive threat to the woodland, and how that threat should be handled, should be considered in a future management plan for the island.

In June 1936, preparatory to removal of the aboveground ruins of the Mason house, a HABS team conducted limited archeological investigations of the site.⁸² The Olmsted office provided guidance in “restoring” the site after the survey work by the CCC crew was completed. The foundations were filled and reburied and the contours of the terraced banks were regraded in an attempt to make the landscape look more natural.⁸³

The ruined foundations of the Mason house (Contributing Site) still clearly exist as low linear mounds, covered by English ivy and other plants, surrounding a depression in the ground (fig. 21). (Both the house and the icehouse, below, are included on the List of Classified Structures [LCS] for the National Capital Region.) The raised mound on which the Mason house stood was retained by Olmsted and still forms a distinct topographic feature (Contributing Structure; fig. 45).

The foundations of the Mason icehouse remain, located a short distance down the hill to the northwest, covered by English ivy (Contributing Site; fig. 46). Though not easily visible today, the icehouse was intentionally retained in the Olmsted plan. Two other small, square outbuildings – probably slave quarters and a storage house – stood adjacent to the icehouse; a map from June 1936, “Archeological Research in the Vicinity of Mason Mansion,” records that they were filled with debris.⁸⁴ They are not visible today and are not contributing sites, though any remains of these three buildings possess potential archeological significance.

A comfort station or restroom (Non-Contributing Structure; fig. 23) was built in 1955 just off the Woods Trail halfway down the slope at the southwest end of the island. The small wood-frame building, which contains both men’s and women’s restrooms, is covered with clapboards and has a hipped roof with asphalt shingles. The roof planes at the ends of the building terminate in small gables, which hold ventilation louvers. Meant to be a simple and inconspicuous structure, the comfort station faces the slope of the hill, with its back turned toward the trail. It was designed by Boston architect Charles Wait, who closely followed plans which had been drawn up by the Olmsted office. Wait’s major change was the omission of a central venting cupola. A water fountain (Non-Contributing Object) stands nearby.

Simple stone retaining walls remain in certain areas along the shoreline to the southwest, south, and possibly southeast (Contributing Structures; fig. 26). These may have been built as part of the Mason or Olmsted landscape plans or both. Olmsted had noted the difficulty of how to treat the “banks below ordinary high tide level,” as they were muddy, slimy, frequently covered with trash, and detracted from the views.⁸⁵ He recommended they be dredged to below the low-water point, with dredging repeated as often as necessary. While Olmsted believed a retaining seawall would be out of character for the island, he said “the best plan will be to use irregular rocks of relatively large size... somewhat simulating an irregular natural rocky shore.”⁸⁶

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 18

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

At the southern end of the island's upland plateau was the site where Olmsted planned to build the "Outlook Plateau" or "Outlook Terrace," a key feature of his memorial conception (see figs. 6, 17). The Outlook Plateau was to have been a raised, paved platform, a harmonious reshaping of the natural hillside that would have allowed visitors a vantage point from which to view the Lincoln Memorial, the western end of the Mall, Arlington Memorial Bridge, Arlington House, and the Potomac River.⁸⁷ Below, on the southern shore, would have stood a ferry dock, shelter and comfort station. This area was regraded in the late 1930s, but because of funding problems during the 1940s and 1950s, and changes resulting from the decision in the late 1950s to construct the Theodore Roosevelt Bridge, none of this work (beyond trail construction) was ever carried out (fig. 47).⁸⁸ Views of the Georgetown shoreline, at that time largely industrial, were to have been blocked by dense vegetation, heightening the drama of the expansive vistas which would have greeted visitors on their arrival at the Outlook Plateau.

The 6-lane, 2400-foot-long Theodore Roosevelt Bridge (Non-Contributing Structure; fig. 48) was begun in 1960 and completed in 1964.⁸⁹ The bridge carries traffic across the Potomac River, running from the west end of Constitution Avenue at the base of Observatory Hill in the District, to the Virginia shore near Rosslyn. It crosses directly over the narrow channel separating Roosevelt Island from Little Island before passing over the southern end of Roosevelt Island. Particularly on the Virginia side, the bridge splits into a multitude of entrance and exit ramps, which run north, west, and south. Its low stone piers support steel girders and multiple shallow concrete arches. The low profile and lack of overhead construction make the bridge generally compatible with most other Potomac River bridges.⁹⁰ Chain-link fencing (Non-Contributing Structure) prevents access to the bridge.

Construction of the bridge effectively destroyed any hope of implementing the Outlook Plateau. The integrity of the southern end of the island has been greatly compromised. Though there was apparently substantial regrading of the southern end of the upland plateau, in conformance with the recommendations of the Olmsted office, no further design work was carried out. Virtually all views south are blocked by the bridge and by overgrown vegetation.

The lowest land to the south, over which the Theodore Roosevelt Bridge crosses, possesses little integrity as a landscape. This area is covered by a dense, weedy woodland. It is threaded by a rough social trail, but can only be reached by walking underneath the bridge. A stone retaining wall (Contributing Structure) dating from either the Mason or the Olmsted eras still remains.

Public access to this end of the island is limited and use is low. There is a great deal of trash and the area does not appear as safe to visit as the rest of the island. However, artifacts found in this area indicate the strong potential for rich prehistoric remains here and throughout the south plateau.

Marsh and Swamp

The peninsula, composed of the marsh, the swamp, and the tidal inlet which flows into the marsh, began to form in the late 18th or early 19th century as a result of increasing siltation in the Potomac River.⁹¹ There does not seem to have been any activity in this area before the island became a national park. Olmsted first proposed filling in the marsh and swamp to a few feet above water,⁹² but later decided to allow the area to continue developing naturally

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 19

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

to retain its value as a sanctuary for birds.⁹³ The marsh and swamp area has developed naturally since the 1930s and today the peninsula is largely stable as a land form. It is home to a rich array of plant and animal life.

The 1945 General Plan (fig. 6) depicted a trail running along the eastern shoreline of the swamp, and a service road leading down its center. These two swamp trails then met just before crossing a bridge over the mouth of the inlet. It appears that the NPS built only a single a foot trail, the Swamp Trail, which followed the route planned for the service road and ran on top of a slightly raised dike. This trail has recently been replaced by a plastic boardwalk (see below).

In general, Olmsted recommended letting vegetation in the marsh and swamp grow as a “closewood,” interspersed with occasional open areas of spreading trees which would allow more open views.⁹⁴ Groundcover was to be kept low in most areas to permit unobstructed views within the woodland of swamp and marsh. Almost all species recommended for retention or inclusion in the area were natives, among them sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*), silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*), ashes, river birch, box elder (*Acer negundo*), willows (*Salix* sp.), and elms. Existing trees included some very large specimens, mostly silver maples. Though they are not actually native to the region, several bald cypress trees were added in the 1930s; they still grow, particularly in the wetter marsh area, and have even increased in number (see fig. 28).⁹⁵ Throughout the swamp and marsh are large numbers of yellow flag iris (*Iris pseudoacorus*) which, though an invasive species, may have been planted or retained.

The vegetation composing the swamp and marsh landscape forms a Contributing Site (fig. 49). The species of trees, shrubs, groundcover, and herbaceous plants named by the Olmsted office on planting plans; trees which predate the 1930s; and more recent native species which have arisen naturally are all significant to the native species composition of the marsh and swamp. Such a composition is an integral part of the Contributing Site and should be maintained. Whether any of these species pose an invasive threat to the vegetation of marsh and swamp, and how that threat should be handled, should be considered in a future management plan for the island.

In 1997, a boardwalk (Non-Contributing Structure) made from recycled plastic boards, plastic posts and rails, and rope was constructed in the swamp, replacing the Swamp Trail. It runs from the north to the inlet bridge at the south. Near its southern end, a short spur leads west off the boardwalk into the marsh proper, terminating in a small viewing platform. There is at least one Washington bench (Contributing Object) located near the beginning of the boardwalk at the northern end of the swamp; it is chained to a tree just off the boardwalk. Along the boardwalk are occasional wider seating areas with modern (Mall) benches (Non-Contributing Objects). An inlet bridge, built as part of the boardwalk, spans the mouth of the tidal inlet (Non-Contributing Structure; fig. 50). Several social trails run through the swamp to the eastern shore. About halfway down the eastern shore of the swamp are the concrete and metal remnants of what was probably an NPS ferry landing.⁹⁶

From the south end of the marsh, the Lincoln Memorial can be glimpsed beneath the steel and concrete girders of the Theodore Roosevelt Bridge. This is today about the only possible view of the Lincoln Memorial from the island.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 20

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

Little Island

Little Island was included within the bounds of the Roosevelt Island property as defined in the deed. The island began to form in the mid-19th century immediately southeast of Roosevelt Island as a result of siltation. There is no evidence that there has ever been any human activity on this island.

Olmsted planned to develop Little Island as a “good landscape foreground” for views from the Outlook Plateau, and also as another area for recreational use, such as picnicking. Large trees would be retained or grown to the west and south to frame views, with a denser but smaller growth of trees to the east.⁹⁷ He recommended planting a number of deciduous trees, groundcovers, and herbaceous plants.⁹⁸ It is not known if any of the Olmsted planting plans for Little Island were ever carried out. However, the species composition of the island, insofar as it includes species recommended by the Olmsted firm or other native species, forms a Contributing Site.

Though the General Plan of 1945 shows a footbridge leading to Little Island from the southern end of Roosevelt Island and a footpath circling the smaller island’s perimeter (fig. 6), today there are no trails or structures on Little Island, and it can only be reached by boat. Almost no maintenance is performed here. Theodore Roosevelt Bridge passes over the channel directly north of the island, blocking any clear view of it from Roosevelt Island (fig. 51). The heavily overgrown vegetation on the island further obscures the already obstructed view south down the river from Roosevelt Island.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 21

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

Endnotes

¹ Roosevelt Island is recorded as being 88.34 acres in the official land transfer conveying both islands from the Roosevelt Memorial Association to the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital, and an attached map records Little Island as 1.547 acres; see U.S. Grant, III, Director, Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital, Land Transfer Order No. 13, 2 March 1933 (Reservation file #560, Land Resources Program Center, National Capital Region, National Park Service). Nan Netherton, in the history she prepared for the NPS, "Delicate Beauty and Burly Majesty" (National Park Service, March 1980), cites 17th-century Maryland land records stating the island was 75 acres (Netherton, "Delicate Beauty," p. 1).

² Netherton mentions the name "Swan Island" ("Delicate Beauty," p. 1).

³ Lindsey K. Thomas, *Geomorphology and Vegetation of Theodore Roosevelt Island*, Scientific Report No. 2, Nov. 19, 1963, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, National Park Service, National Capital Region, p. 51. Thomas wrote several other reports on the natural resources of TRI: "Experimental Design for Management and Eradication of Exotic Plants (*Hedera Helix* and *Lonicera Japonica*) on Theodore [sic] Island, D.C." (15 February 1977), *The Impact of Three Exotic Plant Species on a Potomac Island* (U.S. Dept. of the Interior, NPS Scientific Monograph Series No. 13, 1980), and *Periodicity and Anthesis on Theodore Roosevelt Island for the Year 1962-1963* (National Park Service, National Capital Region, Scientific Report No. 1, July 23, 1963).

⁴ See Jere Krakow, "Historic Resource Study: Rock Creek & Potomac Parkway, George Washington Memorial Parkway, Suitland Parkway, and Baltimore-Washington Parkway (NPS, Denver Service Center, 1990) and Julie Vasmik, "George Washington Memorial Parkway," National Register nomination (1995). The lands were acquired under the Capper-Cramton Act of 1930. Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, now the southern half of the GWMP, opened in November 1932.

⁵ Perhaps the first article to outline the island's history is the brief account by James F. Duhamel, "Analostan Island," published in the *Records of the Columbia Historical Society* 35-36 (1935): 133-145. Later and much fuller accounts include Mary E. Curry, "Theodore Roosevelt Island: A Broken Link to Early Washington, D.C. History" (*Records of the Columbia Historical Society, 1971-1972*, 1973): 14-33; Netherton, "Delicate Beauty and Burly Majesty" (March 1980); and Willard J. Webb, "John Mason of Analostan Island" (*The Arlington Historical Magazine*, 5 October 1976): 21-35. Also useful was Robert A. Cotner's "Partial Chronology of Theodore Roosevelt Island," a timeline prepared American Studies 255, Smithsonian Institution, taught by Harold Skramstad, May 1970, copies of which were found in a binder in the Netherton files at GWMP headquarters, Turkey Run, titled "Theodore Roosevelt Island."

⁶ See Stephen Potter, *Commoners, Tribute, and Chiefs: The Development of Algonquian Culture in the Potomac Valley* (Charlottesville, Virginia: University of Virginia Press, 1993): 7-43.

⁷ See also Robert Engelman, "Washington Before Washington," *Washington Post Magazine*, 13 July 1986.

Several authors have repeated an apparently unfounded rumor that Spanish Jesuit missionaries discovered the island in the 16th century; see "Analostan Island, the Site of Old Mansion, Again Attracts Public Attention..." *Washington Times* 4 May [1902]; year not quite legible on photocopy but information in article suggests a date of

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 22

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

1902. From file "Theodore Roosevelt Island," District of Columbia Public Library, Martin Luther King, Jr., Branch, Washingtoniana Collection.

⁸ In June 1999, NCR Regional Archeologist Stephen Potter (with Elizabeth Parsons, Archeologist, Parsons Engineering, and Kay Fanning) conducted a brief reconnaissance survey of the island.

⁹ Mason's Ferry replaced Awbrey's Ferry, a public ferry which had been located ½ mile further south, running from the Virginia plantation of Francis Awbrey to the Maryland shore. The route was probably changed because of complaints about the location and high tolls; see Zack Spratt, "Ferries in the District of Columbia" (*Records of the Columbia Historical Society*, 53-56, 1959): p. 184, and Netherton, "Delicate Beauty," p. 19. Awbrey's Ferry was the northernmost of four new public ferries established by Virginia in 1738 (Netherton, "Delicate Beauty," p. 18; see also pp. 36ff). Mason's Ferry was later called the Georgetown Ferry (Spratt, "Ferries," p. 187).

Mason's Ferry may not always have landed on Mason's Island; see Bessie Wilmarth Gahn, who writes that the "ferry terminus was not on the island after 1822 – it was returned to its original terminus on the Virginia shore opposite the west landing of Georgetown, at 34th Street"; Bessie Wilmarth Gahn, "George Washington's Headquarters in Georgetown..." Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Accession #. 6349 (copy read in Netherton files, GWMP headquarters, Turkey Run, in green looseleaf binder titled "Theodore Roosevelt Island").

¹⁰ Netherton, "Delicate Beauty," chapters 4 and 5.

¹¹ See Netherton, "Delicate Beauty," chapter V, and Paul B. Cissna, "Historical and Archeological Study of the George Washington Memorial Parkway, Arlington County, Virginia" (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, National Capital Region, Regional Archeology Program, Occasional Report #4, 1990): 47ff.

¹² "The Rambler Writes of the Charm of Historic Old Analostan," *Washington Star*, 20 March 1921.

¹³ "The Rambler Writes of Early Crops Grown on Gen. Mason's Analostan Island," *Washington Star*, 27 March 1921; also Duhamel, "Analostan Island," p. 145. Theodore Roosevelt, then a Civil Service Commissioner in the administration of President Benjamin Harrison, was a member of the club.

¹⁴ Duhamel, "Analostan Island," p. 145; Parke Arnold, "The Last Frontier" (*American Motorist*, March 1932): 27.

¹⁵ "Analostan Island, the Site of Old Mansion, Again Attracts Public Attention..." *Washington Times* 4 May [c. 1902].

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ The characterization is from Arnold, "The Last Frontier," p. 27.

¹⁹ "Island Famous Once," *Washington Post* August 11, 1907.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Thomas R. Henry, "Evidence of Old Splendor on Analostan Isle," *Sunday Star* 1 November 1931.

²² Public No. 146, 72nd Congress, 21 May 1932; recorded by the D.C. Land Records 31 October 1932, Liber 6696, Folio 453.

²³ Architect John Russell Pope (who had won the RMA's 1925 competition for a national memorial to TR on the Tidal Basin) was also part of the team, though his role seems to have been largely advisory. Pope died in 1937 while engaged on the design of the Jefferson Memorial.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 23

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

²⁴ Numerous articles cite different figures for the number of trees and shrubs planted, but 20,000 trees is the figure most commonly reported; see, for example, "Wild Park Made to Honor 'T.R.,'" *New York Times* 7 November 1937.

²⁵ The CCC crew came from either the Fort Hunt camp or a camp located near Memorial Bridge; see "Roosevelt Island to Become Park," *Washington Star* 6 February 1934; "Roosevelt Island Changes Opposed," *Washington Star* [June] 1934.

²⁶ See James G. Deane, "T.R.'s Admirers Take Up His Big Stick," *Washington Star* 28 February 1952, and Carolyn Mulford, "Teddy's Retreat: Unspoiled Island Honors Conservationist Roosevelt," *The Sun* 26 August 1984.

²⁷ "Roosevelt Island Bridge Opened," *Times-Herald* 9 April 1943.

²⁸ "Ferry Service to Roosevelt Island," *Washington Daily News* 24 June 1953 (at least in its early years, the ferry ran June through October, leaving from a dock at the end of Wisconsin Avenue); "Park on Island Opens in Spring, Finnan Asserts," *Washington Star* 16 December 1936.

²⁹ Richard Rodgers, "Roosevelt Island Project Awaits Vote on Funds," *Washington Star* 3 April 1955, and John J. Lindsay, "Memorial May 'Update' Wild Beauty of Roosevelt Island with Lights, Cars," *Washington Post* 8 July 1960.

³⁰ Olmsted Brothers, "Preliminary General Plan," January 1936 (Land Resources Program Center, NCR map files #80027 [Olmsted Bros. #2843 AI-625]).

³¹ Olmsted Brothers, "General Plan for Development," May 1945 (Land Resources Program Center, NCR map files #80053 [Olmsted Bros. #2843 AI-815]).

³² The three main pedestrian trails were then called the "red, white, and blue" trails.

³³ Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., "Draft of Preliminary Report Upon a Plan for the Permanent Development of Roosevelt Island" (16 May 1934): 3; Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, LC.

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., "Theodore Roosevelt Island: Outline of projected improvement work by the C.C.C. for the period ending March 31, 1936, in pursuance of the general plan set forth in the report of May, 1934..." (15 June 1935); Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, LC.

³⁶ Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., to Hermann Hagedorn, letter (16 July 1935); Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, LC. See also Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., "Theodore Roosevelt Island: Outline of projected improvement work by the C.C.C. for the period ending March 31, 1936, in pursuance of the general plan set forth in the report of May, 1934..." (15 June 1935); Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, LC. Olmsted discussed the particular sand and soil mixture he wanted for the paths in a memo to a Mr. Fahey (the supervisor of CCC work; probably landscape architect Daniel Cox Fahey, Jr.) and a Mr. Arthur, CCC Camp, NPS, 26 June 1935; Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, LC.

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ Olmsted to Hagedorn, letter (16 July 1935).

³⁹ Olmsted Brothers to Gen. Frank R. McCoy, Vice President, TRMA, letter (13 June 1947); Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, LC.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 24

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

⁴⁰ See Stuart Barnette, Preliminary Report on Exploratory Excavations at the Mason House, p. 4, and "General John Mason House, Analostan Island or Theodore Roosevelt Island, Washington, D.C.," Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) Report DC-28.

⁴¹ Other buildings include two "slave dwellings," which may have included one or more of the three outbuildings to the northwest or some other identified structure; see "Analostan Island, the Site of Old Mansion..." *Washington Times* 4 May [c. 1902].

⁴² Stuart Barnette and Oscar F. Northington, "Recommendations for Treatment of Architectural Ruins of the Mason House, Analostan Island, District of Columbia," NPS document dated 18 March 1936 and located in one of three envelopes in the Netherton files at GWMP headquarters, Turkey Run.

⁴³ Olmsted Brothers to Gen. Frank R. McCoy (TRMA), letter (13 June 1947); Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, LC.

⁴⁴ The "Washington Bench" has been the standard bench used in Rock Creek Park from the 1930s to the present day.

⁴⁵ The design of these so-called "NPS-type" benches is Victorian in inspiration, inappropriate for the naturalized woodland of Roosevelt Island.

⁴⁶ An article concerning the anticipated CCC work mentions the plan of building "several small seawalls" to keep water off the island; "Roosevelt Island to Become Park," *Washington Star* 6 February 1934.

⁴⁷ Olmsted, "Outline of projected improvement work by the C.C.C...." (15 June 1935).

⁴⁸ Olmsted, "Draft of Preliminary Report..." (16 May 1934): 12.

⁴⁹ Olmsted, "Roosevelt Island: Memorandum for Mr. Finnan in regard to suggested cleaning and weeding" (19 January 1934); Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, LC. There is also a revised version of this document dated 5 February 1934.

⁵⁰ This is included as a general note, labeled "Z," which concludes Olmsted Brothers, "Roosevelt Memorial Island: Notes to Accompany Plan No. ?" [*sic*] (29 May 1935); Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, LC. Other, handwritten notes on the original are not legible on the microfilmed copy.

⁵¹ Olmsted, "Outline of projected improvement work by the C.C.C...." (15 June 1935).

⁵² Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., to Arno B. Cammerer, Director, Office of National Parks, Buildings and Reservations, letter (17 January 1934).

⁵³ "Hardwood Forest Decided Upon for Roosevelt Island," *Washington Star* 6 August 1934.

⁵⁴ Horace V. Wester, "Baldcypress Was Planted on Theodore Roosevelt Island" (*Atlantic Naturalist*, September-October 1955).

⁵⁵ See references made by Hans Koehler in his "Roosevelt Island: Report of Visit, June 17-18, 1936"; Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, LC.

⁵⁶ See Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., to H.A. Hubler, letter (29 October 1936); Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, LC.

⁵⁷ Carl Rust Parker of Olmsted Brothers to Dr. Herbert C. Hanson, letter (30 April 1952); Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, LC.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 25

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

⁵⁸ Ibid.

⁵⁹ See Henning Cohen, ed., "An Unpublished Diary by Robert Mills, 1803" (*The South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine* 51, October 1950): 194 and Anne Newport Royall, *The Black Book; Or, a Continuation of Travels in the United States*, Vol. I. (Washington, 1828): 273. Architect Mills and journalist Royall both provide short but vivid descriptions of their visits to Mason's Island, in 1803 and c. 1828 respectively.

⁶⁰ Richard Rodgers, "Roosevelt Island Project Awaits Vote on Funds," *Washington Star* 3 April 1955. At some previous time, holes had been made in the causeway to allow flood waters to flow through; "Park on Island Opens in Spring, Finnan Asserts," *Washington Star* 16 December 1936.

⁶¹ Netherton, "Delicate Beauty," c. 37ff, and Paul Hodge, "Park Service to Replace Roosevelt Island Causeway with Bridge," *Washington Post* 23 February 1978.

⁶² See George N. Barnard (photographer), "Guards at Ferry Landing on Mason's Island Examining a Pass" (Library of Congress, Selected Civil War Photographs, 1861-1865, call #LC-B811-0290, reproduction #LC-B8171-0290 DLC), and Barnard, "Georgetown ferry-boat Carrying Wagons, and Aqueduct Bridge beyond, from Rocks on Mason's Island" (Library of Congress, Selected Civil War Photographs, 1861-1865, call #LC-B811-0291, reproduction #LC-B8171-0291 DLC).

⁶³ Analostan Island, Pontoon Bridge from Georgetown shore to island, June 1865 (original in Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs; there is a print of this image in the Netherton files at GWMP Headquarters, Turkey Run, without a call number).

⁶⁴ Barnette and Northington, "Recommendations for Treatment of Architectural Ruins of the Mason House," 18 March 1936.

⁶⁵ The painting is probably one by Max Weyl, 1879; see #130 in General Collection, Photographs, Historical Society of Washington.

⁶⁶ Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., "Theodore Roosevelt Island: Report on adjustment in location of northwestern and northern portion of main circuit foot path on visit of May 22nd to 26th, 1936" (11 June 1936); Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, LC. On the matter of shoreline changes, Olmsted referred to diagram #2843-AI-650.

⁶⁷ Information on the bridge comes from Netherton, "Delicate Beauty," p. 93; she cites the *Washington Star* for 30 December 1978 and an interview with Philip Jenny, Park Superintendent, March 1979. Netherton says the wood used is eucalyptus.

⁶⁸ The monument was authorized by Congress in September 1960 for a cost of \$886,000, though the final cost was well over a million. See "TR's Family Approves," *Washington Daily News* 19 October 1961, and "New Plan for TR Memorial Is Unveiled Here," *Washington Post* 7 March 1962.

⁶⁹ On the jousting tournaments, see *Washington Star*, 13 & 18 August 1865, and *Harper's Weekly*, 7 October 1865; also Netherton, "Delicate Beauty," Chapter 6.

⁷⁰ "Bid Accepted on Memorial to Roosevelt," *Washington Star* 26 June 1963.

⁷¹ Articles written at the time of the memorial's construction give the height of the monoliths as 20 feet, though contemporary NPS literature lists their height as 21 feet.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 26

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

⁷² It is believed the boxwood were meant to be kept clipped to a lower height (Audrey Calhoun, Superintendent of GWMP, interviewed by Kay Fanning, 3 December 1999). The shrubs have some problems with insect infestation; see James Sherald, Plant Pathologist/Pesticide Coordinator, Ecological Service Lab, NPS, report on condition of boxwoods, Theodore Roosevelt Memorial, 29 March 1980, in file "Boxwoods," Theodore Roosevelt Resource File, GWMP headquarters, Turkey Run Park.

⁷³ See the two maps in the Cartographic Division of NARA II, College Park, Maryland, both titled "Trails, Vista Clearing & Planting" and dated 15 February 1965: NCR 8.1-151A.1, a general planting plan showing the plaza and its surroundings, and NCR 8.1-151A.2, showing the plaza area in more detail. For the vegetation listed on these plans, see above, List of Contributing Features: Vegetation.

⁷⁴ See "Roosevelt Memorial Island: Notes to Accompany Plan No. ?" [*sic*] (29 May 1935), ref. to "Area I."

⁷⁵ Olmsted recommended planting holly trees beneath the "stemmy" trees along the eastern edge of the woods on the south plateau to hide the view of D.C., which at that time included gas tanks and a brewery in Foggy Bottom. Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., "Theodore Roosevelt Island," November 1937, p. 5, included as Appendix C, *NCPPC Report*, 1937.

⁷⁶ For the recurring but almost certainly fictional story of the mysterious Strathmore family, who were said to have built a large mansion on the island in the late 17th century, see John Clagett Proctor, "Analostan Island Once Mystery Tract," *Sunday Star* 4 May 1930. Proctor says the legend "appeared in print 50 years ago," which would be about 1880.

⁷⁷ David Baillie Warden, *A Chorographical and Statistical Description of the District of Columbia* (Paris, 1816): 158-159, and Royall, *The Black Book*, p. 273. Warden gives a lengthy description of Mason's Island in the year 1811, with observations of the local flora and fauna, and a discussion of John Mason's agricultural activities.

⁷⁸ Mollie Somerville, "General John Mason of Analostan Island," *Iron Worker* 26 (Spring 1962): 3-11. Somerville probably got her information from Joseph Martin, *A New and Comprehensive Description of Virginia and the District of Columbia* (1835); both are quoted in Netherton, "Delicate Beauty," p. 34. Grading plans for the Outlook Plateau area prepared by Olmsted Brothers in 1947 indicate the presence of old embankments south of the Mason house site, suggesting this area had been terraced in the past; see TRI map #8.1-64-3 (originally numbered 2843 AI-666), "Grading Plan for Area North of Terraces" (31 October 1936, rev. 30 January 1947), NARA II, RG 79. The map is initialed by Henry V. Hubbard.

⁷⁹ Unfortunately, while NPS and LC records contain both a map showing the island subdivided into almost 30 smaller planting areas and a key with planting recommendations for a similar number of areas, the documents were produced a couple of months apart and do not exactly correspond: the key uses a number system and the plan uses a system of letters. The plan is titled "Work Project for the Period Ending March 31, 1936..." (Land Resources Program Center, NCR map files #80002A [Olmsted Bros. #2843-AI-607]) while key is dated 29 May 1935 and titled "Roosevelt Memorial Island: Notes to Accompany Plan No. ?" [*sic*], and is included in the Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, LC. No matching key or plan was found among the cartographic records of the National Archives II. The archives at the Olmsted Historic Site in Brookline have not been consulted.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 27

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

⁸⁰ See Charles J. Yarbrough, "2 Minutes and 25 Cents Bring Isolation from Busy City," *Washington Star* 28 June 1953, and Carolyn Mulford, "Teddy's Retreat: Unspoiled Island Honors Conservationist Roosevelt," *The Sun* 26 August 1984.

⁸¹ Hans Koehler, "Roosevelt Memorial Island: Report of Visits November 14, 15, 1935"; Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, LC. Koehler, a landscape architect with Olmsted Brothers, consulted with Dr. Frederick C. Coville, a botanist with the Bureau of Plant Industry at the Department of Agriculture.

⁸² "Archeological Research in the Vicinity of the Mason Mansion," TRI map files, #8.1-16, NARA II, RG 79; see also Hans Koehler, "Roosevelt Island: Report of visit, June 17-18, 1936"; Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, LC.

⁸³ Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., "Theodore Roosevelt Island: Report of Visit November 30th to December 3rd, 1936, by Mr. Olmsted"; Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, LC.

⁸⁴ The map is located at NARA II, College Park, Maryland, RG 79 #8.1-16.

⁸⁵ Olmsted, "Draft of Preliminary Report..." (16 May 1934): 10.

⁸⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 11.

⁸⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 2.

⁸⁸ Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., to Hermann Hagedorn, letter (26 October 1938); Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, LC.

⁸⁹ See Jack Eisen, "Roosevelt Bridge Opens Tuesday," *Washington Post* 21 June 1964, and Donald Beckman Myer, *Bridges and the City of Washington* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, 1992 [1974]): pp. 15-16. Myer does not give the name of the engineering firm or designer. The final cost was \$24.5 million.

⁹⁰ Myer, *Bridges and the City of Washington*, p. 16.

⁹¹ U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, Topographic Sheet 910, 1863 (Land Resources Program Center, NCR map files #80029, Olmsted Bros. plan #AI-289).

⁹² E.A. Schmitt, Senior Engineer, "Memorandum in re Reclamation of Marshy Area of Analostan Island," 12 May 1932; Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress; also Olmsted to Hagedorn, Letter (26 October 1933).

⁹³ Hubbard, "Memorandum in regard to filling, for information of Mr. Olmsted, by Mr. Hubbard" (24 March 1933), Olmsted to Hagedorn, Letter (26 October 1933), and Olmsted, "Report to the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Association on the Design and Progress of Work on Theodore Roosevelt Island, Washington, D.C." (24 October 1935); Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, LC.

⁹⁴ This area is "P" in Olmsted Brothers, "Roosevelt Memorial Island: Notes to Accompany Plan No. ?" [*sic*] (29 May 1935).

⁹⁵ See Koehler, "Roosevelt Memorial Island: Report of visits Nov. 14, 15, 1934"; in addition to the honey locust referred to above in note 54, Coville suggested adding basket oak (*Quercus Michauxii*), pecan (*Carya illinoensis*), and perhaps burr oak trees (*Quercus macrocarpa*), along with common rose mallow (*Hibiscus moscheutos*).

⁹⁶ Another NPS ferry landing once stood at the southeast corner of the swamp. A wharf with some small wooden structures is visible in the background of a photograph showing TR's children touring the island during the period

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 28

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

when the design of the memorial was under discussion in the early 1960s; see Mollie Somerville, "General John Mason of Analostan Island" (*Iron Worker* 26, Spring 1962): 11.

⁹⁷ Olmsted, Jr., "Report to the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Association..." (24 October 1935): 7.

⁹⁸ See Olmsted Brothers, "Roosevelt Memorial Island: Notes to Accompany Plan No. ?" [*sic*] (29 May 1935), where South Island is W and the channel is X.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 29

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Theodore Roosevelt Island is significant under three criteria considerations.

A. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history

Theodore Roosevelt Island played a significant role in the colonial and early federal period of Georgetown and Washington, D.C. It served as a major link in an important transportation route from the time Mason's Ferry was established in 1748, the only colonial route directly connecting Georgetown with Northern Virginia. From the 1790s, the local civic and business leader John Mason developed what was perhaps the largest and most elaborate estate to be found within the city's boundaries, and added Mason's Causeway across the Little River to the Virginia shore in 1807. Remnants of the historic road, causeway, ferry wharves, and Mason's estate still exist.

The island was also the location for a variety of Union Army activities during the Civil War, most importantly the site of the barracks and training grounds of the 1st United States Colored Troops, an African American regiment. White troops also were stationed there, and the historic road served as a transportation route for the movement of Union troops.

The site has at least two important African American components. During John Mason's tenure, his estate was almost certainly run by slave labor. In the early days of the Civil War, an employment depot for escaped slaves or "contraband" was established on the island; then, in 1863, the 1st United States Colored Troops were quartered and trained there. The 1st USCT was the black regular Army regiment for the District of Columbia; there are today very few sites remaining in the country with any USCT connection.

The island is also important as the national presidential memorial commemorating Theodore Roosevelt, emphasizing his role as a leader in national conservation policy. Both the island itself, developed by the landscape architecture firm of Olmsted Brothers as a representative native woodland, and the architectural monument located on its northern part constitute the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial today. Theodore Roosevelt Island is unique among presidential memorials in its commemoration of a specific area of presidential achievement and in its development primarily as a living landscape memorial, an attempt to recreate a remnant of a primeval, climax forest.

C. That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction

Theodore Roosevelt Island is significant as a cultural landscape design of famed landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., and of his influential associate, Henry V. Hubbard. It is an integral part and one of the final

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 30

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

portions completed of the plan for the comprehensive development of a regional park system of Washington which was produced by the 1901-1902 Senate Park Commission (popularly known as the McMillan Commission and the McMillan Plan; Olmsted was the landscape architect member of the commission). It is an important addition to the landscape setting of the Mall. It represents one of the most complete expressions of Olmsted's ideals on scenic preservation, through his attempt to recreate the island's presumed former appearance so that it could continue its natural evolution to a stable, "climax" forest.

Though some of these are difficult to define in landscape terms, Theodore Roosevelt Island possesses, in varying degrees, all seven criteria for integrity:

Feeling – The island possesses the atmosphere of a primeval native woodland, mysterious, wild, and remote

Association – The site maintains its association with Theodore Roosevelt as the conservationist president, a theme promoted through an active interpretive program and the architectural monument

Location – has not changed

Materials – Olmsted determined the character of the landscape by selecting particular native species which still constitute the majority of vegetative species on the island today; also, the architectural monument still exists with its original materials

Workmanship – the planting plan as defined by Olmsted is still visible; the island today is managed with the aim of maintaining healthy native forest and marsh environments

Design – the design intent of both the living environment and the built memorial are still readily discernable;

Setting – the setting to the west, along the Virginia shore, had some commercial development in the 1930s, which has since been removed for the George Washington Memorial Parkway; the setting to the east has been changed, with new park, commercial, and residential development along the Georgetown shore. The setting has been compromised by the construction of the Theodore Roosevelt Bridge and by now being in the flight path of planes departing from and arriving at National Airport.

The monument on the island is also important as a collaborative work of architect Eric Gugler and sculptor Paul Manship. It represents their development of a modern idiom of an established type of presidential memorial, and forms a link between such standard Beaux-Arts monuments as the Lincoln Memorial and contemporary memorial designs such as the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial.

D. That have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history

With the exception of the marsh and swamp, the island possesses the likelihood of having a significant number of archeological sites, from centuries of prehistoric Native American use; colonial and early American transportation

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 31

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

use (road, causeway, and ruined wharves and scows), ranging from 1748 through c. 1867; the Mason house and estate landscape, from 1792-1833; and African American sites, including slave sites from the Mason era and the site of the 1st USCT camp from the Civil War.

Criteria Consideration F also applies to Theodore Roosevelt Island and to the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial monument on the island:

F. A property primarily commemorative in intent if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own historical significance

Theodore Roosevelt Island meets the standard posed by *Criteria Consideration F*. Though the entire island and its landscape form a memorial to Theodore Roosevelt, as does the primary structure on the island, the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial plaza (1960-1967), the design, tradition, and symbolic value of both elements, and the age of the landscape (established c. 1935), invest them with significance.

Areas of Significance

Art and Architecture – The Theodore Roosevelt Memorial monument is the work of noted architect Eric Gugler and famous sculptor Paul Manship. The monument is an unusual modernistic version of a typical Beaux-Arts memorial.

Entertainment/Recreation – At the time it was designated a memorial, Roosevelt Island had almost a 100-year history of recreational use as a favorite casual resort area for Washington residents. Recreation is also an integral part of its current memorial intent, planned as a sylvan retreat to provide refreshment for wearied city dwellers – a typical theme of the designs of the Olmsted office.

Landscape Architecture – Frederick Law Olmsted's major memorial intent for the island was the attempt to recreate a vanished landscape, the primeval forest which he assumed had existed on the island at the time of European contact. He expected that its recreation would be a long and gradual process. The island and the recreation of this environment were to memorialize both Theodore Roosevelt as a champion of conservation and the primeval woodland of the Potomac Valley.

Other – City Planning – Theodore Roosevelt Island (then called Analostan or Mason's Island) was one of the areas included within the study area of the Senate Park or McMillan Plan of 1902. Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., the main author of the island's landscape plan, had served as the landscape architecture member of the commission, 30 years before being engaged to provide a landscape plan for the island.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 32

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

Other – Commemoration – The major national memorial to President Theodore Roosevelt, Theodore Roosevelt Island is a living memorial and a unique example of this type of commemorative design.

Politics/Government – The island itself and the architectural monument built in the 1960s at its north end constitute the national memorial to President Theodore Roosevelt. The island, a living memorial, stands in stark contrast to the other presidential memorials on the Washington Mall a short distance to the south (though a major component of Olmsted’s landscape plan involved establishing strong visual reciprocity between the island the Lincoln Memorial). The monument has certain thematic and design similarities with the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials.

Social History – The island was the plantation and retreat of John Mason, a leader in the business and social life of Washington, D.C. in the colonial and early federal periods. D.C. The island has important African American contexts as a slave plantation and as the site of the camp of the 1st United States Colored Troops.

Transportation – The major route linking colonial Georgetown and Northern Virginia included Mason’s Ferry (which ran between Georgetown and the island from 1748), a road over the island, and its continuation (as a causeway after 1807) to the Virginia shore. The island is also a component of the 1930s development of the George Washington Memorial Parkway.

Prehistory and Early History, to 1717

The location of Analostan Island at the fall line means it is highly likely that it was inhabited by Native Americans for many centuries. It was certainly intensively used. Field reconnaissance by National Capital Region Regional Archeologist Stephen Potter in June 1999 revealed the presence of artifacts throughout the island. A few areas were particularly rich in pottery sherds, spear points, animal bones, etc., representing a wide range of periods of pre-historic occupation (see *Appendix A, Previous Archeological Work and Potential Archeological Sites on Theodore Roosevelt Island*).

Current historical information indicates a significant amount of pre-historic and post-contact Native American activity in the area. In the early 17th century, two Native American villages, Nacotchtanke (on the bank of the Eastern Branch/Anacostia River) and Namoraughkend (probably somewhere on the western shore of the river, south of the island), were located near the island. Both were inhabited by Algonquian-speaking tribes.¹

Though it is not known if any village was ever located on the island, historical and archeological evidence suggests it was likely. Augustus Hermann’s map of 1670 identifies it as “Anacostien” Island, indicating an association with the Nacotchtanke (Anacostien) tribe, perhaps suggesting the presence of a village. In 1711, the Swiss Baron Christopher de Graffenreid explored the lands along the Potomac north to Great Falls, and described the island in his journal: “There is a very pretty island of very good ground... all cut out of rock, above it is a very fine and good soil, sufficient to support a whole family. Indians live there.”²

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 33

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

A village located on the island would have been able to control inland trade.³ The island possessed an abundance of natural features which would have made it ideal for habitation: fish and migratory waterfowl, spring fish runs, and a rich diversity of animals and plants characteristic of both the northern and southern regions of the American colonies.⁴

The first European to explore the future site of Washington was Captain John Smith during his 1608 voyage up the Potomac River. Many factors hindered European settlement of the area during the 17th century: shifting tribal alliances; the Anglo-Powhatan wars of 1609-14, 1622-32, and 1644-46; the Susquehannock Wars of 1642-1652 and 1675-76; and Bacon's Rebellion of 1676. Gradually, however, English settlement spread north and west through Virginia and Maryland. Colonists developed a plantation economy based on tobacco, with large land holdings oriented to rivers, and settlement concentrated along the fall line.⁵

In 1632, Cecilius Calvert, Lord Baltimore, inherited a land patent for much of the colony of Maryland, including Analostan Island. It consequently acquired the name of "My Lord's Island," though it remained undeveloped. The first land patent in Virginia in the future vicinity of Washington was granted to Robert Howson in 1669, and soon transferred to John Alexander. The northern boundary of this tract was Rocky Run, a small tributary stream of the Potomac, which empties into Little River adjacent to the central part of Analostan Island.⁶

In 1681 the island was included in a land grant presented by the Assembly of Maryland to Randolph Brandt of Charles County in appreciation for his services as leader of a troop of Indian fighters.⁷ Brandt had emigrated from Barbadoes in the West Indies, and therefore referred to Analostan as "Barbadoes." Brandt left the property to his daughter and son-in-law, Margaret and Francis Hammersley, in 1698 or 1699. There is no evidence that Brandt or the Hammersleys ever occupied the island, and in 1717 Francis Hammersley sold it to George Mason III.

In the mid-18th century, two port cities were established near the fall line in the Potomac River. Alexandria, Virginia, was founded in 1749. To the north, Georgetown, Maryland, was laid out in 1751 and incorporated in 1789. A site east of Georgetown was selected for the federal city in 1789. George Washington hired Pierre-Charles L'Enfant to provide a plan for the new city. This was submitted in March 1791, and a survey by Andrew Ellicott was completed soon thereafter.

Mason Family Ownership, 1717-1833

The illustrious Mason family of Virginia owned the island from 1717 to 1833. George Mason III (1690-1735), who purchased the island from Francis Hammersley, does not appear to have developed it; but, as he established the ferry in 1748, it is possible that he would have constructed, at a minimum, a wharf and a road. On his death, the island was among the extensive property left to his young son, George Mason IV (1725-1792), who became a wealthy planter and renowned statesman. Mason was the author, with George Washington, of the Fairfax Resolves of 1774; wrote the Virginia Constitution and Declaration of Rights in 1776; and served as a member of the U.S. Constitutional

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 34

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

Convention in 1787.⁸ When he died in 1792, Mason bequeathed the island and ferry to his son, John (1766-1849), who became the first owner to occupy the property.⁹

Mason's Ferry (1748) and Mason's Causeway (1807)

Established in 1748, Mason's Ferry formed the major route between Georgetown and Virginia for over fifty years, until the construction of Long Bridge in 1809. It was a vital link in a colonial transportation system, connecting to other roads running from Baltimore and through Northern Virginia. Frederick Gutheim described the route as it would have appeared in 1800:

The great coastal road from north to south crossed the Potomac at this point. Colonel George Mason's hand-operated chain ferry plying from the foot of the Frederick road [Wisconsin Avenue] could be seen as evidence of its traffic.¹⁰

In the America of the 18th and early 19th centuries, when rivers formed the major arteries of transportation and commerce, the great corridor of the Potomac River allowed traders and settlers to travel west over the Appalachians and into the continent's interior. Roads were few, connecting only the most important buildings and settlements, and crossing rivers by means of fords or ferries. Ferries were "news and gossip centers," providing a "floating forum for the day's politics."¹¹ No bridges were constructed over the Potomac for almost 200 years after the settling of Jamestown in 1607, until Long Bridge was built a mile or so south of Mason's Island in 1809. Though the Potomac belonged to Maryland, Virginia chartered 14 ferries across it between 1732 and 1766, including three in the vicinity of the future city of Washington, among them Mason's Ferry.¹²

Mason's Ferry ran between Georgetown and a wharf or wharves, located at one or more locations over the years on the northern shore of the island. Boats or scows propelled at different times by various means – wire cables, horses, etc. – carried people, horses, carriages, and herds of livestock. Armies crossed the river by the ferry: General Braddock and his troops in 1755, the armies of Rochambeau and Lafayette in 1781.¹³ George Washington and Thomas Jefferson probably took the ferry on many occasions, with Washington noting the cost of passage in a 1785 diary entry. When the British marched on Washington in 1814, President James Madison fled the burning city by means of the ferry, accompanied by John Mason, members of his cabinet, and other notables.

The dam and causeway leading to Mason's Island across the Little River were integral to the ferry route from 1807 to the 1860s; afterwards the causeway remained, rebuilt by the NPS in the 1950s as a service road or causeway and not finally removed until 1979. The causeway had been built to Mason's specifications and provided a formal entrance to his estate.¹⁴

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 35

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

John Mason Estate, 1792-1833

John Mason cultivated and landscaped the entire island, constructing a mansion on the southern end which he made one of his two principal residences for over forty years (along with a townhouse in Georgetown). He transformed the island into a pastoral retreat within the bounds of the city. His development of the property took full advantage of its commercial and picturesque potential. Mason was known as "John Mason of Anolostan Island," an epithet which appears also in his family bible and suggests the pride he took in his estate.¹⁵

John Mason played an important role in the early business and social life of Georgetown and the District of Columbia. He occupied positions of authority in many of the city's most important institutions, many of which also contributed to the early development of the country. A local leader in agricultural reform, Mason used his island farm as a place to experiment with the cultivation of improved strains of crops and livestock. In these endeavors he probably relied on slave labor. Mason's social and artistic pretensions were reflected in the elaborate plans of his Neoclassical house and its surrounding landscape, which combined picturesque and formal elements in a working yet ornamental plantation, a *ferme ornee*.

Born in 1766, John Mason was the fourth son and seventh child of George Mason IV and his wife, Ann Eilbeck Mason.¹⁶ Trained as a merchant, John Mason became a partner in a shipping firm and lived in Bordeaux, France, from 1788 to 1791, when he returned to the U.S. He settled in Georgetown in 1792, purchasing a house on M Street. Later that year he inherited a sizable property from his father, which included the island. Mason probably enjoyed a view of the island from his Georgetown residence, located only a short distance to the south.¹⁷ He also owned a wharf and warehouse in Georgetown.¹⁸

By the late 18th century, Georgetown's thriving port had become a center for the shipping of tobacco from Virginia and Maryland plantations. Vessels from Europe and the Caribbean sailed into its harbor bearing spices, sugar, and manufactured goods.¹⁹ Beyond Georgetown, the federal city was at first only sparsely developed.²⁰ By the turn of the century residential development in Washington was concentrated on Capitol Hill, along Pennsylvania Avenue, and on the waterfront of the Anacostia River, with only the occasional mansion. In early 1800, about 300 houses stood within the city, a number which had more than doubled by November 1801.²¹

John Mason counted among his associates many of the most important men in the country: Presidents Jefferson, Madison, and Monroe, and Secretary of State (later Chief Justice) John Marshall. Other friends included prominent local businessmen Benjamin Stoddert, Thomas Peter, and John Tayloe; William Thornton, the first architect of the Capitol; and George Washington Parke Custis, grandson of George Washington. Custis's Arlington estate was adjacent to the Mason lands on the Potomac's western shore, and he shared with Mason an enthusiasm for promoting American agriculture.²²

Mason was active in shipping and trade, and assumed a leading role in the business and civic life of Georgetown and Washington.²³ He was a founder of the Bank of Columbia, and its president from 1796 to 1816.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 36

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

Chartered by Maryland in 1793, the bank financed many of the early land purchases in Washington. Mason was a stockholder, director, and eventually president of George Washington's Potowmack Canal Company; a Justice of the Peace; Brigadier General of the Washington militia; Superintendent of the Bureau of Indian Trade; owner of the Columbian (previously Foxall) Foundry, one of Washington's leading industries; and a founder of the Columbia Agricultural Society.

From the late 1790s, Mason planned to develop a town, "South Haven," across the Little River from his island, on the future site of Rosslyn, Virginia. Though he subdivided the property, the town was never built.²⁴ Mason also operated a fishery, "Sycamore Landing," on the Virginia shore about three miles south of the District, and a quarry and mill at Spout Run, a short distance north of his island in Virginia.²⁵

John and Anna Maria Mason raised ten children, many of whom may have been born on the island. The family seems to have occupied their island home for much of the year, except during the hottest summer months.²⁶

Because of a succession of poor investments and business dealings, in the 1810s Mason's fortunes entered a slow decline.²⁷ In 1833, the Bank of United States foreclosed on his debts, and Mason lost the island and more than 1800 acres of his lands in Northern Virginia. He moved to his farm, Clermont, near Alexandria in Fairfax County, where he died in March 1849.²⁸ It became a polite convention in Washington society to say that the Masons left their island home because mosquitoes had made it uninhabitable.²⁹

Mason House

Neither the architect of Mason's mansion nor its date of construction is known for certain, though there are some indications of when construction may have begun. For several weeks in January and February 1793, Mason ran an advertisement in the *Columbian Mirror* and *Alexandria Gazette* asking for "12 to 15 stout young Negro fellows' to apply for a year's employment in 'the neighborhood of my Ferry-House' opposite Georgetown."³⁰ At the end of the year, Mason purchased 54,800 bricks, and in early 1794, he bought a box of glass, including 12 12"x16" panes.³¹ However, a painting from c. 1795-97, depicting a view of Washington from the heights of Georgetown and prominently featuring Mason's Island, gives no indication of any substantial landscape development or roads. Two plain, pitched-roof buildings stand next to each other at some point in the middle or south end of the island, but there is no evidence of the mansion.³²

The question of the house's date of construction is of interest because it may provide a hint to the identity of the designer. In the early 1790s, there were virtually no architects of professional ability or training living in Washington. The sophistication of the Mason house design is apparent from the few extant illustrations (see fig. 52, "Supplemental Illustrations"). Even photographs of the house in a ruinous state give evidence of a high level of skill and a facility with classical vocabulary.

No written documentation exists giving the name of Mason's architect, but many people have assumed that it was the Englishman, George Hadfield (1781-1857).³³ In many particulars, such as its massing and the use of arched

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 37

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

recesses to emphasize fenestration patterns, the Mason house resembled Hadfield's buildings, including Arlington House (1802-1818), built for George Washington Parke Custis, and the District of Columbia City Hall (1820-49).

Mason and Hadfield had many acquaintances in common and shared an interest in experimental "model farms."³⁴ Hadfield paid careful attention to the siting of his buildings; the Mason house was elevated on a circular mound, which raised it slightly and lent it greater formality.³⁵ Its placement at the south end of the island allowed its owner to take full advantage of dramatic views over Georgetown, to the north, and the Mall, including the Capitol and the President's House, to the south. A summerhouse placed south of the house on axis emphasized the importance of these southern views.

Apart from the lack of written evidence, the major factor pointing against Hadfield's involvement is the fact that he only emigrated to the United States in October 1795, whereas Mason advertised for workers in early 1793 and bought materials, presumably for the house, at the end of that year. The two men could, however, have communicated by post.

Whoever the architect might have been, the skill evident in the design of the house and in its elaborately landscaped setting suggest the wealth and social ambitions of the young John Mason, positioning himself to assume a leading role in Washington society. He owned a substantial city house and a country estate essentially next door to each other at a time when relatively few houses of comparable size or sophistication had been constructed in the Washington area. However, Mason's reach seems to have exceeded his grasp. The asymmetry of the house, only one wing of which was completed, and the handling of the north porch as a small, enclosed, almost schematic portico, suggest he had only limited amounts of money and labor at his disposal.

Mason Landscape

Mason was not primarily a farmer. While his estate seems to have been self-sufficient, he was not dependent on its products, receiving a large income from the operation of his ferry and other business ventures.³⁶ But he was deeply interested in agricultural improvement and experimented with different varieties of crops and livestock. He was also concerned with the aesthetic development of his landscape, though his aims and sources can only be guessed at. Judging from contemporary descriptions and illustrations, he sought to emphasize the picturesque qualities of the island landscape. In this he may have been influenced by his father's design for Gunston Hall, and by a firsthand knowledge of French and English picturesque gardening.

The map of Washington prepared in 1818 by city surveyor Robert King offers a highly detailed rendering of Mason's estate after about 20 years of development (fig. 3). Also, from the late 18th century on, detailed and evocative descriptions were provided by a stream of visitors.³⁷

Mason developed the entire island as a small plantation estate that combined a working farm with pleasure grounds, orchards, kitchen gardens, lawns, and ornamental structures. The landscape was roughly divided between the larger, more public area north of the house and the smaller and more private grounds to its south, where slave

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 38

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

quarters and workshops may have been located.³⁸ A tree-lined allee or drive led to the house from a juncture, almost a *ronde point*, between the causeway and ferry wharves. On either side of the allee spread fields and pastures where Mason grazed sheep, planted orchards, and grew corn, cotton, and other crops. The gardens and lawns south of the house were more intimately connected with the domestic needs and social activities of the household. Groves of trees, including choice ornamental specimens, surrounded the house, and tangled thickets of trees grew along the island's banks.

The long, formal approach down the allee separated the Mason home from the public traffic concentrated on the northern end. Lending further drama to the act of approach was the semicircular line of trees which screened its north elevation. The estate's organization bore striking similarities to George Mason's Gunston Hall (completed 1758); both estates were largely bounded by water, with a long tree-lined drive leading to a classical house (Georgian in the case of Gunston Hall), oriented to command vistas of surrounding lands and the Potomac River. That Mason may have had his childhood home in mind when he laid out his own property is suggested by a detailed account of Gunston Hall which he wrote in his old age.³⁹

John Mason's development of the island as a picturesque country retreat was likely inspired by examples encountered during his two years abroad, when he traveled extensively in France and England. Both countries possessed a strong and somewhat interrelated tradition of picturesque landscape design. Further, Mason was acquainted with Washington and Jefferson, both of whom experimented with the uniting of formal and picturesque effects at their respective estates of Mount Vernon and Monticello.

Mason would thus have had a range of both American and European landscape traditions to draw on. His possible sources and a full discussion of the landscape are beyond the scope of this nomination, but it is apparent that Mason developed an elaborate setting for his house out of a general tradition of picturesque landscape design. Using elements of this tradition, he attempted to unite practical needs with ornamental effects, enhancing the natural topography and developing views.

Agricultural Activities

Mason was actively involved with the Columbia Agricultural Society, one of the first such groups founded in the U.S.⁴⁰ He cultivated a wide variety of plants in his fields and kitchen gardens, receiving particular recognition for his development of a purple maize, used for dyeing wool, and of a yellow nankeen cotton.⁴¹ His greatest enthusiasm was the attempt to improve the primitive American woolen industry through the introduction of Spanish Merino sheep with their long, fine wool.⁴²

In 1796, Mason hired an English gardener, David Hepburn, who remained with him for six years. The exact nature of Hepburn's duties is not known, but he probably cultivated the kitchen and flower gardens, and perhaps created an overall landscape design. After leaving Mason's employ, Hepburn collaborated with horticulturist John

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 39

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

Gardiner on *The American Gardener*, the first gardening book “geared to the special requirements of the United States.”⁴³

Slave Structures and Other Outbuildings

Though John Mason was a slave owner, it is not clear how many he owned. George Mason left his son two slaves in his will. An inventory made of John Mason’s property in October 1850, a year after his death, listed nine slaves, including three children under the age of 15. Presumably Mason would have had house slaves working in both his Georgetown home and his island mansion, and field hands performing the agricultural work on his island estate.

Contemporary accounts provide a general indication of where slave quarters and outbuildings may have stood. Maps and other graphic records show an icehouse, slave quarters and kitchen, storage house, stables, and well located northwest of the house. The foundations of the icehouse still remain, recorded by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) in 1936 and included on the List of Classified Structures for the National Capital Region. Archeological remnants of slave life may exist to the south or at points along the shores (see *Description: South Plateau* for possible location of other buildings).

Post-Mason Use, 1833-1861

After John Mason lost the island in 1833, the property entered a long period of short-term ownership and tenancy, interrupted only by Union Army occupation during the Civil War. Though there was no significant new development, it is likely that the buildings and gardens were maintained and adapted for new uses, and the agricultural association perpetuated.

In 1838, the Bank of the United States placed Mason’s Island in trust. Four years later they sold it to a John Carter, who operated a commercial nursery there, raising a variety of vegetable crops and planting hundreds of peach trees and rose bushes. Carter lived on the island, presumably in the Mason house, until his death in 1850.⁴⁴

In these years Mason’s Island became a favorite resort for Washingtonians, beginning a long tradition of recreational use. Picnickers caught the ferry at a wharf located at the foot of Wisconsin Avenue.⁴⁵ In 1834, an amphitheater was built for 6000-7000 spectators to watch a balloon ascension.⁴⁶ William A. Bradley, a former mayor of Washington, owned the island from 1852 to 1867. He rented out the commercial gardens, and appears to have built a new structure on the western shore.⁴⁷ Extant buildings at this time included the mansion, the icehouse, cellars, a barn, and stables. A tenant built a dancing saloon (location unknown) and two new wharves, one on the north side of the island, the other on the east.⁴⁸ In August 1859, the *National Intelligencer* described a “large and well built” pavilion “immediately adjoining a large three-story brick house, which affords ample protection in case of rain,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 40

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

besides furnishing dining and other rooms appropriate to such an establishment.”⁴⁹ The house referred to must be the Mason home.

Civil War, 1861-1865

All such pleasant activities came to a halt in May 1861, when the island was occupied by the U.S. Army. In the same month, Union troops occupied Arlington Heights.⁵⁰ Virginia had seceded from the Union in April 1861 and soon thereafter Robert E. Lee resigned from the Union Army to lead Virginia’s military forces. The Union Army left Mason’s Island in May 1862, but returned in September and remained at least through September of 1863.

1st United States Colored Troops (1st USCT, 1863)

At the start of the Civil War, free blacks could be found throughout the lower strata of northern society, employed as laborers and craftsmen. In 1861, many thousands of escaped slaves and other blacks “began pouring into Union lines,” placing great strain on the social fabric of northern cities.⁵¹ In Washington, the population influx of both contraband slaves and free blacks created an enormous demand for social services and an immediate need for food, shelter, clothing, and medical care. The government established so-called “contraband” camps (the term “contraband” referred to escaped slaves) and found work for the able-bodied, though sheer numbers soon overwhelmed the camps. Freedman’s Village, established on the Arlington Estate, soon became so overcrowded that a new “employment depot” was built on Mason’s Island, which then in turn “quickly became overcrowded and disease-ridden.”⁵²

Many black men were eager to join military service and were supported in their efforts by white and black abolitionists, though many white citizens harbored doubts about their loyalties and abilities. Concerned about the effect of black soldiers on the Confederacy, President Lincoln resisted opening military ranks. A few Union officers, however, faced with large numbers of escaped slaves in their camps, attempted to force Lincoln’s hand by forming unofficial black regiments. In July of 1862, Congress passed two acts which removed many of the barriers to black enlistment, and in 1863, Lincoln finally allowed states to begin recruiting blacks. The first black regiment was established in South Carolina. Eventually, over 180,000 blacks fought for the Union in combat troops, and altogether, more than 200,000 black men joined service units.⁵³

Mason’s Island was used by the Commissary Department and as a “draft rendezvous,” where both white and black troops were gathered before being assigned to different regiments. From May to September 1863 it was the site of the camp of the 1st U.S. Colored Troops, an African American infantry regiment composed of freemen and contraband, organized in Washington between May 19 and June 30, 1863.⁵⁴ Under the command of white officers,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 41

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

the regiment was composed of ten companies, numbering several hundred men in all (767 were recorded on February 19, 1864).

Enlistment was slow at first. The black soldiers faced hostility in Washington; white citizens, even policemen, harassed and assaulted them in the streets, and their camp was soon moved from a location within the city to Mason's Island.⁵⁵

At this more secluded site, they learned the basics of Army life – guard duty, drill, and the handling of arms. Their barracks and other buildings were apparently ranged along either side of the road across the northern end of the island (fig. 4). The island remained a vital link in an important transportation route; the ferry, road, and causeway were used by Union troops, a pontoon bridge was built from Georgetown to the northern or northeastern shore of the island, and a guardhouse was erected at the end of the causeway. The Army may have built a new ferry wharf. Mason's house was occupied by the camp superintendent and was also used as a school.⁵⁶ White troops later occupied the camp.

After a couple of months of training, the soldiers of the 1st USCT joined Union forces in combat, mostly in Virginia and the Carolinas; their engagements included the Siege of Petersburg in July 1864, the Battle of Chaffin's Farm, New Market Heights, Virginia in September 1864, and the Campaign of the Carolinas, March 1-April 26 1865. The regiment was mustered out on September 29, 1865. A total of 185 men of the 1st USCT had been killed in battle or had died of wounds or disease.⁵⁷

Though the island today bears no visible remains of this intensive Civil War activity, or of this important African American component, there are probably archeological remains clustered along the north transverse trail between the causeway and the location of the Civil War ferry wharf (either at the northern or the northeastern shore). Additional remains of structures and roads may exist on the island between the northern end and the Mason House site.

Post-Civil War Use, 1865-1931

William Bradley owned the island until his death in 1867. His estate remained unsettled for many years afterwards and the island – still typically referred to as "Mason's Island" – entered a long period of transient occupation during which it was employed for a variety of purposes, generally short-term recreational uses.⁵⁸ Its isolation, coupled with its proximity to Washington and its scenic beauty, made it a desirable place for retreat and recreation. Existing structures were used and new ones built, including a racetrack for foot and/or bicycle races to the north. The island continued to form a link in an important transportation route with Mason's Ferry operating until about 1867.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 42

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

For a time just after the war, jousting tournaments were held in a clearing on the northern part of island (probably the current site of the Theodore Roosevelt monument). Knights representing different regions competed against each other in attempting to spear a golden ring. Following the tournament, knights, ladies, and spectators processed down Mason's allee to the Mason house, where the winning knight crowned the Queen of Love and Beauty.⁵⁹

People came to the island to hunt, fish, and swim; to enjoy picnics, clambakes, oyster roasts, and fish fries; and to cheer prize fights. The Columbian Athletic Club leased the island from 1889 to 1892 (Theodore Roosevelt, then resident in Washington and serving on the Civil Service Commission, was a member).⁶⁰ In the early 1890s, a world record in the 100-yard dash was set on the island (also, the crouching start for races is said to have been first used there). Shortly thereafter, the Analostan Boat Club leased the island and constructed a boathouse, which later burned.⁶¹

Various schemes were put forward at different times for the island's development – apartment houses, an amusement park, a university stadium, and a "Palace of Progress" for the display and sale of merchandise from throughout the country. In 1913, the Washington Gas Light Company purchased the island from Bradley's heirs as a site for a future gas plant, anticipating a time when the federal government would take the area along the river in Foggy Bottom (where their plants were then located) for development of the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway. In 1931, the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Association purchased the island as a living memorial to the late president, transferring it to the federal government the following year.

Theodore Roosevelt: Biography and Conservation Legacy

Exuberant and electrifying, a scientist and writer as well as politician, Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919) was a dynamic leader of boundless energy.⁶² He can be considered the founding figure of public conservation policy, and during his years in the presidency, he achieved numerous conservation milestones.

Roosevelt served on the U.S. Civil Service Commission under Benjamin Harrison and then as assistant Secretary of the Navy during President William McKinley's first term in office (1897-1901). In 1898, as leader of the Rough Riders, he became the most popular hero of the Spanish-American War. Roosevelt was elected Governor of New York in 1899, resigning the next year to join McKinley as the vice presidential nominee in the president's run for a second term. Roosevelt assumed the presidency when McKinley was shot in September 1901, and won the office in his own right in 1904.

At first, Roosevelt continued McKinley's policies on such issues as the tariff; only gradually did he push for progressive reforms. He advocated the Square Deal which supported the rights of labor and consumers, and expanded the powers of the chief executive.⁶³ Though believing monopolies to be an inevitable result of capitalism, Roosevelt

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 43

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

worked to break trusts, promoting increased government regulation as a necessary adjunct of corporate growth. He instituted safe food and drug laws, vigorously supported civil service reform, and, as the nation's most outspoken conservationist, vastly increased the amount of lands under public ownership. Roosevelt's actions alienated conservative factions of the Republican party, but his finely honed sense of public relations ensured an abundance of favorable press coverage for his every move.

Known as the "Great Conservationist," Theodore Roosevelt was the first president to make conservation of the nation's natural resources a keystone of domestic policy.⁶⁴ Roosevelt supported the wise stewardship of lands and wildlife as the basis for present and future economic growth. His attitude was both progressive and conservative; he forged alliances with men from either end of the conservationist spectrum, from forester Gifford Pinchot, whose scientific forest management policies promoted a practical view of forests as natural commodities, to John Muir, whose writings celebrated the spiritual qualities inherent in wilderness.

Roosevelt's conservation achievements as president were legion. His initiatives resulted in federal protection of almost 230 million acres. He created 150 national forests, 53 national wildlife preserves, five national parks, and eight national monuments, and inaugurated 21 Reclamation Projects under the Reclamation Act of 1902. He established the Public Lands Commission in 1902, the U.S. Forest Service (formerly the Bureau of Forestry) in 1905, the Inland Waterways Commission in 1907, and the U.S. Reclamation Service in 1908. In 1908, Roosevelt convened a landmark conservation conference of governors, which resulted in 36 state conservation commissions and a National Conservation Commission that conducted the first inventory of country's natural resources. In 1909, TR held the first North American Conservation Congress. The Senate Park (McMillan) Commission was appointed during his tenure.

Refusing to run for a third term in 1908, Roosevelt instead supported his Secretary of War, William Howard Taft. However, he became unhappy with Taft's conservative leadership, and in 1912 ran for the Republican presidential nomination as leader of the progressive wing of the Republican party. When Roosevelt lost, the wing split from the party and formed the Progressive or Bull Moose Party, supporting Roosevelt on its own ticket; however, he ultimately lost the election to Democrat Woodrow Wilson.

Roosevelt lived with gusto on and off the political stage. He was a hunter, a rancher, and the author of almost 40 books, including ornithological studies, a landmark history of the naval battle of the War of 1812, and histories of the American West. His twin loves of science and exploration ultimately contributed to his death: infections contracted while leading an expedition in 1914 to the chart the River of Doubt (later renamed the Rio Roosevelt) in South America's Amazon River basin left him permanently weakened. He died five years later, in January 1919.

Immediately after Roosevelt's death, plans were begun for two memorials: a memorial museum in New York state, and a national monument in Washington, D.C., conceived as the final anchor of the McMillan Plan. The prominent Beaux-Arts architect John Russell Pope won both commissions, though only the state memorial was built (now the Central Park West entrance to the American Museum of Natural History; see below). Both of Pope's projects tried to capture the dimensions of Roosevelt's personality and imperialistic vision; both departed from the standards observed by previous presidential memorials. As an adjunct to an established institution, the state memorial

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 44

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

is the quintessential living memorial, though today its commemorative purpose remains largely unnoticed. The national project was the largest, most grandiose American architectural monument yet conceived. It shattered the conventions of its type.

Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Association (TRMA)

In March 1919, two months after Roosevelt's death, a group of his close friends and colleagues formed the Roosevelt Memorial Association (RMA; later called the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Association, TRMA). Their primary goal was the erection of a "monumental memorial in Washington to rank with the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial."⁶⁵ The association's secretary, a young man named Hermann Hagedorn, was especially devoted to perpetuating Roosevelt's memory.⁶⁶ The association was chartered by Congress in 1920 and within two years had raised almost 2 million dollars in donations for several projects, including the restoration of Roosevelt's boyhood home in New York City; the creation of a memorial park at Sagamore Hill, Roosevelt's home on Long Island; and the support of various educational programs. Fully half the money, however, was slated for a grand national monument.⁶⁷

TRMA Competition for National Memorial, 1925

In May 1924, the TRMA introduced a request for congressional authorization to use a site on the Tidal Basin south of the Mall for a memorial competition, pledging \$1 million for the purpose. They were granted authorization in January 1925, though Congress stipulated that the site could be used for only for the competition, and the TRMA would bear full responsibility for the construction of any future monument. The competition – the most important memorial competition of the 1920s – was held from April to October. The winning design of John Russell Pope was made public in December.⁶⁸

Pope won the competition with a colossal project that revived his 1912 project of a circular colonnade for the Lincoln Memorial. His Roosevelt Memorial sparked a debate in Congress and among the public that lasted from 1923 to 1926.⁶⁹ The main obstacle hindering the monument's completion was a persistent concern over whether Roosevelt had a legitimate claim to a national memorial on a key site in Washington so soon after his death, before the commemoration of other figures, notably Thomas Jefferson. This problem ultimately led to the project's defeat.

Also in 1925, Pope designed the New York State Roosevelt Memorial (now Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Hall, built 1929-1936) as a new, classical entrance to the American Museum of Natural History on Central Park West.⁷⁰ It celebrated Roosevelt's achievements as a naturalist through a comprehensive program of sculpture, murals, dioramas, and inscriptions. It also presented Roosevelt as the "ideal American Citizen," an inspiration to American

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 45

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

youth. The interior walls bear panels inscribed with quotations from Roosevelt on the themes of “Nature, Manhood, Youth, and the State” (the same themes used for the panels of the 1967 monument on Roosevelt Island).

The national memorial to Roosevelt on the Tidal Basin would have completed the McMillan Plan, its location at the southern end of the 16th Street cross axis to the Mall pairing it with the White House to the north.⁷¹ The McMillan Commission plan had envisioned a formal landscape linking the Washington Monument grounds with a new building complex on the Tidal Basin, which they suggested might house a Pantheon of American Heroes or a monument for one great individual.⁷² Their rendering of the site showed a domed colonnaded building flanked by pavilions.

Pope’s project transformed the entire Tidal Basin into a vast memorial precinct, stretching over a third of a mile from east to west. Two smaller pools linked the basin with the river and the Washington Channel. Broad lawns, bordered by avenues and long files of trees, joined the memorial to the Washington Monument grounds; the entire area was circled by a circumferential road.

The Tidal Basin became a reflecting pool contained within a granite plaza bounded by enormous Doric peristyles. A series of three concentric tiers or islands occupied the center. Roosevelt appeared in the abstract, as a 200-foot jet of water representing his vital spirit, which surged from a raised basin in the topmost island. The linking of the colonnades by a central fountain symbolized the president, with his Yankee father and Confederate mother, as the leader who embodied a final unification of North and South; the memorial thus advanced the notion that Roosevelt had completed the work of nation building begun by Washington and Lincoln, the major theme embodied by the Washington Mall.⁷³ Four barges, each carrying winged victories and groups of men, women, and children, projected from the top island, “...symbolical ships [which] carry the message of Roosevelt’s life to the four points of the compass.”⁷⁴ The monument’s vast size and sense of continuous outward expansion were meant to suggest endless national growth and unlimited glory.

Though the TRMA selected Pope’s project, they were concerned about its cost and size.⁷⁵ The TRMA believed the Tidal Basin site was appropriate for their hero, as it would elevate Roosevelt to the stature of Washington and Lincoln. Others worried about the aggressive tactics of the association – which had bypassed the Commission of Fine Arts to approach Congress directly – and their uncritical belief in Roosevelt’s greatness.⁷⁶ Fundamental doubts also remained about Roosevelt’s rightful claim to a monument on so prominent a site so soon after his death, before time had lent perspective.⁷⁷ In May 1926, the site was finally secured for a memorial to Thomas Jefferson, and the TRMA asked the National Capital Park and Planning Commission to suggest other sites for a memorial to Roosevelt.

TRMA Acquisition of Island and Transfer to Federal Government, 1931-32

By 1927, the federal government had become concerned over the Washington Gas Light Company’s plans to build gas works on Anolostan Island, and their incompatibility with projected improvements for the river corridor, which included Arlington Memorial Bridge and the George Washington Memorial Parkway. With the support of the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 46

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

Commission of Fine Arts (CFA), the National Capital Park and Planning Commission (NCPPC) was considering plans to bring Analostan Island into the regional park system on the Virginia side of the river through the construction of a bridge from Columbia Island to the south end of Analostan. Arlington Memorial Bridge was scheduled to be completed on September 1, 1930, and development of Columbia Island would follow. As a result, the government – working through the office of Public Buildings and Public Parks – began negotiating with the Gas Light Co. to purchase the island.⁷⁸

By February 1931, the Justice Department was preparing to condemn Analostan Island, which had an estimated value of \$250,000, in order to acquire it for park purposes. Condemnation proceedings were dropped when the Gas Light Co. accepted the TRMA's offer of \$364,000 on September 9, 1931. The purchase was made public on October 13. The following week, the TRMA voted to turn the property over to the federal government, and announced the name would be changed to "Roosevelt Island." They reserved the right, however, to build a memorial on the island at some future time.⁷⁹

The TRMA formally acquired title to the island in January of 1932, and in May the House approved the government's acceptance of the island as a memorial to Roosevelt.⁸⁰ Representative Luce of Massachusetts, former chairman of the House Library Committee, said:

It is intended that there shall be nothing of a monumental nature erected, but that the island shall be kept as nearly as possible in a wild state, with only such ornamentation as shall not be out of harmony with that purpose.... [thus] preserving a beautiful spot that might otherwise have been blighted by business, and fittingly testifying to the esteem in which was held one of our most beloved Presidents.⁸¹

On December 12, 1932, in a ceremony held in the East Room of the White House, James R. Garfield of the TRMA (Secretary of the Interior under TR) presented the deed to the island to President Herbert Hoover. In his acceptance speech, Hoover said of Roosevelt:

His was a virile energy, and abundant optimism and courage, a greatness of vision and a faith in his country's future which knew no boundaries of limiting doubts. These qualities, inherent within him, and his strength were unconsciously developed in communion with Nature. He lived much in the open; he loved the mountains, the woods, the streams and the sea. From them he gained a spaciousness of outlook which permanently endear him to his countrymen.

There is thus an especial appropriateness in this memorial which you are giving to the Nation. This wooded island, set in the midst of the Potomac, is forever within view of the Lincoln Memorial, the Washington Monument, the Capitol and the White House. You have wisely chosen a bit of nature within the boundaries of this city which he loved, and where he rendered such noble service....⁸²

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 47

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

Garfield also spoke:

*Anolostan Island seemed peculiarly appropriate for this memorial. Theodore Roosevelt was keenly interested in the completion of the original plans for the development of the Capital. This island is an integral part of that plan. He appreciated the value of beautiful parks, breathing places for the dwellers in cities, where people could enjoy rest and communion with nature.*⁸³

The bill creating a park on the island which would be dedicated to Roosevelt was approved by the Senate Library Committee, which further stipulated that the island would be placed under the direction of Public Buildings and Public Parks “to be preserved as nearly as possible in its natural state.”⁸⁴ (In 1933, the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks was transferred to the National Park Service, which then assumed jurisdiction over Theodore Roosevelt Island.) The Senate bill granted authority to the TRMA to construct an architectural or sculptural monument at some future time, and its director was authorized to provide the public with “suitable” access to and upon the island. The bill stated:

*That no general plan for the development of the island be adopted without the approval of the Roosevelt Memorial Association, and that, so long as this association remains in existence, no development inconsistent with this plan be executed without the association’s consent.*⁸⁵

Though it was widely reported that the TRMA planned to build the stadium and an athletic field on the island “as typifying Theodore Roosevelt’s love of outdoor life,” Hermann Hagedorn, Secretary of the TRMA, said they had never considered this option, claiming “that the geological contour of the island... prevents any possibility of its being used for a structure of that kind.”⁸⁶ The TRMA offered the following description of the island’s topography:

*the land rises slowly on the northern end and sharply on the southern, some 40 feet, to a wooded plateau comprising approximately twenty acres, with a clear view toward Arlington, the Lincoln Memorial, and the lower reaches of the Potomac River. The island gives the impression of wild country peculiarly appropriate as a setting for a memorial to Col. Roosevelt.*⁸⁷

Instead, their initial plans called for erecting John Russell Pope’s “purely symbolic” memorial fountain, while leaving most of the island wooded, with numerous walks provided for picnic parties.⁸⁸ The TRMA assured the NCPPC that development would not interfere with the riverfront parkway, to which the island would be connected with bridges at both its north and south ends.⁸⁹

On May 23, 1932, the TRMA announced that landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. and architect Pope would prepare studies for the island’s development. The TRMA did not plan to provide funds for recommended

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 48

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

improvements, but authorized the production of a new topographic survey, prepared with the assistance of Army engineers (fig. 5).⁹⁰

In the mid-1940s, the TRMA prepared a resolution which stated in emphatic terms their approval of the Olmsted plan for Roosevelt Island, and their desire to secure its lasting authority over the generations, "even centuries," to come.⁹¹ The resolution mandated that the resolution be read at the annual meeting of the TRMA Board of Trustees "at least once every five years," with copies sent also to the directors of the NCPPC and NPS, "until the tradition is established in Washington that Theodore Roosevelt Island shall become what Mr. Olmsted conceived and the Trustees want."⁹² In August 1945, the NPS defined their role as "custodians," continuing to let take the TRMA the lead in planning and development of the island as memorial.⁹³

The Work of Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., in Washington, D.C.

Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. was heir to his the legacy of his father, Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., the primary figure in the development of an American school of landscape design. Olmsted Jr. perpetuated his father's desire to design landscapes that would retain and enhance native scenic qualities.⁹⁴

Olmsted, Sr.'s influence in American landscape design has been immense, dating from his very first project, Central Park in the 1850s. The firm he established (Olmsted and Vaux, later Olmsted and Eliot, and Olmsted Brothers after Sr.'s and Eliot's deaths) was responsible for hundreds of projects, including municipal parks, park systems, parkways, and residential developments. Among these are many of the most revered landscapes in the U.S. – not only Central Park but the Boston Metropolitan Parks and the Washington Mall.

Olmsted Jr. continued and extended his father's legacy in many ways during his own long and illustrious career as one of two principles of Olmsted Brothers (along with his half-brother, John Charles Olmsted) and as a member of numerous planning boards and committees. His ethic had been shaped in part by Charles Eliot, a partner in Olmsted, Olmsted and Eliot until his early death. Eliot's articulation of the concept of the scenic "reservation," his establishment of the Massachusetts Trustees for Scenic Reservations, and his pioneering efforts to ensure that careful ecological studies formed the basis of landscape design, achievements that proved to be highly influential on an entire generation of landscape architects and remain important today.

A related factor shaping Olmsted's approach to landscape design was his work in the 1890s assisting his father in the design of George Vanderbilt's vast Biltmore estate in North Carolina. Olmsted Sr. brought in the young Gifford Pinchot, who developed at Biltmore the first scientifically managed forest in the U.S. Pinchot later became head of the U.S. Forest Service and the leading figure in American forestry.

Taken at face value, Eliot's ideas for managing scenic reservations and Pinchot's pioneering efforts at forest management might seem to be quite similar; however, the two men diverged significantly in their fundamental philosophies. Pinchot believed that forests should be managed to provide for a country's economic needs. Eliot

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 49

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

appreciated and sought to preserve forest landscapes for their inherent scenic qualities, minimizing and controlling their use. These two poles of American conservation thought influenced both Theodore Roosevelt and Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr.

Another important factor underlying the landscape work at Biltmore was Olmsted, Sr.'s efforts to develop and augment the natural scenic beauties of the region through the massing of native plants, and the layering of small plants with shrubs and trees, to achieve a delicacy, richness, and profusion of effects. Throughout their careers, both Olmsteds sought the pictorial, the sensuous, and the aesthetic. Such aims were, in the end, more important to them than any material gain the land could provide.

Olmsted, Jr. shared with his father many other basic beliefs. Both men felt that the viewing of scenery was fundamentally a spiritual exercise (a belief rooted in 19th-century romantic and Transcendentalist notions), and that landscape designs should preserve and enhance the inherent natural qualities of a landscape, its *genius loci*. Both believed that well-landscaped parks could provide workers relief from the stresses of urban life and, further, that parks could play an important role within a democracy by providing a forum where social classes might interact on equal terms.

The conception of the climax forest for Roosevelt Island grew out of beliefs similar to ideas which had been explored by Eliot; on Roosevelt Island, Olmsted would attempt to establish the forest which he believed might have grown had the island been allowed to follow its natural course, uninterrupted by human use and habitation. He would allow the island to fulfill its natural potential and present this as a representative remnant of the Potomac Valley's primeval landscape (fig. 15).

Olmsted, Jr. served as the landscape architect member of the McMillan Commission (1901-02), and was therefore able to play a major role in planning the future development of the federal city and adjoining properties. He was the leading proponent of its concept for a regional park system. Olmsted, Jr. and his firm received the Roosevelt Island commission from the TRMA in 1932, 30 years after completion of the McMillan Plan (which had included the island within the boundaries of its study). Olmsted's thinking had been shaped by these accumulated years of experience. In the intervening period, the firm had been involved in developing a management plan for Rock Creek Park, the design of Lincoln Memorial grounds, the Washington Monument Reflecting Pool, and Union Square, at the western foot of Capitol Hill. Olmsted Jr. was also a member of important planning and advisory bodies, among them the Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

Naturalistic Landscape Design in the National Park Service

The National Park Service played a leading role in promoting naturalization in American landscape design from the 1910s through the 1940s. Leading practitioners and advocates of naturalized landscaping advised or consulted on projects, were hired to write manuals, or directed CCC landscaping, replanting, and reforestation work in

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 50

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

national parks. The naturalization of native plant materials governed the planting designs of roadsides, trails, parking lots, campgrounds, and woodlands. Such designs harmonized with the rustic styles and local materials commonly used for park buildings and other structures.

These professionals drew on an American tradition of naturalized landscape design, which, in turn, had developed from both English and American antecedents, such as the English 18th-century picturesque garden, and the works and writings of such individuals as Andrew Jackson Downing, William Robinson, and the Olmsted firm under the direction of Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. and his associate, Henry V. Hubbard, continued to develop the practice of naturalized landscaping as the appropriate design methodology for the U.S. Olmsted Jr. and Hubbard helped set the direction of the NPS approach to landscape design, and both men were directly involved with the landscaping or reforestation work on Theodore Roosevelt Island from 1932 through the 1940s.

This subject is discussed in depth in the National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Nomination, "Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks," prepared by Linda Flint McClelland and entered in the National Register in October 1995 (the nomination was subsequently published by Johns Hopkins University Press as *Building the National Parks: Historic Landscape Design and Construction* in 1998). This historic district nomination for Theodore Roosevelt Island is included under the earlier multiple property nomination, and the reader is referred to that nomination for more context.

A Chronological History of the Olmsted Plan for Roosevelt Island

In 1929, the NCPPC was considering developing a parkway along the east side of Analostan Island which would connect via bridges at the south and north ends with Columbia Island and Rosslyn. An alternate route along the west or Little River side had been rejected "as being unduly destructive of the present quiet beauty of that channel."⁹⁵

In 1932, the TRMA hired Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. and his firm Olmsted Brothers, along with Pope, to develop a general plan for development of the island as a national memorial to Theodore Roosevelt. During the 15 years of the firm's direct involvement, Olmsted was frequently ill or involved with other projects, and his associate, landscape architect Henry V. Hubbard, often took the lead.⁹⁶

On May 19, 1932, the TRMA authorized Olmsted Brothers to prepare a general plan.⁹⁷ (Actual work would depend on TRMA finances, which could be problematical.) By October of that year, Olmsted Brothers had conducted field surveys, obtained a new topographic map, and collected other basic information on the island. They paid particular attention to establishing visual relations with other Washington memorials.⁹⁸ In December, Hubbard submitted to the TRMA an important early document, "Roosevelt Island: Notes on Certain Considerations Affecting the Design," presenting their design intent in the form of 12 major points.⁹⁹ Primarily, the island should be considered

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 51

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

a “sanctuary” or “sacred grove,” with no vehicular traffic, and only a single bridge leading to it (though a pedestrian causeway at the north was recommended). An architectural memorial planned for the southern end (later known as the “Outlook Plateau” or “Outlook Terrace”) should “serve as a heart and unifying point for the whole composition,” forming “part of a larger composition” consisting primarily of the Lincoln Memorial, the Washington Monument, and the Memorial Bridge development (and secondarily the Capitol, White House, and Key Bridge).¹⁰⁰

Two years later, in May 1934, Olmsted submitted a draft “Preliminary Report,” which laid out the “principal elements of a general plan for the permanent development of Roosevelt Island.” Its importance is such that it is worth quoting at some length:

1. Covering most of the Island, and constituting its dominant landscape feature, there should be developed steadily and progressively through the years and centuries to come a real forest closely similar in character to the natural primeval forests which once covered this and others of the Potomac islands.

The primeval forests native to this part of America – ‘climax forests’ the ecologists call them as representing a condition of enduring stability and unity of character reached through a long process of evolutionary change and thereafter remaining, for centuries without number, essentially unaltered through all changes of detail – had also an esthetic unity and nobility and enduring permanence of beautiful qualities that made them one of nature’s most inspiring and enduring masterpieces, comparable only with the very greatest of the works of art produced by man.

With skillful yet entirely self-subordinating and humble-minded aid from man, nature can be induced to recreate, here on its native site, with almost equal perfection, the very sort of climax forest full of enduring and noble dignity and unity of character in combination with immense variety and richness of beautiful detail, and to do so within a span of years far shorter than unaided nature would require to again evolve the veritably primeval forest stripped away by man....

It is clear to us that no other aim in respect to the landscape quality of the island in the years to come could give so great assurance of unity and enduring stability in the esthetic qualities of the island as a memorial, or would be so appropriate for commemorating the personality and the interests of the man Theodore Roosevelt.¹⁰¹

Olmsted concluded with a general statement of landscape planning for the island:

The island today has noble forest remnants, especially along its western side, strongly suggestive of the desired character. On most of it the old clearings have been overspread by a second-growth of smaller trees which, although very different in its composition and present character from a primeval forest, at least provides a sylvan character of sorts to start with. Under persistent, well-

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 52

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

*directed management, by the addition of young plants of the species that it lacks and the gradual weeding out of existing trees of kinds that are undesirable or overabundant, the present woodland can be slowly and gradually developed, without any sudden and conspicuous change, into as noble a forest as the first white settlers found here.*¹⁰²

The NCPPC and the CFA unanimously approved the Olmsted plans in January 1934.¹⁰³ Arrangements were made to have a CCC crew perform work on the island under the general direction of the Olmsted firm. The tasks of the CCC included the clearing of dead brush; the removal of weeds, particularly Japanese honeysuckle; building trails and bridle paths; making some grade changes; and the planting of about 20,000 new trees and shrubs (see fig. 16).

Regular work plans were prepared for each six-month period. Olmsted communicated with an on-site CCC supervisor, and landscape architects from the Olmsted office paid regular site visits. In their various work plans and in reports to the TRMA, Olmsted, Hubbard, and others involved in the project typically discussed the general extent of planting for each area or the recommended vegetative composition. Occasionally they noted the presence of particular specimens, usually large old trees, and recommended they be preserved.¹⁰⁴

With occasional interruptions, clearing continued from sometime in the spring of 1934 through 1935 and into the spring of 1936.¹⁰⁵ At the time work began, much of the island was “overspread by a highly inflammable tangle of dry weeds, brambles, and fallen deadwood,” and Olmsted was concerned about the potential for fire (fig. 53, “Supplemental Illustrations”).¹⁰⁶

By June 1934 the CCC had made substantial progress in the initial clearing, though they had mistakenly removed foliage from many desirable trees and shrubs.¹⁰⁷ Olmsted wrote their supervisor in exasperation, saying a “clear view” with no foliage was not the aim: “We expect to produce a ‘thickety’ wild forest in which one will seldom be able to see very far ahead in most directions, and which will look as though no axe-man had ever touched it.”¹⁰⁸ He emphasized the importance of having a competent person on site to scout out impending work and mark shrubs to be saved, “even if infested with honeysuckle,” pending a future careful review by Olmsted “in connection with planting plans, subsequent to... the initial weeding operation.”¹⁰⁹ [emphasis original]

About two-thirds of the clearing had been completed by the middle of June 1935.¹¹⁰ By October most of the clearing had been completed, and plantings for the “climax forest” were begun. Olmsted anticipated that, by the end of March 1936, planting would be nearly completed in the central part of the island – from the hill near the Mason ruins to the north end of the upland plateau, and from the west shore to the marsh. Planting outside of this area, he said, would need to wait on further development of plans.¹¹¹ No planting plan for the southern end of the island was devised at this time, as it was felt to be more a complicated area that should await further study.¹¹² Also by October, all paths had been staked, and several had been constructed, with most of the material obtained from excavations of the southern overlook.¹¹³ From the fall of 1935 through March 1936, while continuing to remove deadwood and weeds, the crew apparently built the main trails and bridle paths, made certain grade changes, and developed some “forest improvement plantations.”¹¹⁴

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 53

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

Deciding how to handle the Mason house ruins presented Olmsted with considerable difficulty. In the mid-1930s, NPS historians and local history enthusiasts were beginning to express concern about their potential removal. Olmsted and Hermann Hagedorn of the TRMA feared public opposition might result in the need to incorporate the ruins within the landscape, or even to recreate the house entirely. Believing either option would conflict with their goal of creating a woodland memorial, they moved quickly to have the ruins removed.¹¹⁵ In February 1936, a team from the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), composed of an architect, Stuart Barnette, and one or more historians, was assembled to conduct limited archeological excavations at the site.¹¹⁶

The HABS team worked under the direction of Delos Smith, a Washington architect.¹¹⁷ The actual site work was performed by a CCC crew. In March 1936, Barnette and historian C.F. Northington, Jr. prepared a memo presenting their recommendations on procedures to follow in the archeological work.¹¹⁸ They expressed their concern about the site's importance:

Aside from its historical associations, the Mason House deserves a prominent place in the records of the development of a truly American style of architecture. This building represents not only the first steps in independent initiative in American architectural design but offers concrete evidence that our infant republic was a leader, rather than a follower, in the classical revival.¹¹⁹

The team dug trenches over the house site, uncovering building and terrace foundations and numerous artifacts. Many or most artifacts (including some architectural fragments) were later reburied in a concrete vault within the perimeter of the house foundations.¹²⁰ Their investigations resulted in a written report (HABS DC-28), containing a brief history of the island and house and a description of the house; the report also featured an extensive series of documentary photographs showing the ruins and uncovered foundations, and drawings, including plans and elevations, which depicted the house as a symmetrical structure when, in fact, only one wing had ever been completed.

The HABS team caused Olmsted great concern with its practice of cutting tree roots around the ruins during excavation.¹²¹ In late 1936, Olmsted revised his previous position on total removal of the ruins. He now advised against completely obliterating all evidence of the house and landscaping in an attempt make the ground look "natural," since this would require the effort and expense of completely clearing about an acre.¹²² Instead, he recommended removing "all the fragments of walls which stand high above the general surface of the ground," filling the cellars ("recently cleaned out to their bottoms by the 'historical surveyors'"), and removing or reburying lower walls, pavements, etc.¹²³ The aim now would be to avoid damaging trees, "and doing what is practicable within the same limitation to soften and obscure the continuity and rigidity of the artificial terrace banks" (figs. 21, 45).¹²⁴ Olmsted wrote:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 54

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

...there would remain, frankly visible to anyone who wanders over the old house-mound, a number of fragments of ruined walls and other bits of masonry, projecting a couple of feet or so above the general surface of the house-mound soil, and in most cases picturesquely grappled in the roots of stout old trees which rise from them.

He concluded:

In short, the end in view is not that of an attempt completely to 'restore' the primitive natural conditions of the area – a process of 'nature faking' – and certainly not that of an attempt to 'restore' the Mason House and its once celebrated gardens, or even to preserve, protect, and draw attention to their existing remains... but rather to accelerate the approach of inconspicuousness, such as these or any other such remnants of relatively unimportant human structures fall into when abandoned long enough to the forces of nature in a region reconquered by forest.¹²⁵

The heart of Olmsted's design was the "Outlook Plateau" or "Outlook Terrace," envisioned as a stone platform which would be constructed on the regraded southern tip of the upland plateau, a short distance from the Mason house ruins (fig. 17). The platform would serve as place for visitors to enjoy sweeping views south to the Mall and down the river, thus dramatizing Roosevelt's relation to the greater Washington pantheon of American heroes. This concept of the viewing platform to establish reciprocal views among the structures of the city's monumental core had been a central feature of the McMillan Plan, underlying, for example, the development of the Capitol terraces and the raised base of the Lincoln Memorial.¹²⁶

The overlook would have been a rounded terrace, formed by a retaining wall constructed of native stone, crowned with a low parapet and terminating in steps on the east and west sides. The slope below the wall would have been carefully graded. New forest plantings would have formed a gradual transition between the natural forest and the formal overlook. Paths would have connected the plateau with a shelter and ferry landing at the island's southern end, where ferries carrying visitors from Columbia Island would dock.

The development of the Outlook Plateau, "welded into the form of the island which is in itself the real memorial," was meant to enhance rather than significantly alter the island's natural landscape and topography.¹²⁷ As originally conceived, the terrace would have provided a platform for a possible potential future monument, but it was necessary for the design to be complete in itself on the chance that no memorial ever materialized. Olmsted gradually came to believe that these two goals could not be reconciled.¹²⁸

By October 1938, the path and possibly the grading of the southern plateau were essentially completed, though they awaited further modeling with topsoil.¹²⁹ The subsequent decision in the late 1950s to construct the Theodore Roosevelt Bridge across the southern end of the island destroyed any possibility of realizing the outlook idea.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 55

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

After the promising start in 1934-36, work slowed considerably, primarily because of a lack of funds and Olmsted's poor health. No new development was completed on the island for a considerable period of time, apparently from the late 1930s through the early 1950s, even though the island was open for public use. Though in 1941 the NPS requested funds to build various structures, with the commencement of World War II funding was no longer available.¹³⁰ Many of the NPS officials who had been involved in the project left Washington. Work came to a standstill.¹³¹

During the war some government agencies, among them the OSS and the FBI, are said to have used the island as a venue for training agents. The War Department constructed a road across the island's north end for emergency use, with a temporary pontoon bridge connecting the island to Georgetown and to the Virginia shore (it is unclear whether this bridge was open for commuter traffic or was reserved for emergency military use only).¹³² The Army made a cut at the northern end of the island for access to the pontoon bridge, which "never got used [but which] changed the topographical conditions..."¹³³ The bridge was removed in 1945, after which the War Department planned to restore the area to its "original" topography and planting.¹³⁴

The design development work of the Olmsted firm was essentially completed with the General Plan of 1945 (fig. 6).¹³⁵ In late 1945, the TRMA again retained Hubbard and Olmsted Brothers to produce plans for structures.¹³⁶ Olmsted Brothers arranged for architect Charles R. Wait to prepare plans for the southern restroom (fig. 23) and engineering studies for the ferry landing at the south end. Final plans, specifications, and perspectives were completed by May 1947 and were probably delivered to the NCPC for approval in June.¹³⁷ The NPS was responsible for construction and management. Plans for the northern shelter, the rebuilding of the causeway, and a bridle path at the north end were discarded.¹³⁸

In June 1947, Olmsted Brothers sent the TRMA plans for the most important structures. They took this opportunity to review a "few of the most important decisions" made over the previous 15 years, beginning with a strong declaration of design intent:

The whole island is a permanent memorial to a great man.

The character of the island is ultimately to be set by the character of its vegetation—that of a natural "climax forest".

The human uses of the land are to be restricted—in kind, in amount, and in location—to those which are compatible with the intended effect of the island as a whole and with the physical requirements of its maintenance and guidance towards perfection of its intended kind. This decision influences all the following considerations.

In conclusion, they wrote:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 56

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

*...since construction... may be long postponed, it was decided to complete the record of present decisions on which all responsibly concerned are generally agreed, so that whenever the work was undertaken no part of the present carefully considered total picture should be lost, or changed unless new circumstances, as carefully and comprehensively considered as the present have been, should necessitate such a change...*¹³⁹

This statement indicates Olmsted Brothers' desire to firmly establish their plan as the guiding master plan for the island memorial.

The TRMA gave their final approval to the working plans and specifications of Olmsted Brothers in July 1947.¹⁴⁰ The NPS concurred and agreed to retain the Olmsted firm to prepare final specifications and to superintend construction:

*The National Park Service is in complete accord with the plans and with the fundamental conception of establishing a climax forest with a controlling regard for preserving all of the natural features and character of the Memorial forest.*¹⁴¹

Through the late 1940s, however, no federal money was appropriated and further development was stalled.¹⁴²

Apparently in 1950 or 1951, the TRMA had renderings made showing the primeval forest, the Outlook Plateau, the boat landing at the south, and a perspective of the island's southern end (figs. 15, 17).¹⁴³ In the 1950s, the NPS prepared estimates for the development and construction costs for the water system; the comfort station, ferry landing, and Outlook Plateau at the south end; and the shelter, comfort station, and wharf at the north end. Estimates were also made for trails and "Forestry Improvements." An appropriation of \$50,000 was made available in fiscal year 1955 to build the water system and south comfort station, with construction slated to begin within two or three years.¹⁴⁴ Work on the Outlook Plateau was not begun, ostensibly because public access to the island was still limited.¹⁴⁵ The causeway was rebuilt as an access road for construction vehicles and utility lines were embedded within it.¹⁴⁶

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 57

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

The TRMA and the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Bridge Controversy

Plans to bridge the Potomac to alleviate downtown traffic were first made public in the early 1950s. Though other locations were considered, District planners insisted that the demands of traffic necessitated a location over or near Roosevelt Island.¹⁴⁷ The House authorized a study of bridge locations. As plans developed over the years, five locations received serious consideration. In chronological order, these were: south of Little Island, over the northern end of Roosevelt Island, over Little Island, over the center of Roosevelt Island, and, finally, crossing over the south end of Roosevelt Island.

At first, the TRMA vigorously protested any bridge plans. They wrote to the District Commissioners, stating that the Act which gave the island to the United States precluded such projects.¹⁴⁸ The bridge also faced significant opposition from Ulysses S. Grant III (former chair of the NCPPC and member of the CFA, and now the vice chairman of the Committee of One Hundred on the Federal City), and Conrad L. Wirth, Director of the NPS. Legally, the TRMA possessed veto power over any construction on the island, and they succeeded in stalling plans for a number of years. The prospect of the bridge revived their determination to see the Olmsted plan completed.¹⁴⁹

In the early 1950s, the TRMA printed a booklet which outlined the island's history, the purpose of the TRMA, and the history of the memorial plans. Its purpose was to rally public support for completion of the memorial project, and to help defeat the massive highway bridge which threatened to destroy their plan for the Outlook Plateau. They wrote:

More than the memorial to a distinctive and beloved President of the United States is involved here. The Association has given the nation the makings of a monument not only to Theodore Roosevelt but also to the primeval America that the explorers and first settlers saw when they came to these shores: a monument, unique in character, kindling the imagination and capable of lifting the hearts of men for centuries to come—if people will only be patient while the monument is achieving its stature, and keep the hand of the despoiler off it.¹⁵⁰

The document explicitly linked the memorial's completion with the approaching centennial of Roosevelt's birth.

In July 1953, the D.C. Board of Commissioners announced they had been told that there was "no legal bar" to using the island as part of the bridge crossing. The next month, the solicitor of the Interior Department concurred on its legality. The question remaining was whether the bridge would be consistent with the park's purpose.¹⁵¹

Since the TRMA remained opposed, in 1954 Congress authorized construction of a new span to be located 1200' north of Memorial Drive, just south of Little Island.¹⁵² In mid-June 1955, the TRMA agreed a bridge could pass over the north end of the island.¹⁵³ Sen. Francis Case (R-SD) recommended that the Department of the Interior

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 58

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

and the TRMA reconsider whether the bridge could be moved to the south end of the island, as this would cost only about \$24.5 million as opposed to the \$43 million projected for the north crossing.¹⁵⁴

Eventually, the TRMA voted to drop its "traditional opposition" to a bridge over Roosevelt Island, persuaded by arguments concerning the detrimental effect of the authorized location on views from the island of the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington Memorial Bridge, views which were essential to full realization of the Olmsted plan.¹⁵⁵ On July 8, 1955, the TRMA announced their decision to allow the bridge to pass over Little Island, pending agreement of District Commission, and the CFA endorsed this decision. Hagedorn expressed the TRMA's stance in a letter to the Secretary of the Interior:

On the one hand they [TRMA] have the obligation, bequeathed to them by their predecessors, to defend the integrity and sanctity of the island as an area of wild solitude in the very heart of the Nation. On the other, the trustees recall the part that Mr. Roosevelt as President played in conserving and developing the grand plan of the National Capital.... [as the McMillan Commission was established during his presidency] Facing this dilemma, with loyalty to their conception of their memorial on the one side and the preservation of the esthetic harmony of the national Capital on the other, the Executive Committee of the Association have recognized that, not only as American citizens proud of their Nation's Capital city, but as trustees of the association loyal to the civic vision of the man they seek to commemorate, their paramount obligation is to the National Capital.¹⁵⁶

Congress soon appropriated 1.5 million to start construction of a bridge which would cross over the center of Roosevelt Island (rather than Little Island).¹⁵⁷ The TRMA, however, made certain demands. They required that the new structure be a low-level bridge, partly screened by the trees on the island; that the design receive CFA approval; that it bear the name "Theodore Roosevelt Bridge"; and that it include direct access to the island.¹⁵⁸

This reversal on the issue by the TRMA was met with angry denunciations. The *Washington Post* said "the bridge plan as presented is a breach of trust... The sanctity of contract is at stake."¹⁵⁹ Conservationists roundly condemned what they saw as a betrayal.

However, Virginia highway engineers claimed a location that far north would be too expensive and would fail to connect with the necessary routes on the Virginia side.¹⁶⁰ Finally, in December or January 1956, the TRMA formally approved District plans for a bridge which would pass over the south end of Roosevelt Island. They requested the provision of direct access for pedestrians and cars from the bridge to a parking lot on the island.¹⁶¹ The bridge was under construction by August 1960, when the House passed a bill for construction of a monument to Theodore Roosevelt on the island. A reporter observed:

The crushing blow to those who go to Theodore Roosevelt Island to get away from the noise and the exhaust fumes of the city is to find that they will follow them there.... with the island open to

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 59

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

*automobiles it is thought that it will be only a matter of time before the hot dog and frozen custard stand spring up.*¹⁶²

The Theodore Roosevelt Bridge (fig. 48) was opened to traffic on June 23, 1964.

The Presidential Memorial Tradition and the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial

From the 1880s to 1940s, American architects developed a recognizable type or model of memorial to honor great national heroes, primarily presidents. The earliest example is the Ulysses S. Grant Monument and tomb in New York City from the 1890s. The tradition reached its apogee in the Thomas Jefferson Memorial of 1939-1943, the structure which completed the McMillan Commission Plan for the memorial core.¹⁶³

These memorials shared certain specific and defining characteristics. They were classical, though this was often a specifically American, nationalistic adaptation of a conventional classical building, such as the Mausoleum of Halicarnassus (adapted for the Grant Monument), the Greek temple (the basis of the Lincoln Memorial), or the Pantheon (used for the Jefferson Memorial). The order was typically Doric. Raised above the surrounding landscape, such monuments were often cylindrical domed structures, with a single interior chamber, its center marked by a sculpture or similar feature signifying the person honored. The materials employed in their construction were usually of a high quality; the memorials often had marble exteriors, with limestone and or some similar stone used on the interior. Inscriptions derived from the president's speeches or writings played a major role, often appearing over the entrance and carved on walls or tablets surrounding the central space.

These memorials had a dominant axial relation to their surrounding landscape, standing as the culmination of a formal processional route and usually oriented to the four cardinal points of the compass, with a major axis and a minor cross-axis. Water often played an important role. The deployment of vegetation was usually formal and often possessed symbolic meaning, with evergreens used to symbolize eternal life, and plants associated with heroic qualities, such as laurel, represented in some fashion.

The type was also used for war memorials and monuments to other great national heroes. From the end of World War I, however, this standard type of national monument came under severe criticism from progressive architects and others. These critics sought a solution which would move away from the convention of static structures with sepulchral overtones, glorifying individual prowess or national loss, toward the idea of living memorials, structures or institutions which could make a vital contribution to the health and progress of modern society. Playgrounds, schools, and public auditoriums began to be built and dedicated as so-called "living memorials." This movement gained momentum in the 1920s and 1930s with the advent of modernist architecture. The Second World War revived the debate, underscoring for many the inadequacy of the received forms of past monuments to express

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 60

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

the devastation and horror of modern warfare. The definition of appropriate national memorials continued to expand to embrace more dynamic, participatory, egalitarian structures and institutions.

In whatever form, presidential memorials attempt to summarize the essence of a leader's legacy. In the case of Theodore Roosevelt Island, the focus is on conservation, and the inspiration his life can provide as an inspiration for the young people of America to dedicate themselves to public service (a major theme of the centennial celebrations TRMA coordinated nationwide). In this it bears a strong similarity to Pope's New York State Memorial to Roosevelt.

Theodore Roosevelt Memorial island is a unique embodiment of this concept, a living landscape memorial to an American president. The island functions as a memorial on two levels: the Olmsted landscape, and the monument by Eric Gugler and Paul Manship. While Olmsted's conception of a native forest as a memorial would have been given a focus with Outlook Plateau, this feature was not indispensable. His intent was much broader than that, embracing progressive notions of conservation and the recreation of a primeval woodland.

However, this was not the memorial originally planned for the island. In January 1956, the TRMA invited architect Eric Gugler to prepare plans for a monument on the island.¹⁶⁴ Gugler had designed World War II memorials in the United States and abroad, and he had rehabilitated government buildings and the White House during the administration of FDR. He collaborated on the TR memorial design with sculptor Paul Manship. Gugler and Manship first proposed a giant armillary sphere to be erected on the Outlook Plateau (fig. 18).¹⁶⁵ The sphere, about 40' in diameter, would have stood in the center of a reflecting pool built on the raised court. A bronze flame rising within the sphere would have symbolized Roosevelt's passion for "popular self-government," and surrounding the court would have been 12 large granite panels inscribed with quotations from TR on this theme.¹⁶⁶

The plans were approved by the CFA, the NCPPC, the NPS, and others, including President Eisenhower; however, when they were made public following introduction of a House bill in 1960, they faced a storm of ridicule. Though Hagedorn of the TRMA emphasized that the island would "remain a wooded retreat," conservationists nationwide maintained that the sphere would "destroy an enduring, living and meaningful memorial."¹⁶⁷ The armillary sphere was derided as a "bulging excrescence," "an onion ring fried in molten bronze," and "doughnuts in limbo."¹⁶⁸

The coup de grace was delivered by TR's daughter, the acid-tongued Alice Roosevelt Longworth, who was widely quoted as calling it a "globular jungle gym" which "would desecrate the memory of anyone." Alice proclaimed: "That lovely wild island should be left as it is.... It's a splendid memorial for my father."¹⁶⁹ In the face of the uproar, the Senate refused to act on any bill authorizing construction until a design was found that was acceptable to Roosevelt's family.¹⁷⁰

Gugler and Manship then prepared a new design for a site far to the north, which won approval easily. The memorial was built over a period of several years and was dedicated by President Lyndon B. Johnson on October 27, 1967, TR's 109th birthday. Chief Justice Earl Warren and Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall spoke briefly concerning TR's political legacy and the monument's significance. Attending the ceremony were members of the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 61

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

TRMA and daughter Alice, who was quoted as saying of the memorial: "I like it enormously. I think I have a rather mean disposition, but I can find nothing critical to say about it."¹⁷¹

Gugler and Manship's final design for the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial presents the president as the symbol of manly virtues rather than the unifier of national divisions. Though the basic geometric elements are simple, plain, and severe, executed at an overlarge scale, this memorial contains a reminiscence of the 1925 Pope project: the paved plaza and the pools; the circle of water; the bridges linking the inner precinct with its surroundings; the four inscribed pylons, perhaps representing the four corners of the globe: all these features faintly echo the grandeur envisioned in Pope's memorial project. It is a modernistic version of the traditional Beaux-Arts presidential memorial, changed from an enclosed, domed, unitary chamber to an open-air plaza, but retaining the major and minor axes, the orientation to the cardinal points, and the central heroic statue, flanked by tablets bearing inscribed quotations. In all these characteristics it strongly resembles the great Beaux-Arts monuments of the Washington Mall, the memorials to Lincoln and Jefferson. In its open landscaped design, the memorial also prefigures more recent major presidential memorials – the Lyndon Baines Johnson Memorial Grove on the Potomac (dedicated 1974), further south along the George Washington Memorial Parkway, and the national memorial to Franklin D. Roosevelt (completed in 1997) on the west side of the Tidal Basin.

NPS Management of TRI, 1945–Present

The governing NPS policy for management of Roosevelt Island – perhaps since as early as the 1930s – has been one of letting nature take its course.¹⁷² On a site visit in 1943, Olmsted noted how the trails had already become heavily overgrown.¹⁷³ Though the island was opened to the public in 1936, the NPS did not provide ferry service until 1953, about the time the historic causeway was rebuilt as a service road and the new pedestrian causeway was built across the middle of the Little River channel.¹⁷⁴ The footbridge was not built until 1979, after many years of planning, because of a lack of funds. In 1958, widespread public dismay greeted plans to set off Washington's Fourth of July fireworks from a large field near the south end of the island. Many considered the idea incompatible with the notion of an undisturbed retreat but, in any event, the display went ahead as scheduled, though the remote location off the Mall proved to be a disappointment.

On the same day, the island was formally dedicated as part of the national program celebrating the Theodore Roosevelt Centennial year, though fewer than half of the 600 invited guests showed up. The dedication program was held in the evening at the southern end of the island, before the fireworks were set off. The Marine band performed and a keynote address was delivered by Maryland governor Theodore Roosevelt McKeldin, who spoke on TR's hatred of "idolatry."¹⁷⁵

Over the last 50 years, the NPS has allowed the vegetation and other natural resources of both woodland and marsh to develop naturally (fig. 54, "Supplemental Illustrations"). A comprehensive discussion of the island's state in

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 62

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

the early 1960s is given in the report written by Lindsey Kay Thomas, Jr., *Geomorphology and Vegetation of Theodore Roosevelt*.¹⁷⁶ The most significant act of human intervention has been an active program of attempting to control the spread of English ivy (*Hedera helix*). Ivy was retained at the Mason house site but new plants were added in the 1960s as part of the landscaping for the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial (almost 5000 English ivy plants were called for on plans). In many areas today, ivy is preventing young hardwood trees (other than such understory trees as sassafras) from growing beneath older trees.

In the 1970s, and perhaps in earlier years, a maintenance person was assigned to the island year round, responsible for the upkeep of the monument and the trails. In addition, a number of seasonal park rangers were formerly assigned to conduct interpretive programs on the island, which was designated an Environmental Study Area. Since the 1970s, at least, no changes or additions have been made to the vegetation of the woodland. Since it was filled in, the Mason house site has received no special treatment. Plantings around the monument have occasionally been replaced. A tree crew routinely "limbs up" trees, particularly the willow oaks circling the memorial, which were intentionally planted too close together to give a dense effect for the monument's dedication in 1967.

The main trails on the island are original, while the social trails have developed over time. Park maintenance staff formerly brought in dirt and sand to maintain the trails. With a recent decrease in funds and staffing throughout the GWMP, staff currently responds only to problems, for example, adding material to muddy areas in trails. Some trails have become wider in areas because of people walking around patches of mud. The parking lot was rebuilt in 1993/94 as part of road improvements performed on the parkway. The Little River is not dredged since it is not a main channel; there is little or no dredging of the Georgetown channel, either, as it is not necessary for modern boat access.

Construction of the new boardwalk through the swamp was begun by the Youth Conservation Corps in 1996; the work, however, proved too difficult for them. A major flood in January 1997 damaged the 100 feet or which had been completed. Roosevelt Island received flood damage money and a staff architect designed the current boardwalk, which was completed in 1998. The boardwalk, made of recycled plastic, follows the same alignment as the previous trail, except for the addition of the spur or overlook extending into the marsh, and the wider areas where benches are situated, which reflect the widening of the original trail made by visitors walking around mud. The original wooden A-frame ranger station had been built by the early 1970s, though it later burned; the current one was built sometime after 1986, following the same design. A larger wooden shed was built just northeast of the memorial, probably in the 1980s, to provide storage for equipment and supplies.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 63

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

Endnotes

¹ For more information on Native American occupation, see Paul B. Cissna, "Historical and Archeological Study of the George Washington Memorial Parkway, Arlington County, Virginia" (Occasional Report #4, Regional Archeology Program, NPS, NCR, Washington, D.C., 1990): p. 28, and Stephen Potter, *Commoners, Tribute, and Chiefs: The Development of Algonquian Culture in the Potomac Valley* (Charlottesville, Virginia: University Press of Virginia, 1993).

² The Swiss Baron Christopher Graffenreid journeyed through the Potomac River valley, searching for a place to establish a colony of German refugees from the Palatinate. He explored a site, Saw Pit Landing, along Rock Creek (Mathilde D. Williams, in "Georgetown, 1621-1951: A Brief Outline of Its History" [Peabody Library Association of Georgetown, 1951, p. 1] gives the date 1711). See also Curry, "Theodore Roosevelt Island," p. 18, and U.S. Commission of Fine Arts & National Park Service, *Georgetown Historic Waterfront, Washington, D.C.* (1968): 8-9.

³ Cissna, "Historical and Archeological Study of the GWMP," p. 29.

⁴ Nan and Ross Netherton, *Arlington County in Virginia: A Pictorial History* (Norfolk, Virginia: Donning Co., 1987): p. 12.

⁵ See Potter, *Commoners, Tribute, and Chiefs*, pp.174-198; Cissna, "Historical and Archeological Study of the GWMP," pp. 31ff.

⁶ Cissna, "Historical and Archeological Study of the GWMP," pp. 32-34.

⁷ On Brandt, see Somerville, "General John Mason of Analostan Island," p. 3, and "The Rambler's Third Article on Early History of Analostan Island," *Washington Star* 6 February 1921.

⁸ Mollie Somerville, "General John Mason of Analostan Island," *Iron Worker* (Spring 1962): 1.

⁹ Netherton, "Delicate Beauty," pp. 22-23, quotes George Mason's will. He also left John Mason about 2000 more acres in Virginia between Accotink and Difficult Runs.

¹⁰ Frederick Gutheim, *The Potomac* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1986 [1949, 1977]): 6.

¹¹ Spratt, "Ferries," p. 183.

¹² West's ferry ran to Alexandria and Naylor's ferry carried a road running south from Georgetown over the Anacostia River, while Mason's Ferry provided the shortest and most direct link between Georgetown and Virginia; Spratt, "Ferries," pp. 183ff.

¹³ Spratt, "Ferries," p. 184, and Netherton, "Delicate Beauty," p. 20.

¹⁴ A structure labeled "old pile & sheeting" is depicted crossing the southern end of the Little River channel on a map, "Potomac River, Analostan Island, Survey of March 1932," NPS map #80003; it may also appear on "Theodore Roosevelt Island, Coast and Geodetic Survey, 1929" (reproduced as Fig. 20 in Lindsey Kay Thomas, Jr., *Geomorphology and Vegetation of Theodore Roosevelt Island*, Scientific Report No. 2, November 19, 1963, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, National Park Service, National Capital Region). No further information is known. The author has seen no evidence of this dam, and has not come across any written reference to it.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 64

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

¹⁵ Somerville, "General John Mason," p. 3.

¹⁶ For articles on John Mason, see note 4 in the Description section. The library at Gunston Hall maintains 20 vertical files on John Mason, most containing copies of articles and archival material held in other collections; subjects include biographical material, business and agricultural interests, real estate and legal transactions, and his will and the inventory of his estate. The files also include an unpublished student manuscript from George Mason University: Margaret J. Ventrudo, "John Mason's Financial and Commercial Speculation in the District of Columbia: A Search for Pearls in an Urban Oyster," George Mason University, Department of History, and Gunston Hall, March 1994.

¹⁷ Somerville, "General John Mason," p. 4.

¹⁸ John Mason also inherited about 4000 more acres, including almost 2000 along the Virginia shore, within the borders of the federal district, extending north from Four Mile Run toward Great Falls. George Mason's will was written in March 1773. See the Rambler column in the *Washington Star* for January 30, 1921 ("The Rambler Takes Up the History of Old Land Grants Around Washington"), Somerville, "General John Mason," p. 3, and Netherton, "Delicate Beauty," pp. 22-23.

¹⁹ Somerville, "General John Mason of Analostan Island," p. 5.

²⁰ Curry, "Theodore Roosevelt Island," p. 16.

²¹ Pamela Scott and Antoinette J. Lee, *Buildings of the District of Columbia* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1993): 20.

²² Curry, "Theodore Roosevelt Island," p. 20.

²³ See, in particular, Webb, "John Mason of Analostan Island," pp. 28ff; Netherton, "Delicate Beauty," pp. 27ff; Somerville, "General John Mason of Analostan Island," p. 8.

²⁴ Enacting legislation for South Haven (later called "West Haven") was passed in 1798. The city of Rosslyn, built on this site, did not begin to develop until after the Civil War. See Webb, "John Mason of Analostan Island," pp. 21, 28; also "The Rambler Writes Second Article of His History of Analostan Island," *Washington Star*, February 6, 1921.

²⁵ Reference to this fishery is made in Joseph Martin, *A Comprehensive Description of Virginia and the District of Columbia* (Richmond: J.W. Randolph, 1835). Cissna discusses the remnants of the mill and quarry; Cissna, "Historical and Archeological Study of the GWMP," pp. 21ff.

²⁶ Anne Newport Royall, *The Black Book: Or a Continuation of Travels in the United States*, Vol. I (Washington, D.C., 1828): p. 272, Somerville, "General John Mason of Analostan Island," p. 3, and Netherton, "Delicate Beauty," p. 28.

One of Mason's sons was James Murray Mason (1798-1871), a U.S. Senator and diplomat for the Confederacy who drafted the Fugitive Slave Act (1850) and became involved in the notorious Trent Affair (1861-1862).

²⁷ See "The Rambler's Third Article on Early History of Analostan Island," *Washington Star*, 6 February 1921; Netherton, "Delicate Beauty," p. 38; and Webb, "John Mason of Analostan Island," pp. 32-33.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 65

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

²⁸ For a history of Clermont, see Edith M. Sprouse, "Clermont: The Rest of the Story, Part 1," *The Fireside Sentinel*, Alexandria Library, Lloyd House Newsletter 3 (September 1989): 97-106, and Sprouse, "Clermont: the Rest of the Story, Part 2," *Fireside Sentinel* (October 1989): 109-117.

²⁹ Webb, "John Mason of Analostan Island," pp. 33-34.

³⁰ See Webb, "John Mason of Analostan Island," pp. 24-25. Webb gives the dates the ad ran in the paper as January 16, 19, 23, and February 2, 6, 9, and 16 of 1793.

³¹ See Samuel Davidson Papers, Ledger B, Library of Congress (copy in file "Accounts, Orders," John Mason collection, Gunston Hall), which states: "John Mason, 1793, Oct. 22 -- To Brick Making for 54,800 Bricks -- delivered you being the whole of the 7th Kiln 35"; and Martin Cockburn Account & Ledger Book, 1767-1806, Library of Congress -- Microfilm (copy in file "Accounts, Orders," John Mason collection, Gunston Hall): "February 20, 1794, by John Mason, paid him in full this day for a box of glass, ref. Aug. 2, 1793, to John Mason for 1 box of glass from Amesland and Lakes [sp] -- consisting of 12 panes 12 x 16 1/2 at 3/9.451, 12 by 15 at 20/3 ? 3.5.3, Mary P -- circ off 25 -- 2.12.1/2."

³² A lithograph, "Georgetown and the Federal City, or City of Washington," was made by J. Cartwright about 1800 after a painting by George Jacob Beck, c. 1795; see John W. Reys, *Washington on View: The Nation's Capital Since 1790* (Chapel Hill, North Carolina: University of North Carolina Press, 1991): 64.

³³ Hadfield is given as the "probable architect" of the Mason house in *Measured Drawings of Georgian Architecture in the District of Columbia, 1750-1820*, by H.F. Cunningham, J.A. Younger, & J. Wilmer Smith (New York: Architectural Book Publishing Co., 1914), which includes plans and elevations in plates 58-61. Stuart Barnette, the HABS architect, compared his measurements and analyses against the drawings in *Measured Drawings of Georgian Architecture*, and noted some mistakes in the book.

For information on Hadfield, Thornton, and other early architects practicing in Washington, see Scott and Lee, *Buildings of the District of Columbia*, p. 23-24ff. The author contacted Julia King, an architectural historian currently completing a dissertation on George Hadfield for a doctorate from the University of London. In several phone conversations, and a site visit to the island in May 1999, King generously shared her knowledge about Hadfield's professional interests and personal contacts.

³⁴ Information from Julia King.

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ The plantation is described as "entirely self-sufficient" in Nan Netherton, et.al., *Fairfax County, Virginia: A History* (Fairfax, Virginia: Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, 1992): 165.

³⁷ See the discussion in Netherton, "Delicate Beauty," pp. 25ff, and John Davis, *Travels of Four Years and a Half in the U.S. of North America, 1798, 1797, 1801 and 1802...* (1909): 337-339. Architect Robert Mills recorded his impressions in a diary entry written in 1803; see Henning Cohen, ed., "An Unpublished Diary by Robert Mills, 1803," *The South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine* 51 (October 1950): 187-194. David Baillie Warden, A

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 66

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

Chorographical and Statistical Description of the District of Columbia (Paris, 1816): 134-150, an account of a visit he made to the island in 1811. Journalist Anne Newport Royall included her description of a visit in *The Black Book: Or a Continuation of Travels in the United States*, Vol. I (Washington, D.C., 1828): pp. 272-274.

³⁸ Somerville, "General John Mason of Analostan Island," p. 4, and see note 77 in Description section, above.

³⁹ John Mason described his father's estate in "Letter Written in 1832 by George Mason's Son, John, Describing Gunston Hall in His Father's Time," a transcript of which is in the John Mason files at Gunston Hall; a note on this says it was taken from Kate Mason Rowland's *Life and Correspondence of George Mason* (1960): 98 (the book is cited in George Mason Bibliography produced by Gunston Hall and posted on their web page as Kate Mason Rowland, *The Life of George Mason, 1725-1792*, 2 vols, New York: Putnam's, 1892).

⁴⁰ Groups promoting agricultural improvement had been organized in Williamsburg as early as 1773, later in Alexandria, Fairfax County, and Loudon County (Netherton et.al., *Fairfax County*, p. 167). Curry notes that a letter promoting the Society, circulated in 1809, requested that replies be sent to John Mason; Mason was a member of the standing committee in both 1810 and 1811 (Curry, "Theodore Roosevelt Island," pp. 20-21).

⁴¹ Warden, *A Chorographical and Statistical Description*, pp. 141-144.

⁴² Warden published a chart listing the Merino sheep Mason raised on the island in 1810-1812. Mason's wife also won prizes for her woven cotton and linen. See *The Agricultural Museum*, I, p. 12, and Murray H. Nelligan, "'Old Arlington': The Story of the Lee Mansion National Memorial" (U.S. Dept. of the Interior, National Park Service, National Capital Parks, 1954, CRBIB #001086): 95. Curry refers to the Merino sheep "craze" and says Mason wanted to "also encourage the increase of factories to weave the wool," citing P.W. Bidwell & J.I. Falconer, *History of Agriculture in the Northern United States 1620-1860* (Washington, D.C., 1925): 217-220; see Curry, "Theodore Roosevelt Island," p. 21.

⁴³ See A.J. Morrison, "The Gardener of Williamsburg," *William & Mary Quarterly* 25 (January 1917): 166-167. The *American Gardener*, published in Washington in 1804 and including a "certificate" from John Mason, was a pocket-size volume containing month-by-month descriptions of kitchen and flower gardens, orchards, nurseries, and so forth. Mason contributed an introduction to the second "much enlarged" edition of 1818. See also "Gardens and Gardening in Early Maryland," *Maryland Historical Magazine* 45 (December 1950): 264-267; and Mary E. Curry, "Agricultural Activities on Analostan Island, 1796-1852," a paper prepared for the Smithsonian's American Studies Program, 3 June 1970; copy in file "Analostan Island, Agricultural Activities" in the Peabody Room (Georgetown Collection) of the Georgetown Branch of the D.C. Public Library.

⁴⁴ See "The Rambler Traces the History of Analostan Island From Early Days," *Washington Star* 6 March 1921, and Curry, "Theodore Roosevelt Island," p. 23.

⁴⁵ "The Rambler Reviews an Old Story About Analostan and Its People," *Washington Star* 13 February 1921.

⁴⁶ Netherton, "Delicate Beauty," p. 40.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 67

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

⁴⁷ The footprint of this structure is visible on the Boschke map of 1856-59: Albert Boschke, "Topographical Map of the District of Columbia, Surveyed in the Years 1856-59," 1861 (Geography and Maps Division, Library of Congress).

⁴⁸ Curry, "Theodore Roosevelt Island," p. 25.

⁴⁹ *National Intelligencer* 5 August 1859, p. 3.

⁵⁰ Cissna provides a thorough discussion of the military use and occupation of Northern Virginia; Cissna, "Historical and Archeological Study of the GWMP," pp. 46ff. Also see Netherton, "Delicate Beauty," Chapter 5.

⁵¹ See James M. McPherson, *The Negro's Civil War* (New York: Ballantine, 1991 [1965]): p. 113.

⁵² Ira Berlin et al., *Slaves No More: Three Essays on Emancipation and the Civil War* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1992): 158-159.

⁵³ See also Benjamin Quarles's classic *The Negro in the Civil War* (Boston: Little, Brown, 1953): 184. Quarles gives a limited amount of background information on the first USCT on pp. 175ff. See also Joseph T. Glatthaar, *Forged in Battle: The Civil War Alliance of Black Soldiers and White Officers* (New York: Free Press, 1990): 103; in Chapter 6, "Training and Discipline," pp. 99-120, Glatthaar gives general information on the attitudes of whites toward the training, discipline, and punishment of black soldiers.

⁵⁴ Some very general information on the formation of the first USCT can be found in the copy of notes for a talk, "U.S.C.T.," produced by the NPS with no author or date recorded; copy in Ranger Resource file, "Colored Troops, U.S., Theodore Roosevelt Resource File," GWMP headquarters, Turkey Run.

⁵⁵ McPherson, in *The Negro's Civil War*, p. 180, cites a couple of anecdotes from taken Margaret Leech, *Reveille in Washington, 1860-1865* (New York: 1941): 253.

⁵⁶ See the plat titled "Contraband Quarters, Mason's Island" (undated, c. 1865; NARA II, College Park, Maryland, Cartographic Division, RG 92-MP1, seq. A -- Map 24), which gives a detailed plan of the camp, including names, locations, and dimensions of structures, including the Mason buildings adapted for Army use.

Also see Richard A. Cotner, "A Partial Chronology of Theodore Roosevelt Island," prepared for an American Studies class given by or in association with the Smithsonian Institution May 1970). Cotner lists the buildings which stood on the island on 29 June 1865, the date it was returned to Bradley, including 8 barracks, two hospitals, one very large icehouse (140' x 26' x 12'), etc. Copies of the chronology are in the Netherton files, GWMP headquarters, Turkey Run, in the notebook labeled "Theodore Roosevelt Island." Cotner lists his source only as "Military Files."

⁵⁷ See Frederick H. Dyer, *A Compendium of the War of the Rebellion* (Dayton, Ohio: Press of Morningside Bookshop, 1908), which gives a concise history of the regiment on p. 1723. See also *War of the Rebellion: Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies* (Washington: GPO, 1901), particularly Series I.

⁵⁸ In the spring of 1863, Bradley's tenant lost his lease. Bradley tried to rent the island again while, at the same time, attempting trying to get back rent and payment for damages from the federal government. See Curry, "Theodore Roosevelt Island," p. 26.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 68

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

⁵⁹ See *Washington Star* 13 & 18 August 1865, *Harper's Weekly* (7 October 1865), and Netherton, "Delicate Beauty," chapter 6.

⁶⁰ "The Rambler Writes of Early Crops Grown on Gen. Mason's Analostan Island," *Washington Star*, March 27, 1921; also Duhamel, "Analostan Island," p. 145.

⁶¹ On records, Duhamel, "Analostan Island," p. 145; on the dash, Parke Arnold, "The Last Frontier," *American Motorist* (March 1932): 27.

⁶² Information on Theodore Roosevelt is adapted from Kathryn (Kay) Fanning, Ph.D., "American Temples: Presidential Memorials of the American Renaissance" (dissertation, University of Virginia, 1996): chapter 5. Several excellent biographies have recently been published, including Nathan Miller, *Theodore Roosevelt: A Life* (New York: Morrow, 1992) and Edmund Morris, *The Rise of Theodore Roosevelt* (New York: Ballantine, 1980 [1979]).

⁶³ Miller, *Theodore Roosevelt*, pp. 356-357.

⁶⁴ Information on TR and conservation from Irston R. Barnes, "T.R.'s Island Has Two Purposes," *Washington Post* 2 August 1958; "Documentary Chronology of Selected Events in the Development of the American Conservation Movement, 1847-1920," Conservation homepage, American Memory, Library of Congress webpage; Netherton, "Delicate Beauty," chapter 8; and Tweed Roosevelt, "Theodore Roosevelt: A Brief Biography," Theodore Roosevelt Association webpage.

⁶⁵ Alan Havig, "Presidential Images, History, and Homage: Memorializing Theodore Roosevelt," *American Quarterly* 30 (1978): 516.

⁶⁶ On Hagedorn, see the article by John A. Gable, "'He Loved the Soaring Spirit of Man': The Life and Work of Hermann Hagedorn," *Theodore Roosevelt Association Journal* 3 (Fall 1977, 9-13), a copy of which is in the Netherton files at GWMP headquarters, Turkey Run.

⁶⁷ Havig, "Memorializing Theodore Roosevelt," p. 516.

⁶⁸ Havig, "Memorializing Theodore Roosevelt," pp. 518-520.

⁶⁹ See Havig, "Memorializing Theodore Roosevelt"; also Minutes of the Commission of Fine Arts, CFA Archives and NARA RG #79.

⁷⁰ See John A. Gable, *Theodore Roosevelt and the American Museum of Natural History* (New York: c. 1982); State of New York, *Report and Recommendations of the Roosevelt Memorial Commission* (1925); *New York State Theodore Roosevelt Memorial* (1925ff), Archives of the American Museum of Natural History; "New York State Theodore Roosevelt Memorial," *Architectural Record* 58 (August 1925): 190-193; and "New York State Roosevelt Memorial; Design Winning the Competition for the Selection of an Architect" *Pencil Points* 18 (November 1937): 681-714.

⁷¹ John W. Reps, *Monumental Washington: The Planning and Development of the Capital Center* (Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1967): 66-69 and Reps, *Washington on View*, pp. 208-209, 228-229, & 238-239.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 69

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

⁷² Reys, *Monumental Washington*, pp. 176-177, and Charles Moore, *The Improvement of the Park System of the District of Columbia* (Washington, D.C., 1902).

⁷³ Havig, "Memorializing Theodore Roosevelt," p. 522 and note 14.

⁷⁴ Stanley Appelbaum, *The Chicago World's Fair of 1893: A Photographic Record* (New York: Dover, 1980): pp. 15, 21.

⁷⁵ Havig, "Memorializing Theodore Roosevelt," p. 522.

⁷⁶ Havig, "Memorializing Theodore Roosevelt," p. 522.

⁷⁷ Havig, "Memorializing Theodore Roosevelt," pp. 517-518, 521-522.

⁷⁸ "Developing Island Fits River Plans," *Washington Star* 27 June 1930, and "U.S. Moves to Buy Analostan Island," *Washington Star* 13 April 1927.

⁷⁹ At the time, the Gas Light Co. was rumored to have turned down an offer of \$350,000 from the RMA; "U.S. Acts to Buy Analostan Island," *Washington Star* 27 February 1931. See also "Way Cleared for Memorial to Roosevelt," *Washington Herald* 10 September 1931; "Analostan Island Purchase Closed," *Washington Star* 14 October 1931; and "Analostan Island Is Now U.S. Property," *Washington Daily News* 28 October 1931.

The transfer plans, however, faced difficulties; special legislation was necessary to enable the government to accept the island with this restriction, to allow the TRMA to build a memorial on the new site. See "Analostan Island Plan Faces Snag," *Washington Star* [?] 28 October 1931.

⁸⁰ "House Approves Analostan Plan," *Washington Star* 16 May 1932.

⁸¹ *Ibid.*

⁸² "Hoover Accepts Analostan Deed," *Washington Star* 13 December 1932. See also "Analostan Island, Named Roosevelt, Accepted by U.S.," *Washington Post*

12 December 1932 (no source or date given; from file "Theodore Roosevelt Island, 1900-1949," District of Columbia Public Library, Martin Luther King, Jr., Branch, Washingtoniana Collection).

⁸³ *Ibid.*

⁸⁴ "Roosevelt Park Bill Is Approved" (no source or date listed on photocopy; from file "Theodore Roosevelt Island, 1900-1949," District of Columbia Public Library, Martin Luther King, Jr., Branch, Washingtoniana Collection).

⁸⁵ *Ibid.*

⁸⁶ "Analostan's Sale for Memorial Is Reported Pending," *Washington Star*

10 September 1931; "Roosevelt Stadium Plan Is Abandoned," *Washington Daily News* 5 October 1931. See also "Deal for Potomac Island Expected to Be Ended Soon," *Washington Star* 5 October 1931.

In the late 1920s, the Washington Board of Trade had begun promoting the idea of developing a 100,000-seat coliseum at the eastern end of East Capitol Street on the banks of the Anacostia River. A stadium there would have served as a new eastern entrance to the city while forming a counterpart to the Lincoln Memorial at the opposite end of the Capitol axis. The Board of Trade hoped that the TRMA would agree to have the stadium, which would possess

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 70

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

“utilitarian” value, designated the national memorial to Roosevelt in place of the huge memorial fountain on Tidal Basin (“Plan of Coliseum in Roosevelt Fund Project Is Started,” *Washington Star* 4 December 1929).

⁸⁷ Ibid.

⁸⁸ “The Roosevelt Memorial,” editorial, *Washington Star* 17 October 1931. See also “Developing Island Fits River Plans,” *Washington Star* 27 June 1930; “Way Cleared for Memorial to Roosevelt,” *Washington Herald* 10 September 1931; and “Deal for Potomac Island Expected to Be Ended Soon,” *Washington Star* 5 October 1931.

⁸⁹ See “Condemnation Suit on Island Held Up,” *Washington Star* 28 September 1931, and “Analostan Island Purchase Closed,” *Washington Star* 14 October 1931.

⁹⁰ “Analostan Island Studies Will Be Started Shortly,” *Washington Star* 23 May 1932.

⁹¹ Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Association, a resolution giving approval of Olmsted plan for Theodore Roosevelt Island (no title or date on microfilmed manuscript; c. mid-1940s); Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, LC.

⁹² Ibid.

⁹³ See A.E. Demaray, Associate Director, NPS, to Gen. Frank R. McCoy, Vice President, Roosevelt Memorial Association, letter (22 August 1945); Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, LC.

⁹⁴ Information adapted from Charles E. Beveridge and Paul Rocheleau, *Frederick Law Olmsted: Designing the American Landscape* (New York: Rizzoli, 1995)

⁹⁵ Charles W. Eliot, National Capital Park and Planning Commission, to John Russell Pope, letter, “Subject: Data concerning Analostan Island” (24 October 1929); Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, LC.

⁹⁶ Hubbard (1875-1947) was a leading figure in the development of the American tradition in naturalistic landscape architecture. With Theodora Kimball, he wrote the first major American textbook on landscape architecture, *An Introduction to the Study of Landscape Design* (New York: MacMillan, 1917), used by generations of students, which explored the principles of naturalistic design. Hubbard played an important role in the design of Roosevelt Island which deserves further exploration.

⁹⁷ Olmsted to Hagedorn, letter (26 October 1933); Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, LC.

⁹⁸ Olmsted Brothers to Gisela Westhoff, Assistant Secretary, TRMA, letter (26 October 1932); Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, LC.

⁹⁹ Hubbard for Olmsted Brothers, “Roosevelt Island: Notes on Certain Considerations Affecting the Design” (22 December 1932); Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, LC.

¹⁰⁰ Ibid.

¹⁰¹ Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., “Draft of Preliminary Report Upon a Plan for the Permanent Development of Roosevelt Island” (16 May 1934): 1-2; Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, LC.

¹⁰² Ibid, p. 2.

¹⁰³ Arno B. Cammerer to Olmsted, letter (22 January 1934); Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, LC.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 71

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

¹⁰⁴ For example, in an area he referred to as “D,” Olmsted called attention to a “large yellow chestnut oak” which he said should be given careful attention; see Olmsted Brothers, “Roosevelt Memorial Island: Notes to Accompany Plan No. 7” [*sic*] (29 May 1935); Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, LC.

¹⁰⁵ The microfilmed Olmsted papers at the Library of Congress contain outlines of projected work for the CCC developed by Olmsted Brothers, but there are no corresponding reports on completed work; it has been assumed that the outlined work was, in fact, completed.

Work was suspended for a while in late summer or early fall 1934, but resumed by mid-November, and for the 1935 season began in February. Men from Olmsted Brothers paid site visits and reported on the progress of the work. See Hans Koehler, “Roosevelt Memorial Island: Report of visits Nov. 14, 15, 1934,” and Koehler to C. Marshall Finnan [Superintendent of National Capital Parks], letter (13 February 1935); Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, LC.

Hans Koehler seems to have been Olmsted Brothers’ primary supervising landscape architect for TRI in the 1930s. He was known within the firm for his horticultural expertise, especially concerning trees. A Mr. Prellwitz also submitted occasional reports. A Mr. Fahey was the supervising landscape architect for the National Park Service, and a Mr. Arthur was foreman of the CCC supervising the clearing work; he may have replaced an earlier foreman.

¹⁰⁶ Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., to Arno B. Cammerer, Director, Office of National Parks, Buildings and Reservations, letter (17 January 1934); Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, LC.

¹⁰⁷ Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., “Roosevelt Island: Report of Visit” (5 June 1934); Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, LC.

¹⁰⁸ Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., “Roosevelt Island: Memorandum for Mr. Fahey” (11 June 1934); Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, LC.

¹⁰⁹ Ibid.

¹¹⁰ Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., “Theodore Roosevelt Island: Outline of projected improvement work by the C.C.C. for the period ending March 31, 1936, in pursuance of the general plan set forth in the report of May, 1934” (15 June 1935): 1; Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, LC.

¹¹¹ Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., “Report to the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Association on the Design and Progress of Work on Theodore Roosevelt Island, Washington, D.C.” (24 October 1935): 2; Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, LC. This document refers to Olmsted, “Outline of Projected Improvement Work,” 15 June 1935, and Olmsted, “Report of May 1934” and Report of 15 June 1935 (“a detailed application of Report of May 1934”) with its accompanying diagrammatic plan, 2843 AI – 607.

¹¹² Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., to H.A. Hubler, letter (29 October 1936); Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, LC.

¹¹³ Olmsted, “Report to the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Association on the Design and Progress of Work” (24 October 1935): p. 2.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 72

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

¹¹⁴ Olmsted, "Theodore Roosevelt Island: Outline of projected improvement work by the C.C.C. for the period ending March 31, 1936" (15 June 1935): p. 1.

¹¹⁵ Writing to Olmsted in April 1935, Hagedorn of the TRMA expressed his worries about the "agitation" of "certain Colonial daughters" who wanted to preserve the Mason house ruins, and his belief that there was a "danger of real interference with our plans... unless the ruins are quietly demolished soon." Arthur of the CCC and Finnan [Superintendent of National Capital Parks], he said, agreed with him. Hagedorn recommended the ruins be demolished over the summer "when the Colonial ladies are on vacation and Congress is not in session. Or the work might quietly be done now." He requested authority for this action from Olmsted. See Hagedorn to Olmsted, letter (15 April 1935); Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, LC.

¹¹⁶ Daniel Cox Fahey, Jr., landscape architect, to Olmsted Brothers, letter (6 February 1936); Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, LC.

¹¹⁷ Ibid.

¹¹⁸ These included conducting an exploratory project; using the exploration methods employed at Jamestown Island; making an appropriate disposition of the area; and, after their removal, erecting a marker giving the history and appearance of house. Stuart Barnette and C.F. Northington, Jr., to Verne Chatelain, memo (19 March 1936); Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, LC.

¹¹⁹ Ibid. Barnette and Northington also erroneously noted that "peculiar to the District of Columbia, buildings of this character are often referred to as the Federal Style."

¹²⁰ See report on removal of ruins written for NPS by R.A. Devlin in 1942: "all artifacts and other pertinent material uncovered as a result of the archeological survey were placed in a concrete vault in the basement prior to grading over the foundation," cited in Table III.7., "Chronological Listing of Work Done at GWMP," in Barbara J. Little, "National Capital Area: Archeological Overview and Survey Plan"(Occasional Report No. 13, Archeology Program, National Park Service, National Capital Region, Washington, D.C., 1995). See also reference to burying of artifacts in letter from Stuart Barnette, Architect, to Mary Curry, 20 May 1972 (in Nan Netherton files, GWMP Headquarters, Turkey Run; this is contained in a green looseleaf binder titled "Theodore Roosevelt Island").

¹²¹ Hans Koehler, "Roosevelt Island: Report of visit, June 17-18, 1936"; Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, LC.

¹²² Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., "Theodore Roosevelt Island: Report of Visit November 30th to December 3rd, 1936, by Mr. Olmsted," p.1; Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, LC.

¹²³ Ibid, pp. 1-2.

¹²⁴ Ibid. p. 2.

¹²⁵ Ibid, p. 2.

¹²⁶ Views were designated by the letters U (views out from island) and V (views on island) on "Roosevelt Memorial Island: Notes to Accompany Plan No. ?" [sic] 29 May 1935); Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, LC.

¹²⁷ Olmsted Brothers to Gen. Frank R. McCoy, letter (3 June 1947); Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, LC.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 73

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

¹²⁸ Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., to John Russell Pope, letter (23 June 1935); Olmsted to Hermann Hagedorn, Secretary, Roosevelt Memorial Association, letter (5 May 1932); and Hubbard for Olmsted Brothers., "Roosevelt Island: Notes on Certain Considerations Affecting the Design" (22 December 1932); all in Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, LC.

¹²⁹ Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., to Hermann Hagedorn, letter (26 October 1938); Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, LC.

¹³⁰ These included the pedestrian causeway at the north, water mains, the picnic shelter and restroom at the north end, the overlook at the south, and a parking lot on the Virginia shore. The projected cost was about \$100,000. See Irving C. Root, Superintendent, National Capital Parks, to Hermann Hagedorn, letter (20 June 1941); Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, LC. See also discussion of potential funding sources in Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., "Theodore Roosevelt Island: Visit by F.L. Olmsted of [sic] conference in Washington with Kline of Park Service" (8 May 1941) and Olmsted to Hermann Hagedorn, letter (19 June 1941); Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, LC.

¹³¹ Olmsted to Hagedorn, letter (19 June 1941); Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, LC.

¹³² Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., "Theodore Roosevelt Island: Memorandum Report of Visit by F.L. Olmsted, June 4, 1943," p. 1; Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, LC.

¹³³ Henry Hubbard to Harry Thompson, letter (13 July 1945); Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, LC.

¹³⁴ National Capital Parks (Irving Root?) to Henry Hubbard, letter (20 July 1945); Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, LC.

¹³⁵ Hubbard to Thompson, letter (3 July 1945).

¹³⁶ Hermann Hagedorn to Henry Hubbard, letter (5 November 1945); Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, LC.

¹³⁷ Charles Wait submitted plans and specifications throughout 1946, and most of the complete specifications in January and February 1947. Copies on microfilm are in Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, LC. See also Henry Hubbard to Gen. U.S. Grant III, letter (7 May 1947); Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, LC.

¹³⁸ Henry Hubbard to Gen. U.S. Grant III, letter (6 July 1945); Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, LC.

¹³⁹ Ibid.

¹⁴⁰ Gen. Frank R. McCoy to Newton B. Drury, Director, National Park Service, letter (14 July 1947); Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, LC.

¹⁴¹ A.E. Demaray, Acting Director, NPS, to Gen. Frank R. McCoy, letter (5 August 1947); Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, LC.

¹⁴² Hermann Hagedorn to Olmsted Brothers, letter (17 January 1951); Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, LC.

¹⁴³ The artist was Richmond K. Fletcher.

¹⁴⁴ Harry T. Thompson to Carl Rust Parker, letter (29 June 1954); Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, LC. See also Thompson's cover letter to Hermann Hagedorn of 10 November 1954, regarding enclosed specifications (dated 29

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 74

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

October) for the comfort station, sewage and water systems, and electrical conduit, drawings numbered NCP 8.1-3-1 through 6; Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, LC. Bids were to be opened 23 November.

¹⁴⁵ Thompson to Carl Rust Parker, letter (7 December 1954); Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, LC.

¹⁴⁶ Ibid.

¹⁴⁷ James G. Deane, "Choice of Bridge Site Runs Afoul Roosevelt Island Restrictions," *Washington Star* 13 February 1952. Earlier plans envisioned connecting the bridge to an "inner loop" highway which would have passed right through downtown Washington.

¹⁴⁸ "Roosevelt Island Row Brews: 'There Is No Place Like It in the East.,'" *Washington Daily News* 7 February 1952.

¹⁴⁹ Deane, "Choice of Bridge Site."

¹⁵⁰ Roosevelt Memorial Association (title page not filmed; publication on RMA's intent for island, urging rejection of bridge proposal and completion of memorial development, c. 1951 or 1952); Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, LC.

¹⁵¹ "Roosevelt Island Clear as Bridge Site," *Washington Post* 14 July 1953, and "Congress Can Authorize Span, Interior Rules," *Washington Star* 8 August 1953. The solicitor, however, said the bridge would be "inconsistent" with the park's use. See also "Roosevelt Island Clear as Bridge Site," *Washington Post* 14 July 1953.

¹⁵² See the illustration in Robert C. Albrook, "Roosevelt Island Trustees Reopen Bridge Site Question," *Washington Post* 9 July 1955.

¹⁵³ Robert C. Albrook, "Case Urges Final Parley on Island Link to Span," *Washington Post* 26 June 1955.

¹⁵⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵⁵ Albrook, "Roosevelt Island Trustees Reopen Bridge Site Question"; see also George Beveridge, "Trustees Okay Bridge Over Roosevelt Island," *Washington Star* 8 July 1955, and "Concession to Beauty," *Washington Post* 9 July 1955.

¹⁵⁶ Beveridge, "Trustees Okay Bridge."

¹⁵⁷ Albrook, "Roosevelt Island Trustees Reopen Bridge Site Question." The NPS favored a bridge which would run due west off Constitution Avenue and pass between Roosevelt and South Islands before curving south to the Virginia shore, joining it just north of Columbia Island.

¹⁵⁸ Albrook, "Roosevelt Island Trustees Reopen Bridge Site Question."

¹⁵⁹ "On Breaking a Promise," editorial, *Washington Post* 24 July 1953. Other editorials include "E Street Bridge and Roosevelt Island," *Washington Star* 28 July 1953, and "Decide It on the Facts," editorial, *Washington Star* 10 August 1953.

¹⁶⁰ Robert C. Albrook, "Roosevelt Island Span Plan Killed," *Washington Post* 22 June 1955.

National Capital Parks favored the proposal of a tunnel, since if a bridge were to be built at the end of Constitution Avenue, said Harry T. Thompson, associate superintendent of National Capital Parks, it would be like

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 75

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

“throwing a sheet over your eyes.” The tunnel idea, however, was rejected by the Budget Bureau (“Revision Seen in Plans for Island Retreat,” *Washington Star* 24 June 1955).

¹⁶¹ Beveridge, “Island Trustees Back Span Plan.”

¹⁶² Marilyn Houston, “Theodore Roosevelt Island... A Quiet Refuge in the Potomac Becomes a Storm Center,” *The Georgetown* 11 August 1960.

¹⁶³ Information in this section is adapted from Fanning, “American Temples,” “Introduction.”

¹⁶⁴ Netherton, “Delicate Beauty,” pp. 86-87.

¹⁶⁵ Manship had already designed an armillary sphere as a memorial to Woodrow Wilson, erected at the Hague.

¹⁶⁶ See George Beveridge, “Memorial Area Planned for Roosevelt Island,” *Washington Star* 2 March 1956.

¹⁶⁷ Jean White, “The Dream,” *Washington Post* 9 August 1957; Irston R. Barnes, “Bill Threatens Memory of T.R.,” *Washington Post* 24 July 1960.

¹⁶⁸ “TR in a Cage?” editorial, *Washington Post* 8 July 1960; “Apply the Big Stick,” editorial, *Washington Post* 8 August 1960; and “Is This Memorial Really Necessary?” *Washington Post* 11 August 1960 (editorial reprinted from *Richmond Times-Dispatch*).

¹⁶⁹ “Squashing the Sphere,” editorial, *Washington Post* 21 August 1960. On Alice’s reaction, see also Carole H.

Bowie, “Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Plans Would Desecrate Anyone’s Memory, Daughter Says,” *Washington Post* 19 August 1960,

“It’s Utter Folly,” *Washington Daily News*, 19 August 1960, and “Leave It to Alice!” editorial, *Washington Daily News*, 20 August 1960.

¹⁷⁰ There were three surviving Roosevelt children: Alice Roosevelt Longworth, Archibald B. Roosevelt, and Ethel Derby. They visited potential sites on the island in November 1960. See Gilbert Gimble, “Roosevelts Inspect Island,” *Washington Star* 22 November 1960.

¹⁷¹ “Happy Birthday, T.R.,” *Time* (3 November 1967).

¹⁷² Most of the information on NPS management of the island comes from the author’s interview on 3 December 1999 with Audrey Calhoun, Superintendent of the GWMP, who began her NPS career in 1973 as a ranger or “park technician” assigned to conduct interpretive programs on Roosevelt Island.

¹⁷³ Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., “Theodore Roosevelt Island: Memorandum Report of Visit by Frederick Law Olmsted, June 4, 1943,” p. 2.

¹⁷⁴ The opening date of 1936 is given in the 1937 volume by Federal Writers’ Project, WPA, *Washington: City and Capital*, American Guide Series (Washington, D.C.: GPO, 1937): p. 585.

¹⁷⁵ “Fireworks, Patriotic Music, Oratory Pay Tribute to Theodore Roosevelt,” *Washington Star* 5 July 1958.

¹⁷⁶ Thomas, *Geomorphology and Vegetation* (19 November 1963).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 76

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

ARCHIVES CONSULTED

Arlington County, VA, Library, Virginia Room
D.C. Public Library, Georgetown Branch, Peabody Room (Georgetown collection)
D.C. Public Library, Martin Luther King, Jr., Branch, Washingtoniana Collection
(Theodore Roosevelt Island files; Theodore Roosevelt Island photographs;
Washington Star archives)
Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site, Alexandria, VA
George Washington Memorial Parkway Headquarters, Turkey Run, VA
Gunston Hall, Mason Neck, VA
Historical Society of Washington, Washington, D.C.
Library of Congress, Manuscript Division (Olmsted Papers)
National Archives II, Cartographic Division, College Park, MD
National Capital Region, NPS, Land, Resources and Planning Library
National Capital Region, NPS, Land, Resources Program Center, Cartographic Files
(including Technical Information Center microfiche)
U.S. Department of the Interior, Library

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The Agricultural Museum: Designed to Be a Repository of Valuable Information to the Farmer and Manufacturer, 2 vols (Georgetown, Washington, D.C., 1811/1812).

Ahlander, Leslie Judd. "Theodore Roosevelt Memorial: Project Is Called an Outsize Duplicate." *Washington Post* 12 July 1960.

Albrook, Robert C. "Case Urges Final Parley on Island Link to Span." *Washington Post* 26 June 1955.

---. "Roosevelt Island Span Plan Killed." *Washington Post* 22 June 1955.

---. "Roosevelt Island Trustees Reopen Bridge Site Question." *Washington Post* 9 July 1955.

"Alexandria Canal" (brochure), Department of Planning and Community Development and Alexandria Archaeology, Office of Historic Alexandria, 1990, No. 5.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 77

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

American Automobile Association. "Roosevelt Island." Triptik Tour, no date (no source listed; from file "Theodore Roosevelt Island," District of Columbia Public Library, Martin Luther King, Jr., Branch, Washingtoniana Collection).

"Analostan Island." Editorial. *Washington Star* 3 March 1932.

"Analostan Island." Ts, 1930. No author, no source (from "Theodore Roosevelt Island" file, MLK Library, Washingtoniana Collection)

"Analostan Island and the Roosevelt Memorial." *Washington Times* 7 October 1931.

"Analostan Island Is Now U.S. Property." *Washington Daily News* 23 October 1931.

"Analostan Island Is Officially Sold to Memorial Body." *Washington Post* 14 October 1931.

"Analostan Island, Named Roosevelt, Accepted by U.S." *Washington Post* 12 December 1932.

"Analostan Island Once Mystery Tract." *Sunday Star* 4 May 1930.

"Analostan Island Plan Faces Snag." *Washington Star* [?] 28 October 1931.

"Analostan Island Purchase Closed." *Washington Star* 14 October 1931.

"Analostan Island Sold for \$364,000." *Washington Herald* 14 October 1931.

"Analostan Island Studies Will Be Started Shortly: Architects to Begin Work on Plans for Memorial to Roosevelt." *Washington Star* 23 May 1932.

"Analostan Island Now Uncle Sam's." *Washington Times* 25 June 1932.

"Analostan Stadium Plan Is Abandoned by Roosevelt Body." *Washington Post* 5 October 1931.

"Analostan's Sale for Memorial Is Reported Pending." *Washington Star* 10 September 1931.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 78

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

“Analostan Title Acquired by Memorial Group: Purchase of Site for Monument to Theodore Roosevelt Completed.”
Washington Star 6 (?) January 1932.

“Apply the Big Stick.” Editorial. *Washington Post* 8 August 1960.

“Architect’s model shows how Roosevelt Memorial will look when completed...” (copy from file “Theodore Roosevelt Island 1960—”, District of Columbia Public Library, Martin Luther King, Jr., Branch, Washingtoniana Collection).

Arnold, Fred H. 1934 (May 21). *Report to Chief Forester on Emergency Conservation Work, Roosevelt Island, D.C.* Roosevelt Island file, National Park Service, National Capital Region.

Arnold, Parke A. “The Last Frontier.” *American Motorist* (March 1932): 16, 26-27.

Arthur, G.B. *Unique Memorial to Theodore Roosevelt*. 1936 (March or April). Roosevelt Island file, NPS/NCR Land, Resources and Planning Library.

Asher, Robert L. “Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Criticized by More Groups.” *Washington Post* 14 August 1960.

“Asks Public Views on Name of Island.” *Washington Star* 4 December 1925.

Atwood, Albert W., ed. *Growing with Washington: The Story of Our First Hundred Years*. Washington, D.C.: Washington Gas Light Co., 1948.

Ayers, Harvard G. “Report of Archeological Testing of the Site of TRI #1 on Theodore Roosevelt Island, with an Addendum, A History of Theodore Roosevelt Island by Edith Moore Sprouse.” Unpublished ms, 1967.

Baker, Diane and Clark. “Theodore Roosevelt Monument.” Letter. *Washington Post* 9 July 1963.

Balch, Rev. Thomas B. *Reminiscences of Georgetown, D.C.* Washington: Polkinhorn, 1859.

Barber, James A. *Theodore Roosevelt: Icon of the American Century*. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution, 1998.

Barnes, Irston R. “Bill Threatens Memory of T.R.” *Washington Post* 24 July 1960.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 79

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

---. "Do Fireworks Honor Theodore Roosevelt?" *Washington Post* 29 June 1958.

---. "Roosevelt Island's Unique Role." *Washington Post* 9 August 1953.

---. "T.R.'s Island Has Two Purposes." *Washington Post* 2 August 1953.

Barnette, Stuart M. "Written Historical and Descriptive Data on the Mason House, Analoatan Island, District of Columbia." Prepared for the NPS, 1936. In Nethernton files, GWMP Headquarters, Turkey Run.

Barthelmes, Wes. "Roosevelt Island Plans May Be Abandoned." *Washington Post* 24 June 1955.

Beveridge, Charles E, and Paul Rocheleau. *Frederick Law Olmsted: Designing the American Landscape*. New York: Rizzoli, 1995.

Beveridge, George. "Bridge-Tunnel Would Require Raising [sic] of Island." *Washington Star* 12 March 1954.

---. "Island Trustees Back Span Plan." *Washington Star* 5 January 1956.

---. "Trustees Okay Bridge Over Roosevelt Island." *Washington Star* 8 July 1955.

"Bid Accepted on Monument to Roosevelt." *Washington Star* 26 June 1963.

"Bilbo and Planners May Discuss Proposal for Roosevelt Island." *Washington Star* 17 February 1944.

"Bill Proposes Island Memorial Honoring Theodore Roosevelt." *Washington Star* 8 January 1957.

"The Bronze Age." Editorial. *Washington Post* 22 October 1961.

Blatchford, Nicholas. "A Wildlively Dispatch from Roosevelt Island." *Washington Daily News* 27 June 1958.

Bowie, Carole. "People, Cars Seen Sully Nature Haven." *Washington Post* 10 July 1960.

---. "Senate Rejects 'Celestial Sphere' as Design for 'T.R.' Memorial." *Washington Post* 20 August 1960.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 80

Theodore Roosevelt Island
name of property
Washington, D.C.
county and State
Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks
name of multiple property listing

---. "Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Plans Would Desecrate Anyone's Memory, Daughter Says." *Washington Post* 19 August 1960.

"Bongo, Take It Away." Editorial. *Washington Daily News* 14 January 1955.

Braaten, David. "D.C.: Statue Capital of the World." *Washington Star* 2 November 1967.

Briggs, Shirley A. "What Fate for Theodore Roosevelt Island?" *Atlantic Naturalist* (July-September 1960): 175-179.

Brown, Alexander Crosby. "America's Greatest Eighteenth Century Engineering Achievement." *Virginia Cavalcade* (Spring 1963): 40-46.

"A Bully Design." Editorial. *Washington Star* 16 March 1962.

"A Bully Spot for T.R.'s Memorial." *Washington Star* 18 October 1963.

Burchard, Hank. "In a Wild Taste Test, Berries Get All the Votes." *Washington Post* 16 June 1977.

Carr, Ethan. *Wilderness by Design: Landscape Architecture and the National Park Service*. Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press, 1998.

"The Case of the Vanishing Causeway." *Washington Post* 6 April 1956.

Chappell, Gordon. "Historic Resource Study, East and West Potomac Parks: A History." National Park Service, Denver Service Center, June 1973.

Childs, Marquis. "The Marble Lobby Besieges Capital." [sic] *Washington Post* 7 September 1960.

"Circular Memorial." *Washington Post* 22 August 1966.

Cissna, Paul B. "Historical and Archeological Study of the George Washington Memorial Parkway, Arlington County, Virginia." Occasional Report #4, Regional Archeology Program, National Park Service, National Capital Region, Washington, D.C., 1990.

Clopton, Willard, Jr. "Rough Rider 'Rides' Again." *Washington Post* 28 October 1967.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 81

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

Cohen, Henning, ed. "An Unpublished Diary by Robert Mills, 1803." *The South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine* 51 (October 1950): 187-194.

Collins, Maury. "Wandering." *Washington Post* 13 August 1970.

"Concession to Beauty." *Washington Post* 9 July 1955.

"Condemnation Suit on Island Is Held Up." 28 September 1931 (source not recorded on photocopy; from file, "Theodore Roosevelt Island, 1940-1949?" District of Columbia Public Library, Martin Luther King, Jr., Branch, Washingtoniana Collection)

"Congress Can Authorize Span, Interior Rules." *Washington Star* 8 August 1953.

Copeland, Pamela C., & Richard K. MacMaster. *The Five George Masons: Patriots and Planters of Virginia and Maryland*. Charlottesville, Virginia: University Press of Virginia, 1975.

Cornish, Dudley Taylor. *The Sable Arm: Black Troops in the Union Army, 1861-1865*. Lawrence, Kansas: University Press of Kansas, 1987.

Cotner, Richard A. "A Partial Chronology of Theodore Roosevelt Island Citing Significant Cultural Changes in the Island." Smithsonian Institution, American Studies, May 1970.

Cromelin, Lillian M. "An Island Memorial." *American Forests* (October 1932).

Cunningham, Harry F., Joseph H. Younger, & J. Wilmer Smith. *Measured Drawings of Georgian Architecture in the District of Columbia, 1750-1820*. Washington, D.C.: Architectural Book Publishing Co., 1914.

Curry, Mary E. "Theodore Roosevelt Island: A Broken Link to Early Washington, D.C. History." *Records of the Columbia Historical Society* 1971-1972 (1973): 14-33.

Daly, John J. "The New Island Memorial." *Washington Post* 1 November 1931.

Davis, John. *Travels of Four Years and a Half in the United States of America during 1798, 1799, 1800, 1801 & 1802*. New York: Henry Holt, 1909.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 82

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

“Deal for Potomac Island Expected to Be Ended Soon.” *Washington Star* 5 October 1931.

Deane, James G. “Choice of Bridge Site Runs Afoul Roosevelt Island Restrictions.” *Washington Star* 13 February 1952.

---. “T.R.’s Admirers Take Up His Big Stick.” *Washington Star* 28 February 1952.

“Decide It on the Facts.” Editorial. *Washington Star* 10 August 1953.

“Developing Island Fits River Plans.” *Washington Star* 27 June 1930.

“Development of Analostan Island.” Editorial. *Evening Star* 27 June 1930.

Dewar, Helen. “Roosevelt Isle Trips Delayed.” *Washington Post* 25 April 1964.

“Do Walk on Grass!” *Washington Post* 13 July 1935.

Duhamel, James F. “Analostan Island.” *Records of the Columbia Historical Society* 35-36 (1935): 133-145.

“E Street Bridge and Roosevelt Island.” Editorial. *Washington Star* 28 July 1953.

Eberlein, Harold Donaldson, and Cortlandt Van Dyke Hubbard. *Historic Houses of George-Town and Washington City*. Richmond, Virginia: Dietz Press.

“Elaborate Playground for Children Proposed on Roosevelt Island by Woman Civic Leader.” *Washington Post* ? 1937 (date obscured; from file “Theodore Roosevelt Island,” District of Columbia Public Library, Martin Luther King, Jr., Branch, Washingtoniana Collection).

“Facts to Accompany Approved Plans (Tunnel and Bridge) for a Constitution Avenue Crossing of the Potomac River.” National Park Service, 19 Feb. 1957.

Fahey, Daniel Cox, Jr. Memorandum to Mr. Finnan. 6 Aug. 1934. Roosevelt Island file, NPS/NCR Land, Resources and Planning Library.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 83

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

---. Memorandum to Mr. Finnan. 31 March 1936. Roosevelt Island file, NPS/NCR Land, Resources and Planning Library.

Fanning, Kathryn (Kay), Ph.D. "American Temples: Presidential Memorials of the American Renaissance." Dissertation, University of Virginia (Charlottesville), 1996.

Federal Writers' Project, Works Progress Administration. *Washington: City and Capital*. Washington, D.C.: GPO, 1937.

"Ferry Service to Roosevelt Island." *Washington Daily News* 24 June 1953.

"Ferry Service to Roosevelt Island Urged." *Washington Star* 19 April 1945.

Fialka, John. "Roosevelt Shrine Open, but Teddy's Shut In." *Washington Star* 30 March 1967.

"Fifty-fourth Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Re-Enactors Company 'B.'" Brochure, c. 1990 (Theodore Roosevelt Island, Ranger Resource files, GWMP headquarters, Turkey Run.

"Fight Promised on Any Plan to Run Bridge Over Island." *Washington Post* 29 May 1953.

Finnan, C. Marshall. Memorandum to Daniel Cox Fahey, Jr. 21 May 1935. Roosevelt Island file, NPS/NCR Land, Resources and Planning Library.

---. Letter to Colonel J.A. Crane, Fort Myer, Virginia. 10 September 1936, #a. Roosevelt Island file, NPS/NCR Land, Resources and Planning Library.

---. Letter to Colonel J.A. Crane, Fort Myer, Virginia. 10 September 1936, #b. Roosevelt Island file, NPS/NCR Land, Resources and Planning Library.

"Fire Rages, But Only for Heat." *Washington Post* 23 December 1955.

"Fireworks, Patriotic Music, Oratory Pay Tribute to Theodore Roosevelt." *Washington Star* 5 July 1958.

Fisher, Perry G. *Materials for the Study of Washington: A Selected Annotated Bibliography*. George Washington University: GWU Washington Studies, No. One, 1974.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 84

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

Flor, Lee. "17-Foot-High Statue of Theodore Roosevelt to Be Unveiled in Spring on Island." *Washington Star* (no date recorded on photocopy—c. 1965 or 1966?).

---. "Theodore Roosevelt Statue Unveiled." *Washington Star* 28 October 1967.

---. "Veiled Statue of Roosevelt Baffles Tourists." *Washington Star* 9 August 1967.

Forman, H. Chandlee. *Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland*. Baltimore: Bodine & Associates, 1982 (1934).

"Full Roosevelt Name Asked for Analostan." *Washington Star* 8 February 1933.

Gable, John A. "Theodore Roosevelt and the American Museum of Natural History." Reprinted from *Theodore Roosevelt Association Journal*, 8 (Summer 1982).

Gardiner, John, & David Hepburn. *The American Gardener*. First ed., 1804; 2nd ed., Georgetown, D.C.: Joseph Milligan, 1818.

Garrett, Wilbur E. "The Patowmack Canal: Waterway That Led to the Constitution." *National Geographic* 171 (June 1987): 716-753.

Gartside, Frank T. Letter (Permit) to Morauer and Hartzell, Inc., Washington, D.C. 1 September 1954. Roosevelt Island file, NPS/NCR Land, Resources and Planning Library.

Geddes, Jean. "Old Potowmack Canal Was Good Idea, But..." *Washington Post* 9 May 1968.

"Gen. John Mason House, Analostan Island or Theodore Roosevelt Island, Washington, D.C.," Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) "Report" DC-28.

"George Mason's Island." Editorial. *Washington Post* 18 October 1925.

Gimble, Gilbert. "Roosevelts Inspect Island." *Washington Star* 22 November 1960.

Godfrey, Michael A. *The Piedmont*. San Francisco: Sierra Club Books, 1980.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 85

Theodore Roosevelt Island
name of property
Washington, D.C.
county and State
Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks
name of multiple property listing

Goode, James M. *The Outdoor Sculpture of Washington, D.C.: A Comprehensive Historical Guide*. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1974.

---. *Capitol Losses*. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1979.

Gorr, Louis F. "The Foxall-Columbia Foundry: An Early Defense Contractor in Georgetown." *Records of the Columbia Historical Society* (1971-1972): 34-59.

Green, Constance McLaughlin. *Washington, Village and Capital, 1800-1878*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1962.

"Grew Hits Idea for Roosevelt Island Bridge." *Washington Star* 4 January 1954.

Gutheim, Frederick. *The Potomac*. Baltimore: The John Hopkins University Press, 1986 [1949, 1977]).

Hagedorn, Hermann. *Theodore Roosevelt Centennial Commission, Interim Report*. 1957.

---. *Theodore Roosevelt Centennial (1858-1958): Report of the Theodore Roosevelt Centennial Commission to the Congress of the United States*. 1958.

"Happy Birthday, T.R." *Time* 3 November 1967.

"Hardwood Forest Decided Upon for Roosevelt Island." *Washington Star* 6 August 1934.

Havig, Alan. "Presidential Images, History, and Homage: Memorializing Theodore Roosevelt." *American Quarterly* 30 (1928): 514-532.

Henry, Thomas R. "Evidence of Old Splendor on Analostan Isle." *Sunday Star* 1 November 1931.

Higginson, Thomas Wentworth. *Army Life in a Black Regiment*. New York: Norton, 1984.

"Hoover Accepts Analostan Deed." *Washington Star* 13 December 1932.

Hornig, Roberta. "Udall Takes Hike on Roosevelt Island." *Washington Star* 11 December 1964.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 86

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

Hortus Third. New York: MacMillan, 1976.

“House Unit Approves \$50,000 to Develop Roosevelt Island.” *Washington Star* 1 April 1954.

Houston, Marilyn. “Theodore Roosevelt Island... A Quiet Refuge in the Potomac Becomes a Storm Center.” *The Georgetown* 11 August [?] 1960.

“The huge memorial as seen from the air...” (from file on Roosevelt Island, District of Columbia Public Library, Martin Luther King, Jr., Branch, Washingtoniana Collection).

“Interior Department Sees Bar to E Street Bridge.” [source?] 8 August 1953.

Interpretive Prospectus, Theodore Roosevelt Island, Washington, D.C. Washington, D.C.: GPO, 1971.

“Is This Memorial Really Necessary?” *Washington Post* 11 August 1960 (Editorial reprinted from Richmond Times-Dispatch).

“Island Famous Once.” *Washington Post* 11 May 1907.

Hubbard, Henry V., and Theodora Kimball. *An Introduction to the Study of Landscape Design*. New York: MacMillan, 1924 (1917).

“Island in the City.” *Washington Star* 3 September 1967.

“It’s Utter Folly...” *Washington Daily News* 19 August 1960.

Jackson, Richard P. *The Chronicles of Georgetown, D.C., from 1751 to 1878*. Washington, D.C.: 1878.

James, Hibbard. “An Exercise in Sterile Formality.” *Washington Daily News* 20 June 1967.

Jeffers, T.C. “Summary of Mr. Olmsted’s Progress Report of May 16, 1934 on Roosevelt Island.” Roosevelt Island file, NPS/NCR, Land, Resources and Planning Library.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 87

Theodore Roosevelt Island
name of property
Washington, D.C.
county and State
Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks
name of multiple property listing

Junior League of Washington. *The City of Washington: An Illustrated History.* ed. Thomas Froncek. New York: Knopf, 1977.

Kennedy, Will P. "Roosevelt Island Play Area Urged." *Washington Star* 1 August 1997.

Krakov, Jere. "Historic Resource Study: Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway, George Washington Memorial Parkway, Suitland Parkway, and Baltimore-Washington Parkway." National Park Service, Denver Service Center, 1990.

"Leave It to Alice!" Editorial. *Washington Daily News* 20 August 1960.

"Let People Walk In." Editorial. *Washington Post* 23 November 1960.

"Let's Go." *Washington Daily News* 22 July 1954.

Lear, Tobias. *Observations on the River Potomack.* 1793.

Lindsay, John J. "Memorial May 'Update' Wild Beauty of Roosevelt Island with Lights, Cars." *Washington Post* 8 July 1960.

Little, Barbara J. "National Capital Area: Archeological Overview and Survey Plan." Occasional Report No. 13, Archeology Program, National Park Service, National Capital Region, Washington, D.C., 1995.

Mansfield, Dick. "Who Remembers?" Cartoon. *Washington Star* 20 March 1928.

Martin, Joseph. *A New and Comprehensive Description of Virginia and the District of Columbia.* Charlottesville: 1835.

Martin, Peter. *The Pleasure Gardens of Virginia: From Jameston to Jefferson.* Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1991.

Mason, John. "Letter Written in 1832 by George Mason's Son, John, Describing Gunston Hall in His Father's Time." John Mason files, Gunston Hall.

--- to Georgetown Council. Letter. 23 March 1805.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 88

Theodore Roosevelt Island
name of property
Washington, D.C.
county and State
Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks
name of multiple property listing

McClelland, Linda Flint. *Building the National Parks: Historic Landscape Design and Construction*. Baltimore, Maryland: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1998.

---. "Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks." Multiple Property Documentation Form, National Register of Historic Places, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1995.

McDade, Matt. "Young Explorers Visit Theodore Roosevelt Island." *Washington Post* 14 June 1954.

McDiarmid, Hugh. "TR Memorial Statue Is Just a Big Bust." *Washington Post* 14 September 1967.

McKelway, John. "The Rambler Rides Again." *Washington Star* 23 March 1964.

"Memorial Area Planned for Roosevelt Island." *Washington Star* 2 March 1956.

"Memorial Measure Delayed By House." *Washington Star* 2 May 1932.

"Memorial Progress." *Washington Daily News* 10 February 1965.

"Memorial to T.R. Rises on Island." *Washington Post* 10 October 1965.

"Memory and Utility." Editorial. *Washington Post* 8 March 1962.

Minick, Clara Eleanor Babst. Unpublished ms on Analostan Island. Arlington Historical Society, c. 1955.

Moore, Charles, ed. *The Improvement of the Park System of the District of Columbia*. Washington: 1902.

---, to Arno B. Cammerer, Director, National Park Service. Letter. 18 December 1934.

Morris, Maud Burr. "William A. Bradley." *Records of the Columbia Historical Society* 25 (1923): 114-136.

Morrison, A. J. "The Gardener of Williamsburg." *William & Mary Quarterly* (1917): 166-167.

Moser, James F. "Roosevelt Island Almost Got a Bridge in 1887." *Washington Star* 5 August 1956.

Mulford, Carolyn. "Teddy's Retreat: Unspoiled Island Honors Conservationist Roosevelt." *The Sun* 26 August 1984.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 89

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

Murray, A.G. "Where to Put the Bridge." Letter. *Washington Star* 8 July 1955.

Myer, Donald Beekman. *Bridges and the City of Washington*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, 1992 (1974).

National Capital Parks Fountains Survey, conducted by Symphonic Fountains, December 1976, NPS/NCR Land, Resources and Planning Library.

National Park Service. "Facts Relating to Proposals to Construct a Tunnel or Bridge across the Potomac River in the Constitution Avenue Corridor." 19 February 1957. (from *Washington Star* Photograph Collection, "Bridges—D.C.—Theodore Roosevelt Island—Oversized Photos," Washingtoniana Collection, D.C. Library, Martin Luther King, Jr., Branch; copy obtained from GWMP, Theodore Roosevelt Resource file, "Theodore Roosevelt Island—Bridge")

National Park Service, National Capital Region, George Washington Memorial Parkway, *Statement for Management: Theodore Roosevelt Island*, 1986.

"The Natural and Unnatural History of Theodore Roosevelt Island." *The Beltway Naturalist* (September-October 1984): 2+.

"Nature Hikes." *Washington Post* 17 July 1969.

"Nearby Nature Found Tame By Roosevelt Island Explorers." *Washington Post* (no date listed; from file "Theodore Roosevelt Island, 1900-1949," District of Columbia Public Library, Martin Luther King, Jr., Branch, Washingtoniana Collection).

Nelligan, Murray H. "'Old Arlington': The Story of the Lee Mansion National Memorial." U.S. Dept. of the Interior, National Park Service, National Capital Parks, 1954 (CRBIB #001086).

Nelson, Mariah Burton. "Teddy's Island of Memories." *Washington Post* 13 May 1933.

Netherton, Nan. "Delicate Beauty and Burly Majesty: The Story of Theodore Roosevelt Island." National Park Service, 1980.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 90

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

Netherton, Nan, et.al. *Fairfax County, Virginia: A History*. Fairfax, Virginia: Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, 1992.

Netherton, Nan & Ross. *Arlington County in Virginia: A Pictorial History*. Norfolk, Virginia: The Donning Co., 1987.

“New Acquisition to Parks.” *Washington Star* 13 October 1931.

“New Memorial Design Pleases Family of T.R.” *Washington Post* 23 June 1961.

“New Plan for TR Memorial Is Unveiled Here.” *Washington Post* 7 March 1962.

Niemcewitz, Julian Ursyn. *Under Their Vine and Fig Tree*. Elizabeth, New Jersey: Grassman Publishing Co., 1965.

“No Laughing Matter.” Editorial. *Washington Post* [?] 7 August 1960.

“Order Is Conditional: Ratification of the Sale of Analostan Island.” *Washington Star* 2 August 1907.

Olmsted Brothers. 27 Jan. 1936, #a. Additional list to accompany planting study 3612, sheet 2. Natural History Branch files, NPS/NCR, Land, Resources and Planning Library.

---. Explanation of plans showing areas requiring different kinds of maintenance of the vegetation (enclosed with letter of 15 June 1943 to Harry T. Thompson from Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr.) 29 June 1936, #b. Roosevelt Island file, NPS/NCR, Land, Resources and Planning Library.

Olmsted, Frederick Law, Jr., to C. Marshall Finnan, Superintendent, National Capital Parks, National Park Service. Letter. 30 November 1937. Appendix C, *Report of the National Capital Planning Commission*, 1937.

---. Letter to C. Marshall Finnan. 10 Jan. 1935, #a. Roosevelt Island file, NPS/NCR Land, Resources and Planning Library.

---. Letter to C. Marshall Finnan. 16 May 1935, #b. Roosevelt Island file, NPS/NCR Land, Resources and Planning Library.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 91

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

---. List to accompany planting study #612, sheet 2. 9 Oct. 1935, #c. Natural History Branch files, NPS/NCR Land, Resources and Planning Library.

Olmsted, Frederick Law, Jr. Letter to A.B. Cammerer. 17 January 1934. Roosevelt Island file, NPS/NCR Land, Resources and Planning Library.

---. "Theodore Roosevelt Island - list of areas in which planting is proposed during the period October 1935 to March 1936 inclusive." 15 June 1935, #b. Roosevelt Island file, NPS/NCR Land, Resources and Planning Library.

---. "Theodore Roosevelt Island, outline of projected improvement work by the C.C.C. for the period ending March 31, 1936." 15 June 1935, #c. Roosevelt Island file, NPS/NCR Land, Resources and Planning Library.

---. Letter to H.A. Hubler, Rosslyn, Virginia." 29 October 1936, #b. Roosevelt Island file, NPS/NCR Land, Resources and Planning Library.

---. Letter to Lawrence F. Murray. 3 September 1937. Roosevelt Island file, NPS/NCR Land, Resources and Planning Library.

---. Letter to Harry T. Thompson. 15 June 1943. Roosevelt Island file, NPS/NCR Land, Resources and Planning Library.

---, and John Russell Pope. Draft of preliminary report upon a plan for the permanent development of Roosevelt Island. 16 May 1934. Roosevelt Island file, NPS/NCR Land, Resources and Planning Library.

"On Breaking a Promise." Editorial. *Washington Post* 24 July 1953.

Paige, John C. "The Civilian Conservation Corps and the National Park Service: An Administrative History." Washington, D.C.: NPS, 1985.

"Park on Island Opens in Spring, Finnan Asserts." *Washington Star* 16 December 1936.

"Park Service Building Road From Rosslyn to Roosevelt Island." *Washington Star* 15 December 1954.

Peterson, Maureen. "The Wood Duck." *Washington Star Sunday Magazine* (11 September 1966): 10.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 92

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

“Plan of Coliseum in Roosevelt Fund Project Is Started.” *Washington Star* 4 December 1929.

“Potomac Packett: Theodore Roosevelt Island.” *The Georgetowner* 2 January 1969.

“Potomac River Bermuda Is Promised When CCC Boys Clear Jungle Island.” *Washington Daily News* 29 August 1935.

Potter, Stephen R. *Commoners, Tribute, and Chiefs: The Development of Algonquian Culture in the Potomac Valley*. Charlottesville, Virginia: University Press of Virginia, 1994 (1993).

Prima, Lee Lorick. “Potomac Park—An Island Memorial to Theodore Roosevelt.” *New York Times* 11 June 1967.

Proctor, John Clagett. “A History of Analostan Island, ‘Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Island.’” c. 1931 (bound copies of articles; NPS/NCR Land, Resources and Planning Library)

---. “Summer Fun Many Years Ago.” *W Star* 26 June 1938.

“Progress on Roosevelt Memorial Construction.” *Washington Post* 24 May 1965.

“Proposed Treatment of Analostan Island Area.” 28 June 1930. (no source listed; from file “Theodore Roosevelt Island,” District of Columbia Public Library, Martin Luther King, Jr., Branch, Washingtoniana Collection).

“The Rambler Takes Up the History of Old Land Grants Around Washington.” *Washington Star* 30 January 1921.

“The Rambler Traces the History of Analostan Island from Early Days.” *Washington Star* 6 March 1921.

“The Rambler Writes of Old Causeway from Mason’s Island to Virginia Shore.” *Washington Star* 13 February 1921.

“The Rambler Writes of the Charm of Historic Old Analostan.” *Washington Star* 20 March 1921.

“The Rambler Writes Second Article of His History of Analostan Island.” *Washington Star* 6 February 1921.

“Rambler Writes the Story of ‘Long Avenue of Tumbled Stones.’” *Washington Star* 20 February 1921.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 93

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

“The Rambler’s Third Article on Early History of Analostan Island.” *Washington Star* 6 February 1921 (27 Feb. 1921?).

“Ready and Waiting.” *Washington Post* 17 January 1967.

“Report on the Flora of Theodore Roosevelt Island, Past, Present, and Future.” National Park Service. No author, no date [late 1950s?].

“Reports Roosevelt Group Wants Analostan Island Confirmed.” *Washington Star* 26 June 1930.

Reps, John W. *Monumental Washington: The Planning and Development of the Capital Center*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1967.

---. *Washington on View: The Nation’s Capital Since 1790*. Chapel Hill, North Carolina: University of North Carolina Press, 1991.

“Return of the Rough Rider.” *American Forests* (October 1967): 19+.

“Revision Seen in Plans for Island Retreat.” *Washington Star* 24 June 1955.

Robinson & Associates, Inc. for D.C. Historic Preservation Division. *The Georgetown Historic District Project: A Cultural Resources Survey*. Vol. II: *Architectural Survey of the Georgetown Historic District*. August 1993.

Rodgers, Richard. “Roosevelt Island Project Awaits Vote on Funds.” *Washington Star* 3 April 1955.

“Roosevelt Park,” author and source unknown, 1921 (copy from TRI file, MLK Library, Washingtoniana Collection).

Royall, Anne Newport. *The Black Book: Or a Continuation of Travels in the United States*. Vol. I. Washington, D.C.: 1828.

“Roosevelt Group Revives Memorial.” *Washington Star* 24 March 1930.

“Roosevelt Island.” Editorial. *Washington Herald* 19 May 1932.

“Roosevelt Island.” Editorial. *Washington Post* 14 December 1932.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 94

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

“Roosevelt Island.” *Washington Star* 17 May 1932.

“Roosevelt Island Barred as Site for Auditorium.” *Washington Post* 16 January 1956.

“Roosevelt Island Bridge Approved.” (No source, no date given; photocopy from file “Theodore Roosevelt Island, 1960—,” D.C. Public Library, Martin Luther King, Jr., Branch, Washingtoniana Collection)

“Roosevelt Island Changes Opposed.” *Washington Star* June [?] 1934.

“Roosevelt Island Clear as Bridge Site.” *Washington Post* 14 July 1953.

“Roosevelt Island May Be Made a ‘Little Bermuda.’” *Washington Daily News* 18 March 1933.

“Roosevelt Island Memorial.” *Washington Star* 4 March 1965.

“Roosevelt Island Offers Nature Walks.” *Georgetown Spectator* 24 July 1969.

“Roosevelt Island Plans.” *Washington Post* 2 August 1937.

“Roosevelt Island: Quiet Retreat.” *Potomac Current* 21 August 1969.

“Roosevelt Island Ready in Eight Months.” *Washington Star* January? 1935.

“Roosevelt Island Row Brews: ‘There Is No Place Like It in the East.’” *Washington Daily News* 7 February 1952.

“Roosevelt Island Saga, ‘Only Unspoiled Spot’ of Kind.” *Washington Post* 7 August 1953.

“Roosevelt Island Span Plan Killed.” *Washington Post* 22 June 1955.

“Roosevelt Island: The Wildlife Will Be Expecting You Here.” *Washington Post* 12 July 1964.

“Roosevelt Island to Become Park.” *Washington Star* 6 February 1934.

“Roosevelt Isle Progress Made.” *Washington Star* 1 October 1937.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 95

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

“Roosevelt Lauds T.R. at Dedication.” *Washington Star* 20 January 1936.

“The Roosevelt Memorial.” Editorial. *Washington Post* 19 October 1967.

Roosevelt Memorial Association. “Program of a Competition... of a Monumental Memorial to Theodore Roosevelt in the City of Washington.” 1925.

---. *Analostan Island* (pamphlet). New York: Roosevelt Memorial Association, 1931.

---. *Plan and Design for the Roosevelt Memorial in the City of Washington*, John Russell Pope, Architect. 1925.

“Roosevelt Park Bill Is Approved.” (no source or date given; from file “Theodore Roosevelt Island, 1900-1949,” District of Columbia Public Library, Martin Luther King, Jr., Branch, Washingtoniana Collection.)

“Roosevelt Memorial Leaders Say New Design May Replace Sphere.” *Washington Post* 21 August 1960.

“Roosevelt Shrine Architects Named.” *Washington Post* 24 May 1932.

“Roosevelt Shrine for Capital City Pledged by Group.” *Washington Post* 24 March 1930.

“Roosevelt Son Suggests Bronze Lion Memorial.” *Washington Star* 26 August 1960.

“Roosevelt Stadium Plan Is Abandoned.” *Washington Daily News* 5 October 1931.

“Roosevelt (Theodore) Island, District of Columbia” in U.S. National Park Service, *The Presidents: Historic Places Commemorating the Chief Executives of the United States*. The National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings, v. 20. Series ed. Robert G. Ferris. Washington, D.C.: GPO, rev. ed. 1977.

“Rough Rider ‘Rides’ Again.” *Washington Post* 28 October 1967.

“Rough (Rider) Work.” *Washington Daily News* 23 August 1965.

Sarudy, Barbara Wells. *Gardens and Gardening in the Chesapeake, 1700-1805*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1998.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 96

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

Scott, Pamela, and Antoinette J. Lee. *Buildings of the District of Columbia*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1993.

Sinclair, Angus. "Alert!" Letter. *Washington Star* 18 July 1960.

Sommerville, Mollie. "General John Mason of Analostan Island." *Iron Worker* 26 (Spring 1962): 3-11.

---. "Island in the City Limits." *Washington Star* 2 December 1956.

Spratt, Zack. "Ferries in the District of Columbia." *Records of the Columbia Historical Society* 53-56 (1959): 183-192.

"Squashing the Sphere." Editorial. *Washington Star* 21 August 1960.

Stephan, Vic. "Monumental Error." Letter. *Washington Post* 21 July 1960.

Stephens, Virgila. "T.R. Memorial Island Covers 300-Year Span: Historic Spot Will Be Improved." *Washington Times-Herald* 13 June 1952.

"TR in a Cage?" Editorial. *Washington Post* 8 July 1960.

"T.R. Memorial Island Opened Until October." *Washington Times-Herald* 6 June 1953.

"TR Memorial to Be Dedicated Oct. 27." *Washington Post* 16 October 1967.

"'T.R.' Would Like It." *Washington Star* 23 October 1961.

"T.R.'s Family Approves." *Washington Daily News* 19 October 1961.

"Teddy Roosevelt Memorial Opening Delayed." *Washington Daily News* 17 August 1966.

Templeman, Eleanor Lee. *Arlington Heritage*. Privately published, 1959.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 97

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

“Theodore’ Is Added to Roosevelt Island.” (no source listed; from file “Theodore Roosevelt Island, 1900-1949,” District of Columbia Public Library, Martin Luther King, Jr., Branch, Washingtoniana Collection).

“Theodore Roosevelt Bridge?” Editorial. *Washington Star* 28 February 1952.

“Theodore Roosevelt Island,” correspondence file, NARA RG 79 National Capital Parks, Box 608.

“Theodore Roosevelt Island: A Living Memorial to a Great Conservationist.” *The Pepconian* (July 1957): 4-6.

“Theodore Roosevelt Island, a Potomac ‘Jungleland.’” *Geographic News Bulletin* No. 1, 2 January 1933.

Theodore Roosevelt Memorial. Photo with caption. *Washington Star* 30 September 1945.

“Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Advanced.” *Washington Star* 27 July 1959.

“Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Island.” *Planning and Civic Comment* (June 1953): 7+.

“Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Nears Actuality But Battle Still Rages on Design.” *Washington Star* 14 August 1960.

“The Theodore Roosevelt Memorial on Roosevelt Island is virtually completed.” Photo with caption. *Washington Post* 18 May 1967.

“Theodore Roosevelt Park.” *Washington Post* 15 July 1934.

“Theodore Roosevelt Statue to Be Dedicated on October 27.” *Washington Star* 15 October 1967.

Thomas, Lindsey Kay, Jr. *Geomorphology and Vegetation of Theodore Roosevelt Island*. Scientific Report No. 2, November 19, 1963, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, National Capital Region.

---. *The Impact of Three Exotic Plant Species on a Potomac Island*. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, NPS Scientific Monograph Series No. 13, 1980.

---. *Periodicity and Anthesis on Theodore Roosevelt Island for the Year 1962-1963*. Scientific Report No. 1, July 23, 1963, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, National Capital Region.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 98

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

“A Tournament on the Potomac.” *Harper’s Weekly* 7 October 1865.

Udall, Stewart, Secretary of the Interior, “Announcement of Dedication of Theodore Roosevelt Memorial,” 24 October 1967.

United States Congress. *An Act to Establish a Memorial to Theodore Roosevelt in the National Capital*. 21 May 1932. Public - no. 146, 72nd Congress.

---. *An Act to Change the Name of “Roosevelt Island” to “Theodore Roosevelt Island.”* 11 February 1933. Public - no. 332, 72nd Congress.

--- (Senate). *Theodore Roosevelt Island, D.C., Memorial to Theodore Roosevelt* (Hearing). 72nd Congress, 1st session. Washington: GPO, 1932.

“Under Wraps.” *Washington Post* 19 October 1967.

“U.S. Acts to Buy Analostan Island.” *Washington Star* 27 February 1931.

U. S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. “Dedication of TR Memorial, Announcement and Invitation.” 24 October 1967.

---. *Master Plan, Theodore Roosevelt Island, Washington, D.C.* 1968.

---. *Theodore Roosevelt Island, District of Columbia, National Capital Parks, Washington, D.C.* (brochure) Nd.

U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, National Capital Parks. “Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Island.” 22 October 1952.

“U.S. Moves to Buy Analostan Island.” *Washington Star* 13 April 1927.

“U.S. Takes Over Island.” *Washington [?] Times* 1 November 1932.

“Up to Roosevelt Association.” *Washington Star* 8 July 1955.

Vasmik, Julie. “George Washington Memorial Parkway.” National Register of Historic Places nomination, 1995.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 99

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

Ventrudo, Margaret J. "John Mason's Financial and Commerical Speculation in the District of Columbia." George Mason University, 1994.

Vlach, John Michael. *Back of the Big House: The Architecture of Plantation Slavery*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1993.

Von Eckhardt, Wolf. "A Wraith Flails a Big Stick Against the TR Memorial." *Washington Post* 19 June 1966.

Warden, David B. *A Chorographical and Statistical Description of the District of Columbia*. Paris: 1816.

Warren, Earl. "Chief Justice's Tribute to Theodore Roosevelt." Theodore Roosevelt Dedication, 27 October 1967.

"Washington to Have New Island Park." *Geographic News Bulletin* 28 May 1933 [?].

"Washington's Stadium." Editorial. *Washington Star* 8 October 1931.

"Way Cleared for Memorial to Roosevelt." *Washington Herald* 10 September 1931.

Webb, Willard J. "John Mason of Analoostan Island." *The Arlington Historical Magazine* 5 (Oct. 1976): 25-35.

"Weekend Ferry Service to Theodore Roosevelt Island." *Washington Post* 25 June 1953.

Weil, Martin. "Now It Costs to See That Crated Statue." *Washington Post* 10 July 1967.

Weiss, Kenneth. "Island in Potomac Like Another World." *Washington Post* 23 May 1960.

Weiss, Nancy. "Roosevelt Island Memorial Delayed." *Washington Post* 18 August 1966.

Wester, Horace V. "Baldcypress Was Planted on Theodore Roosevelt Island." *Atlantic Naturalist* (September-October 1955).

---. "Natural Occurrence of Baldcypress on Theodore Roosevelt Island, Washington, D.C." (1953; no source listed; from file "Theodore Roosevelt Island, 1950-1959," District of Columbia Public Library, Martin Luther King, Jr., Branch, Washingtoniana Collection).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 100

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

“What? No Sphere?” Editorial. *Washington Star* 6 September 1960.

White, Jean. “The Dream.” *Washington Post* 9 August 1957.

Whitman, Walt. “Paying the 1st U.S.C.T.” in Justin Kaplan, ed., *Walt Whitman: Complete Poetry and Collected Prose*. New York: Literary Classics of the United States, 1982, pp. 1181-1184.

Wiebenson, Dora. *The Picturesque Garden in France*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1978.

Williams, Mathilde D. “Georgetown, 1621-1951: A Brief Outline of Its History.” 1951.

“Wild Park Made to Honor ‘T.R.’” *New York Times* 7 November 1937.

Yarbrough, Charles J. “2 Minutes and 25 Cents Bring Isolation from Busy City.” *Washington Star* 28 June 1953.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page 101

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

UTM coordinates (continued)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
northwest corner:	18	320,700	430,7500
southwest corner:	18	321,100	430,6500

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the nominated property include all the land historically and currently known as Analostan, Mason's, or Roosevelt Island and all the accretions thereto to the mean low water; also including Little Island to the southeast. There are a few exceptions: the boundaries shall include the ruins of the historic Mason's Causeway, which extends from the northwest shore of the island underwater to the Virginia shore; the remnants of wooden wharves and scows on the north shore; and two clusters of ruined scows which likely remain underwater at the northwestern corner of the island, and off the eastern shore, directly across from the mouth of Rock Creek. These scows are shown on the series of topographic maps prepared by Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital for the Roosevelt Memorial Association in the early 1930s.

Boundary Justification

The mean low water mark was used by War Department engineers when drawing up the topographic survey of Roosevelt Island in 1932. It is also used by the George Washington Memorial Parkway as the boundary for their other park properties along the Potomac River.

The ruins of the causeway, wharves, and scows shall be included because of their association with the important colonial and early American road which crossed the northern end of the island.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section: Maps Page 102

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

All maps depict:

THEODORE ROOSEVELT ISLAND

Washington, D.C.

Prepared by: n/a
Location of original: n/a
Date of map: 1999
Description: Theodore Roosevelt Island, current USGS map
Figure number: 1

Prepared by: n/a
Location of original: n/a
Date of map: current
Description: Theodore Roosevelt Island
current NPS map
Figure number: 2

Prepared by: Robert King
Location of original: copy from facsimile in files of Library of Congress,
Geography and Maps Division
Date of map: 1818
Description: Survey of Washington, detail showing John Mason's
estate on Mason's Island
Figure number: 3

Prepared by: n/a
Location of original: NARA II, Cartographic Division, RG 92
Date of map: c. 1863
Description of view: Plat of Contraband Quarters, 1st United States Colored Troops,
on Mason's Island
Figure number: 4

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section: Maps Page 103

Theodore Roosevelt Island
name of property
Washington, D.C.
county and State
Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks
name of multiple property listing

Prepared by: Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the
National Capital for the Roosevelt Memorial Association
Location of original: NCR Cartographic files, Land Resources Program Center
(Technical Information Center), #80002
Date of map: May 1932
Description of view: Survey of Roosevelt Island
Figure number: 5

Prepared by: Olmsted Brothers
Location of original: NCR Cartographic files, Land Resources Program Center
(Technical Information Center), #80053; Olmsted Bros.
Plan #2843-AI-815
Date of map: May 1945
Description of view: General Plan for Development of Roosevelt Island
Figure number: 6

Prepared by: NPS
Location of original: n/a
Date of map: c. 1960
Description of view: NPS map showing trails and structures
Figure number: 7

Prepared by: NPS
Location of original: n/a
Date of map: c. 1953
Description of view: NPS map showing vegetative cover
Figure number: 8

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section: Maps Page 104

Theodore Roosevelt Island
name of property
Washington, D.C.
county and State
Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks
name of multiple property listing

Prepared by: Olmsted Brothers
Location of original: NCR Cartographic files, Land Resources Program Center
(Technical Information Center), #80002A; Olmsted Bros.
Plan #2843-AI-607
Date of map: June 1935
Description of view: Roosevelt Island, work project for period ending 31 March 1936
Figure number: 9

Prepared by: Lee Skillman
Location of original: NARA II, Cartographic Division, RG 79
#8.1-151A, 2 of 3
Date of map: February 1965
Description of view: Planting Plan, Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Area
Figure number: 10

Prepared by: Lee Skillman
Location of original: NARA II, Cartographic Division, RG 79
#8.1-151A, 3 of 3
Date of map: February 1965
Description of view: Planting Plan, Theodore Roosevelt Memorial, Detail
Figure number: 11

Prepared by: Kay Fanning
Location of original: n/a
Date of map: January 2000
Description of view: Map of Contributing Features
Figure number: 12

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section: Maps Page 105

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

Prepared by:

Kay Fanning

Location of original:

n/a

Date of map:

January 2000

Description of view:

Map of Non-Contributing Features

Figure number:

13

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section: Supplemental Illustrations Page 106

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

All photocopies depict:

**THEODORE ROOSEVELT ISLAND
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

**All copies are taken from prints in the Nan Netherton files, George Washington Memorial Parkway
Headquarters, Turkey Run Park, Virginia**

Photographer: Unknown
Location of original negative: Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs
Division
Date of photo: June 1865
Description of view: Anolstan Island, pontoon bridge from Georgetown shore to
island, looking west; ferry house visible in background
Figure number: 14

Photographer: Unknown (rendering by Richmond K. Fletcher)
Location of original negative: Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace files, New York, New York
Date of photo: Rendering c. 1935
Description of view: Olmsted Bros. plan for island forest
Figure number: 15

Photographer: Unknown
Location of original negative: Unknown
Date of photo: c. 1935
Description of view: CCC workers clearing brush on Roosevelt Island
Figure number: 16

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section: Supplemental Illustrations Page 107

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

Photographer: Unknown (rendering by Richmond K. Fletcher)
Location of original negative: Unknown (probably NPS, Museum Resource Center,
Research and Support Facility [MRCE]; number on back
of print is NPS 1651-B)
Date of photo: c. 1937
Description of view: Olmsted Bros. plan for southern end of island
Figure number: 17

Photographer: Artist and photographer unknown
Location of original negative: Unknown
Date of photo: Rendering dated 1958
Description of view: Proposed memorial to Theodore Roosevelt in the form of an
armillary sphere, designed by Eric Gugler and Paul Manship
Figure number: 18

Photographer: Unknown
Location of original negative: Unknown (original may be in NPS MRCE)
Date of photo: 14 August 1950
Description of view: Aerial view of island from north
Figure number: 19

Photographer: Unknown
Location of original negative: Unknown
Date of photo: c. 1955
Description of view: NPS launch "Wood Duck" leaving ferry wharf on
northeastern shore of Roosevelt Island for Georgetown
Figure number: 20

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section: Supplemental Illustrations Page 108

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

**Note break in number sequence*

Photographer: Artist and photographer unknown
Location of original negative: Unknown (photo of painting from Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division)
Date of photo: c. 1820s
Description of view: Painting showing north elevation of John Mason's mansion
Figure number: 52

Photographer: Unknown
Location of original negative: Unknown (possibly from Theodor Horydczak Collection, Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division)
Date of photo: c. 1930s
Description of view: Forest on Roosevelt Island
Figure number: 53

Photographer: Unknown
Location of original negative: Unknown (NPS print, original may be in MRCE)
Date of photo: 17 July 1952
Description of view: Tree inspection on island
Figure number: 54

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Appendix A Page 116

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

Appendix A: Previous Archeological Work and Potential Archeological Sites on Theodore Roosevelt Island

Current information regarding archeological resources on Theodore Roosevelt Island is insufficient to determine if particular resources are eligible for listing on the National Register.¹ Two prehistoric sites are recorded on D.C. archeological site forms, but they do not contain detailed site maps showing boundaries. The written descriptions are so vague – site 51NW12 is said to be in the “middle of T.R. Island” and site 51NW3 is described as being at the “upper end of Theodore Roosevelt Island” – that it is impossible to know where one site ends and the other begins. Indeed, it is quite probable that these two sites are really one and that there is a continuous series of prehistoric sheet middens or occupations that overlap one another, making it difficult to determine discrete boundaries.

Knowledge of site 51NW3 is based on an eight-page report written by Charles W. McNett and Harvard G. Ayers describing excavations carried out between May 20 and July 16, 1967. This document was printed in 1974 in an issue of the non-juried amateur journal of the Archeological Society of Virginia.² Not only is the description of their work inadequate, but their maps are so poor that it would not be possible to precisely redefine their excavation units. Of greater importance, given the manner in which the excavations were conducted, it is quite likely that the archeological deposits destroyed during excavation were not the jumble of prehistory that the authors reported. Therefore, it would be rash to base any interpretation of site integrity on their research.

Archeological knowledge of John Mason’s early nineteenth-century plantation is not much better than that of the island’s prehistory. In the spring of 1936, an NPS architect with no archeological training was given 12 weeks to explore the site of Mason’s house. This was done as part of the HABS survey. Recovered artifacts were then buried within the foundations of the house.³ Another amateur excavation was apparently conducted in 1962 (cite GWMP records, Nethererton files).

In the spring of 1970 the NPS permitted a class of graduate history students, with no training in archeology or supervision by a professional archeologist, to dig at Mason’s house. No report of this investigation was ever produced and NPS attempts to get the Smithsonian Institution to return the archeological collection to the agency have been unsuccessful.

Only when a professional archeological identification and evaluation study of TRI is conducted will it be possible to have the data necessary to determine archeological site eligibility for listing on the National Register. Those sites that are determined eligible can be added as an addendum to the TRI National Register nomination.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Appendix A Page 117

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

List of Potential Archeological Resources

1. John Mason House, foundations
2. Mason icehouse, foundations (other outbuildings adjoined)
3. Ferry house, northeast shore, foundations
4. Current NPS trail across north end island, probably following or near to location of historic road site, linking colonial causeway terminus, ferry landings on north shore, and possible ferry landing on northeast shore; this was a colonial and early American road linking Georgetown and Virginia, also ran through the Civil War camp of the 1st U.S. Colored Troops and other Union Army troops
5. Possible graveyard (African American?), mentioned by the authors of the HABS "Report" as having been near the "caretaker's house," a frame dwelling (no longer extant) which stood near the northeast shore, along the north transverse trail
6. Old wharves and wrecked scows (concentrated at north end of island)
7. Site of stone wharf, west side of island
8. Prehistoric sites, while not finally identified within distinct bounds, are clearly potential archeological resources.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Appendix A Page 118

Theodore Roosevelt Island
name of property
Washington, D.C.
county and State
Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks
name of multiple property listing

Endnotes

¹ See Cissna, "Historical and Archeological Study of the GWMP," p. 8. On p. 1, Cissna notes that a site on the island was called a "village" by Samuel V. Proudfit in 1923, in "Aboriginal Occupancy of the District of Columbia," *Records of the Columbia Historical Society* 25, pp. 182-183.

² Charles W. McNett, Jr., and Harvard G. Ayers, "Excavations on Theodore Roosevelt Island, Site TRI #1 (51NW3)" (*Quarterly Bulletin, Archeological Society of Virginia* 28, June 1974): 215-216; also Harvard G. Ayers, "Report of Archeological Testing of the Site TRI #1 on Theodore Roosevelt Island, Washington, D.C.," with an addendum, "A History of Theodore Roosevelt Island," by Edith M. Sprouse, 1967. Copies of these items can be found in the file "TRI Archeology" in the Roosevelt Island Resource File, library, GWMP Headquarters, Turkey Run.

³ See Stuart Barnette, Architect, to Mary Curry, letter, 20 May 1972, in Nan Netherton files, GWMP Headquarters, Turkey Run; this is contained in a green looseleaf binder titled "Theodore Roosevelt Island." Also in the Netherton files are three large envelopes of material relating to preparation of the HABS report.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Appendix B Page 115

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

Appendix B: Quotations used for stone tablets, Theodore Roosevelt Memorial

With the exception of one quotation on “Youth” and one on “The State,” all quotations are the same as the inscriptions dedicated in 1936 in the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Hall, American Museum of Natural History, New York, New York

NATURE

THERE IS DELIGHT IN THE HARDY LIFE OF THE OPEN

(from foreword to *African Game Trails*, vol. IV, *National Edition of the Works of Theodore Roosevelt*, New York, 1926, 20 vols.; cited as *NWTR*)

THERE ARE NO WORDS THAT CAN TELL THE HIDDEN SPIRIT OF THE WILDERNESS, THAT CAN REVEAL ITS MYSTERY, ITS MELANCHOLY, AND ITS CHARM

(from foreword to *African Game Trails* [1910], *NWTR*, IV, p. xxiv)

THE NATION BEHAVES WELL IF IT TREATS THE NATURAL RESOURCES AS ASSETS WHICH IT MUST TURN OVER TO THE NEXT GENERATION INCREASED AND NOT IMPAIRED IN VALUE

(from “The New Nationalism” [1910], *NWTR*, XVII, p. 52)

CONSERVATION MEANS DEVELOPMENT AS MUCH AS IT DOES PROTECTION

(from “The New Nationalism,” speech at Osawatomie, Kansas, on 31 August 1910, in *NWTR*, XVII, p. 15)

MANHOOD

A MAN’S USEFULNESS DEPENDS UPON HIS LIVING UP TO HIS IDEALS IN SO FAR AS HE CAN

(from letter, TR to Dr. Sturgis Bigelow, 29 March 1898, in *The Letters of Theodore Roosevelt* [8 vols., Cambridge, 1951-1954], vol. II, pp. 801-803)

IT IS HARD TO FAIL, BUT IT IS WORSE NEVER TO HAVE TRIED TO SUCCEED

(from “The Strenuous Life,” speech at Hamilton Club, Chicago, Illinois, 10 April 1899, *NWTR*, XIII, p. 320)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Appendix B Page 116

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

ALL DARING AND COURAGE, ALL IRON ENDURANCE OF MISFORTUNE MAKE FOR A FINER AND NOBLER TYPE OF MANHOOD

(from *American Ideals*, *NWTR*, XIII, p. 197-198)

ONLY THOSE ARE FIT TO LIVE WHO DO NOT FEAR TO DIE: AND NONE ARE FIT TO DIE WHO HAVE SHRUNK FROM THE JOY OF LIFE AND THE DUTY OF LIFE

(from "The Great Adventure" [1918] in *NWTR*, XIX, p. Z43. This particular passage was TR's eulogy for his son, Quentin Roosevelt, killed in World War I)

YOUTH

I WANT TO SEE YOU GAME, BOYS, I WANT TO SEE YOU BRAVE AND MANLY, AND I ALSO WANT TO SEE YOU GENTLE AND TENDER

(from address at graduating exercises, Friends' School, Washington, D.C., on 24 May 1907, from *Presidential Addresses and State Papers*, "Homeward Bound Edition," vol. VI, p. 242)

BE PRACTICAL AS WELL AS GENEROUS IN YOUR IDEALS. KEEP YOUR EYHES ON THE STARS, BUT REMEMBER TO KEEP YOUR FEET ON THE GROUND

(from address at Prize Day Exercises at the Groton School, Groton, Massachusetts, on 24 May 1904, in *NWTR*, XIII, p. 557)

COURAGE, HARD WORK, SELF-MASTERY, AND INTELLIGENT EFFORT ARE ALL ESSENTIAL TO SUCCESSFUL LIFE

(from *America and the World War* [1915], *NWTR*, XVII, p. 174)

ALIKE FOR THE NATION AND THE INDIVIDUAL, THE ONE INDISPENSABLE REQUISITE IS CHARACTER

(from "Character and Success," *The Outlook* [magazine], 31 March 1900, in *NCR*, XIII, p. 386)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Appendix B Page 117

Theodore Roosevelt Island

name of property

Washington, D.C.

county and State

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

name of multiple property listing

THE STATE

OURS IS A GOVERNMENT OF LIBERTY BY, THROUGH, AND UNDER THE LAW

(from "National Unity Versus Class Cleavage," speech at State Fair, Syracuse, New York, 7 September 1903, in *NWTR*, XVI, p. 54)

A GREAT DEMOCRACY HAS GOT TO BE PROGRESSIVE OR IT WILL SOON CEASE TO BE GREAT OR A DEMOCRACY

(from *The New Nationalism* [1910], p. 43)

ORDER WITHOUT LIBERTY AND LIBERTY WITHOUT ORDER ARE EQUALLY DESTRUCTIVE

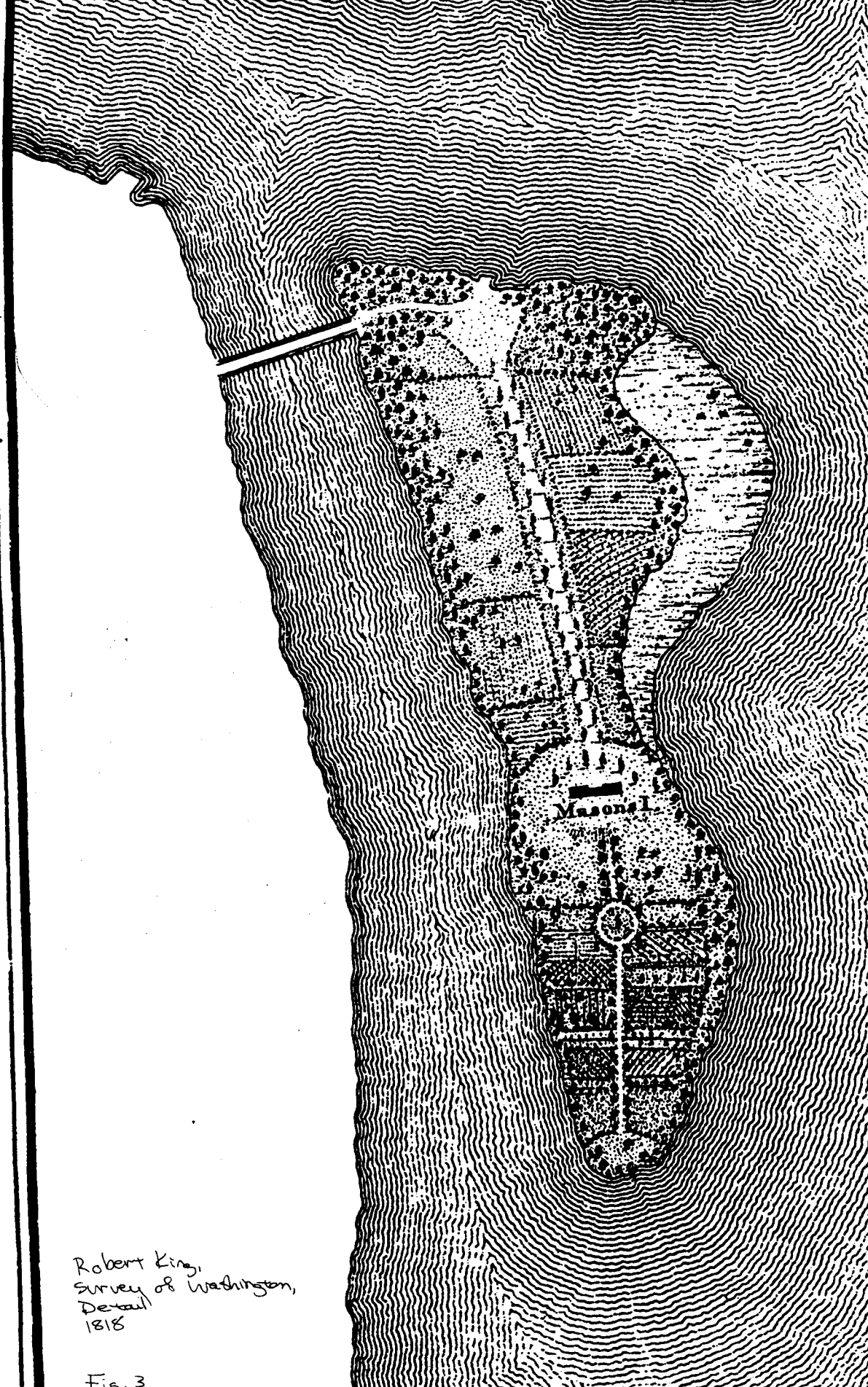
(from *The Great Adventure* [1918], in *NWTR*, XIX, p. 342)

IN POPULAR GOVERNMENT RESULTS WORTH HAVING CAN BE ACHIEVED ONLY BY MEN WHO COMBINE WORTHY IDEALS WITH PRACTICAL GOOD SENSE

(from address at the Harvard Union, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 23 February 1907, in *Presidential Addresses and State Papers*, "Homeward Bound Edition," vol. VI, p. 1175; also in *NWTR*, XIII, P. 565)

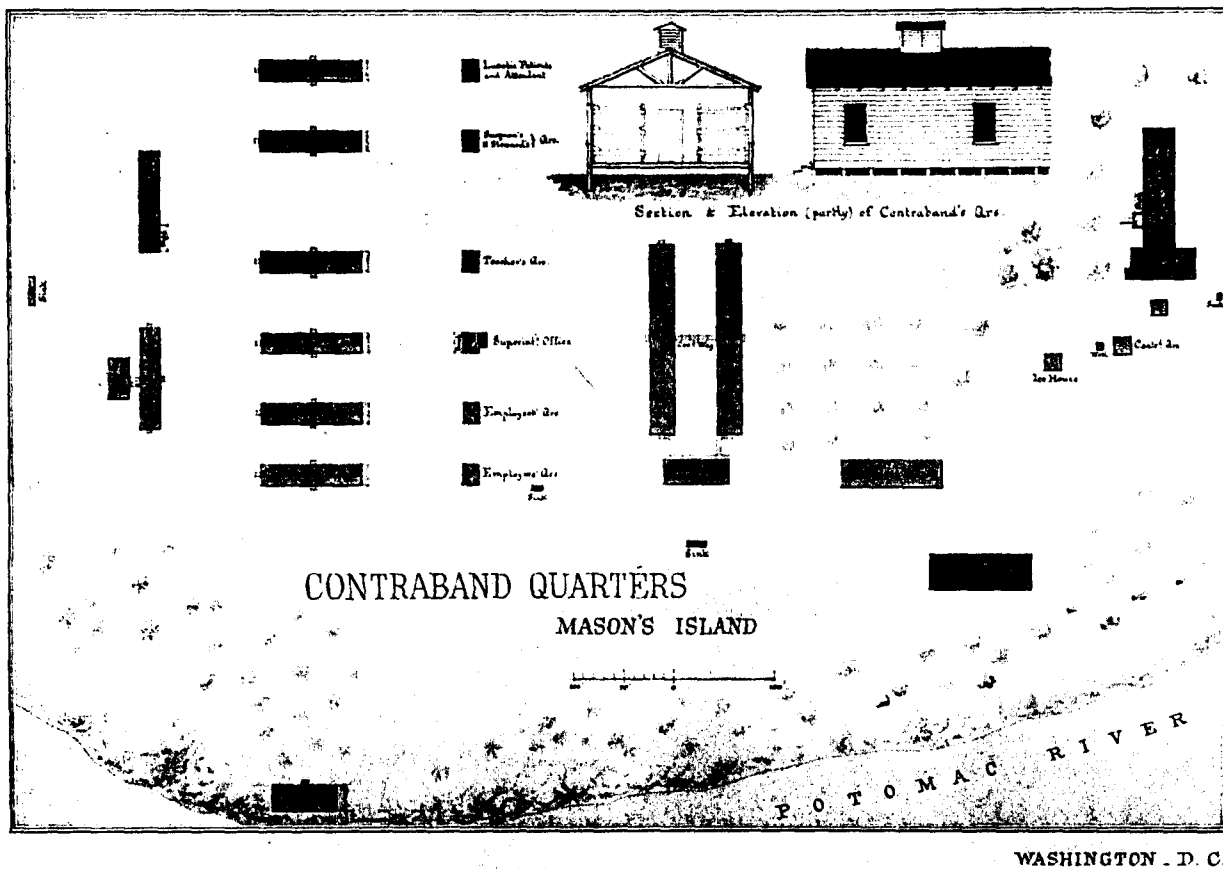
IF I MUST CHOOSE BETWEEN RIGHTEOUSNESS AND PEACE I CHOOSE RIGHTEOUSNESS

(from *America and the World War* [1915] in *NWTR*, XVII, p. 36)



Robert King,
Survey of Washington,
Detail
1818

Fig. 3



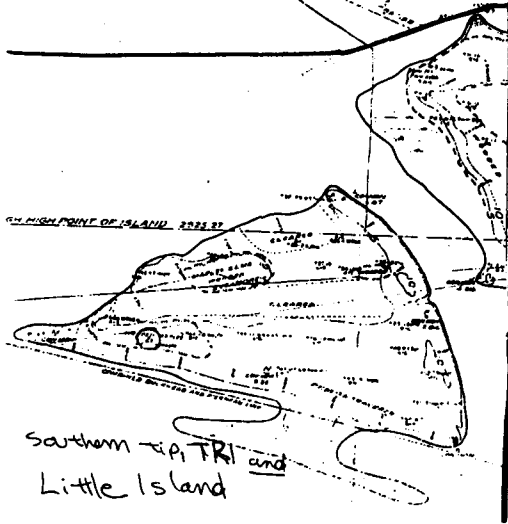
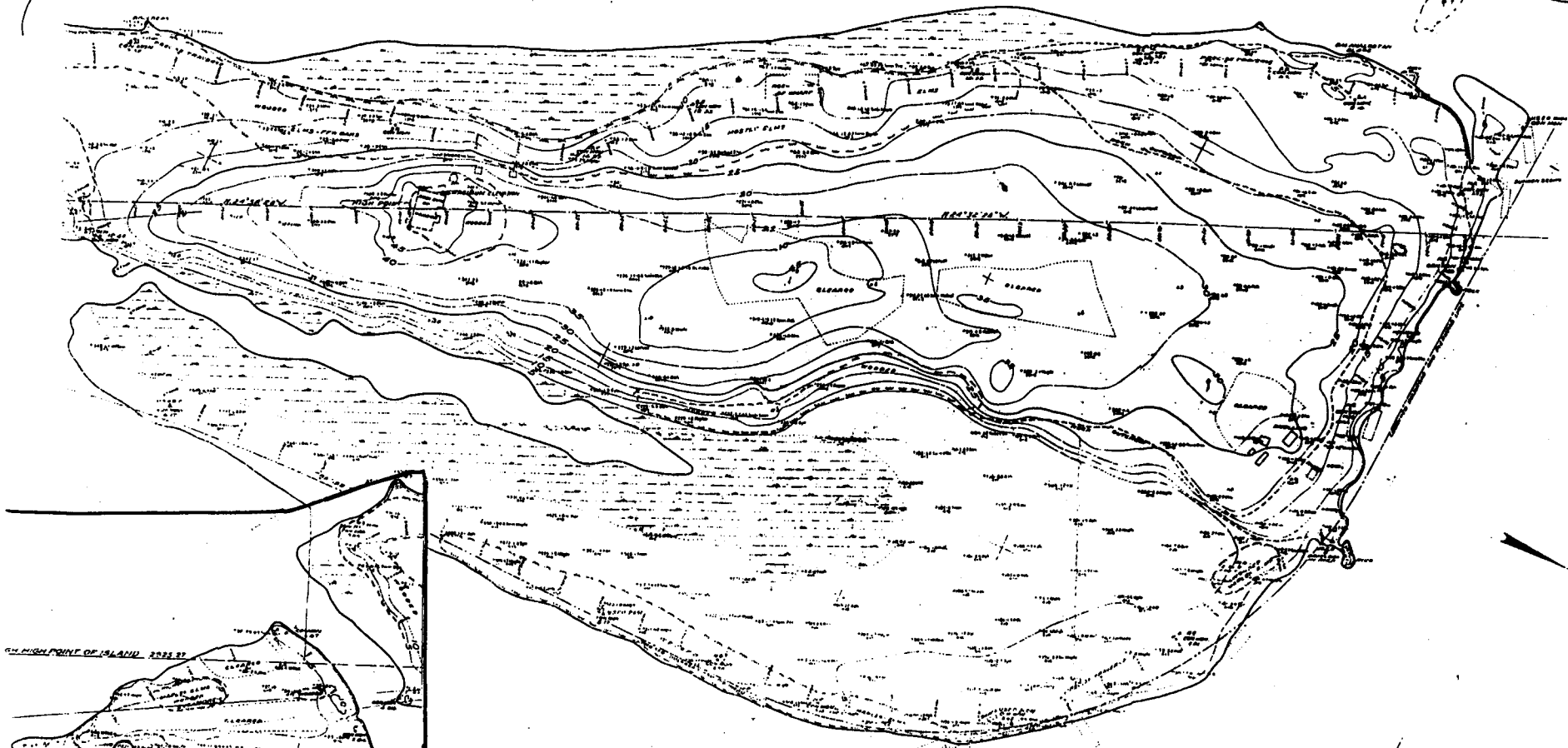
2.43 (RG92; 1, 24)

Fig. 4

LITTLE RIVER

X

Little Island:
See insert below
↙

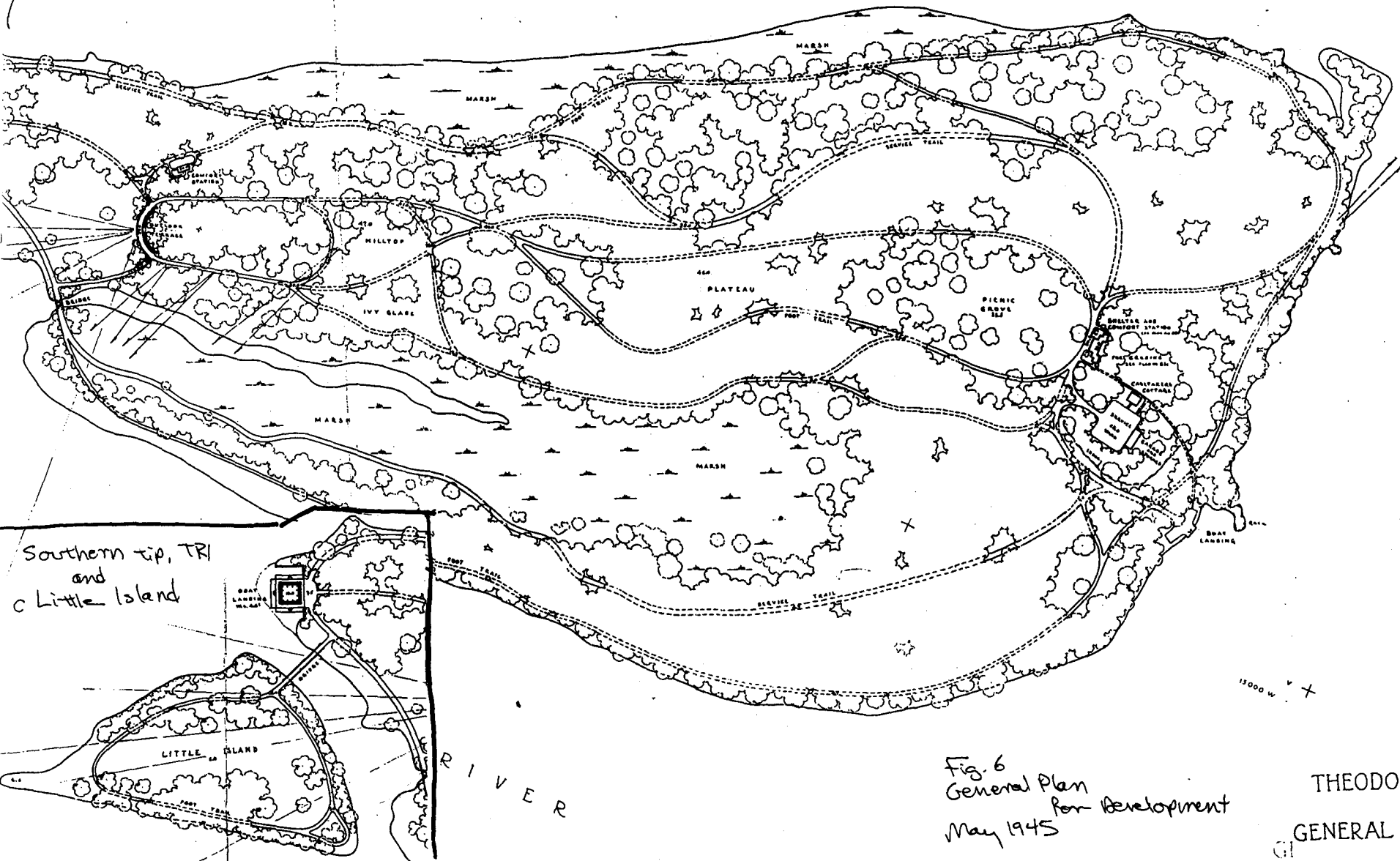


south of ATRI and
Little Island

RIVER

Fig 5
Survey of Roosevelt Island
May 1932

See insert below

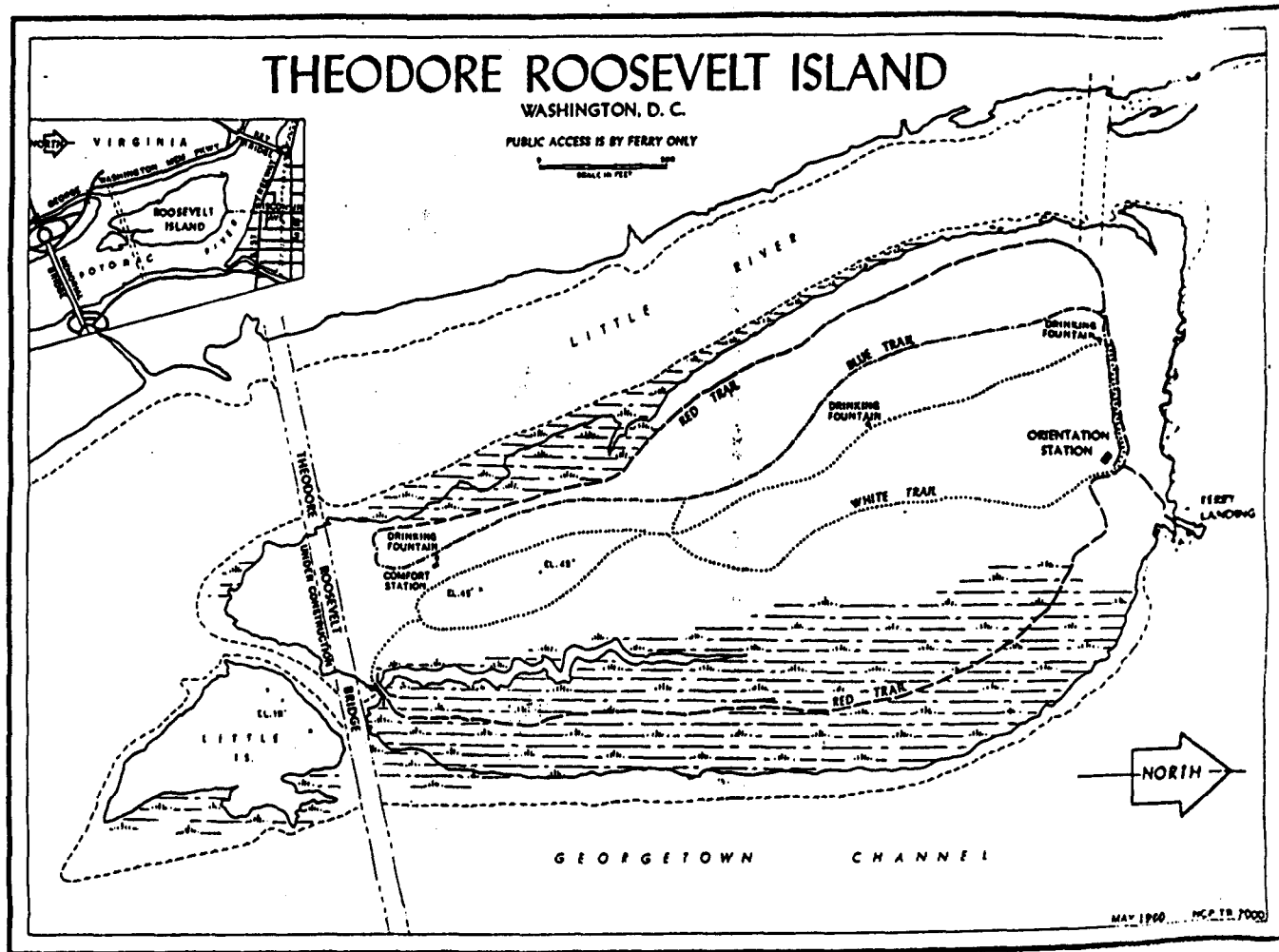


Southern tip, TRI and C Little Island

Fig. 6
General Plan
for Development
May 1945

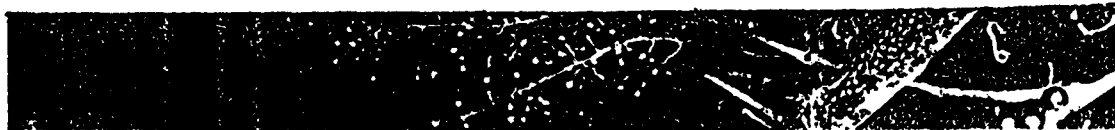
THEODOR
GENERAL P
GI

TR 1, MK

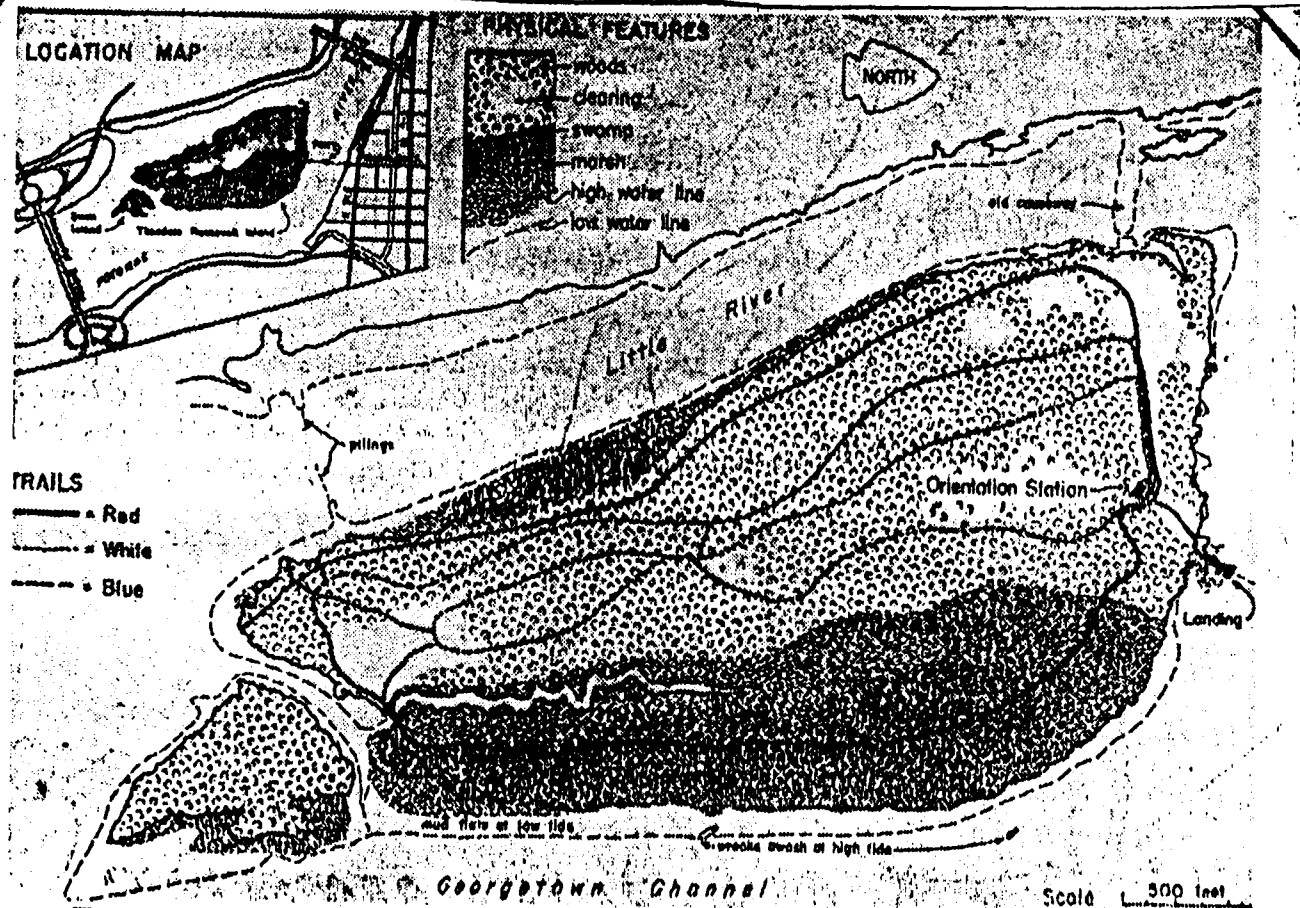


NPS map showing trails & structures c. 1960

Fig. 7



11

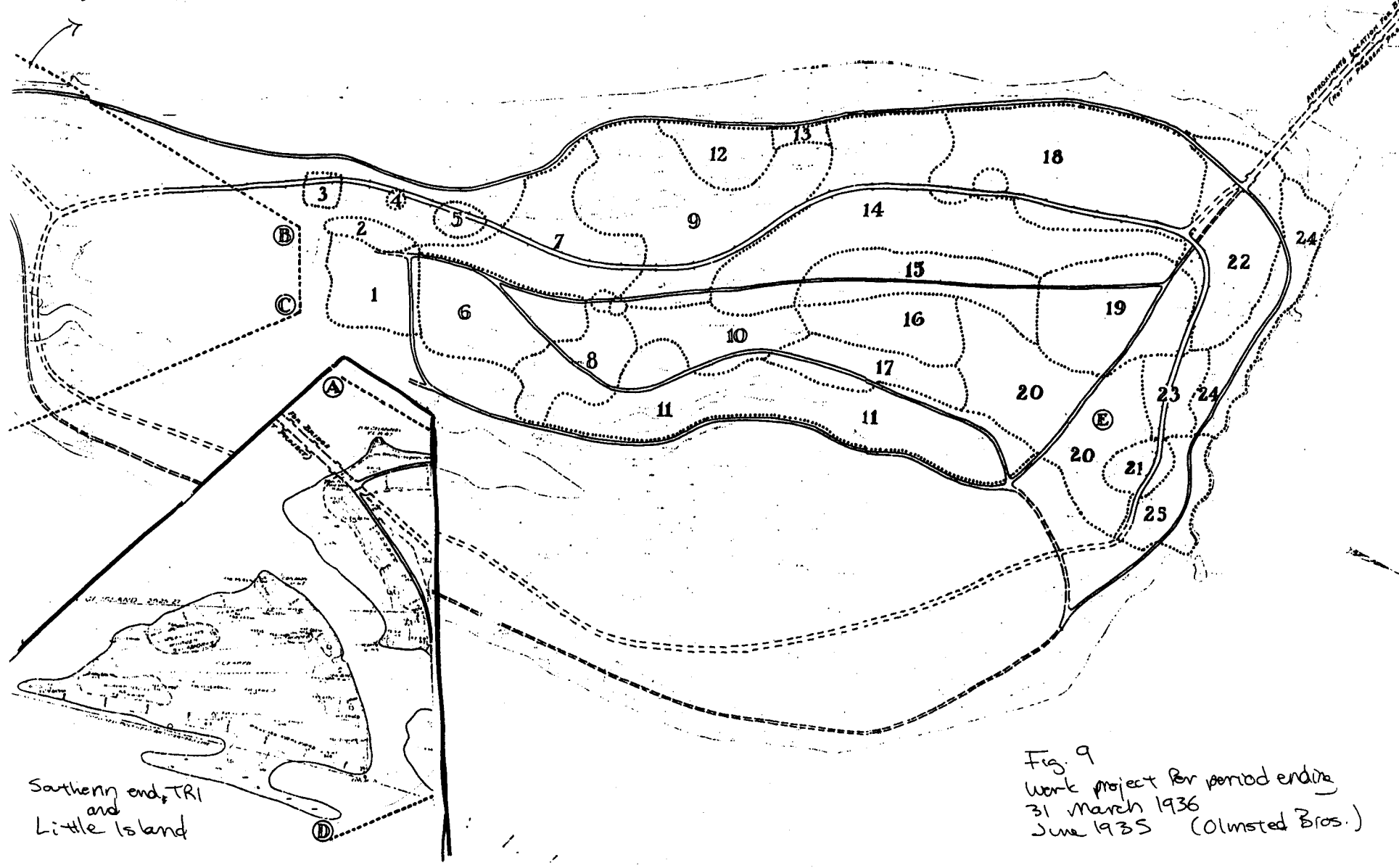


Ferry Service to Roosevelt Island on Saturdays, Sundays and holiday afternoons will continue thru October, National Capitol Parks announced today. Boats leave docks near Wisconsin-av and K-st nw on the hour, beginning at noon. A new orientation station is to be opened Saturday, June 27. Naturalists have prepared several trails with self-guiding literature, to be available within a few weeks. Big news from the island this season is that a wild gray fox has been spotted.

JUN 24 1953

Fig. 8
NPS map showing vegetative cover, 1953

Little Island:
see insert



Southern end, TRI
and
Little Island

Fig. 9
Work project for period ending
31 March 1936
June 1935 (Olmsted Bros.)

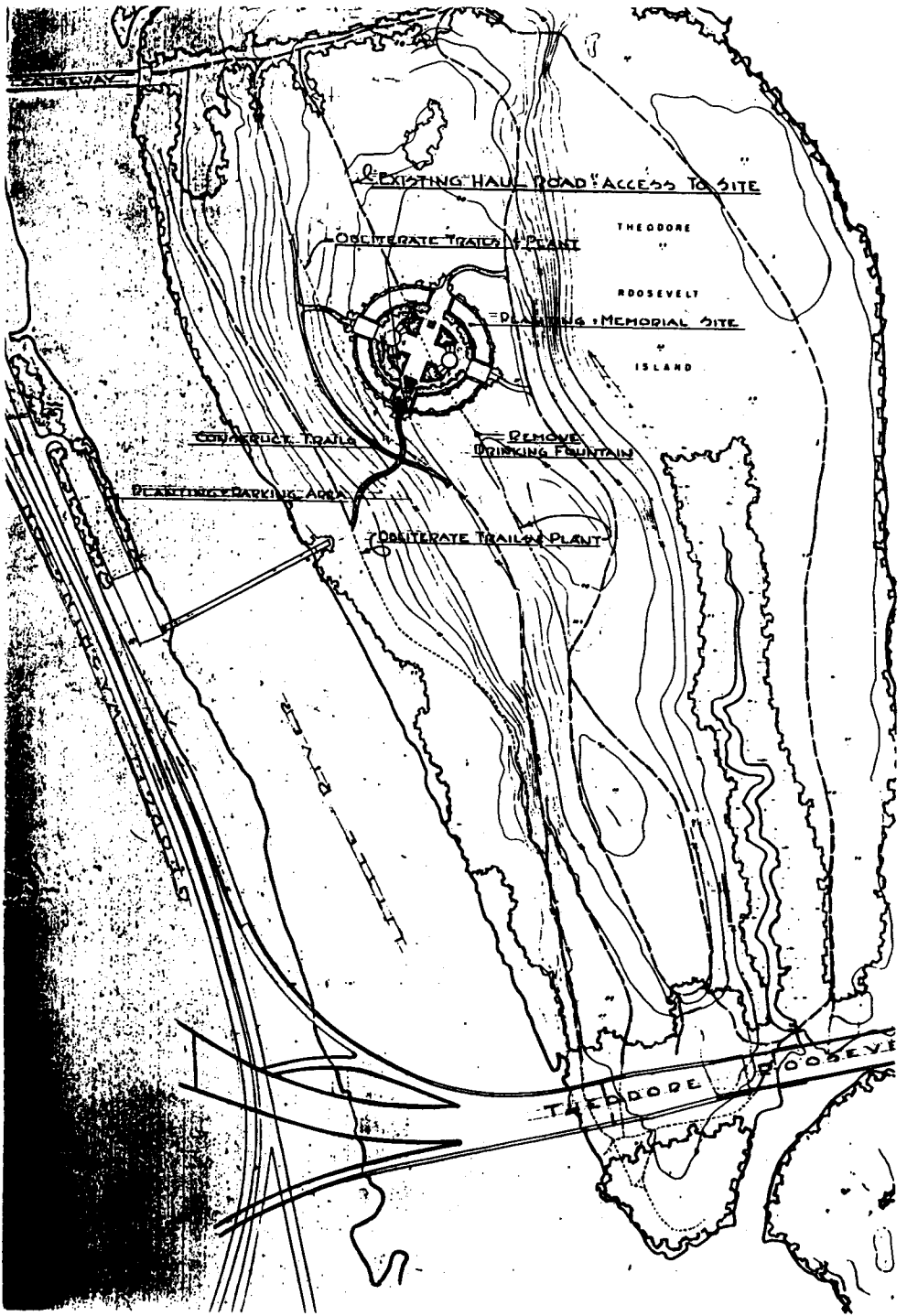


Fig. 10
Planning Plan, Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Area
February 1965

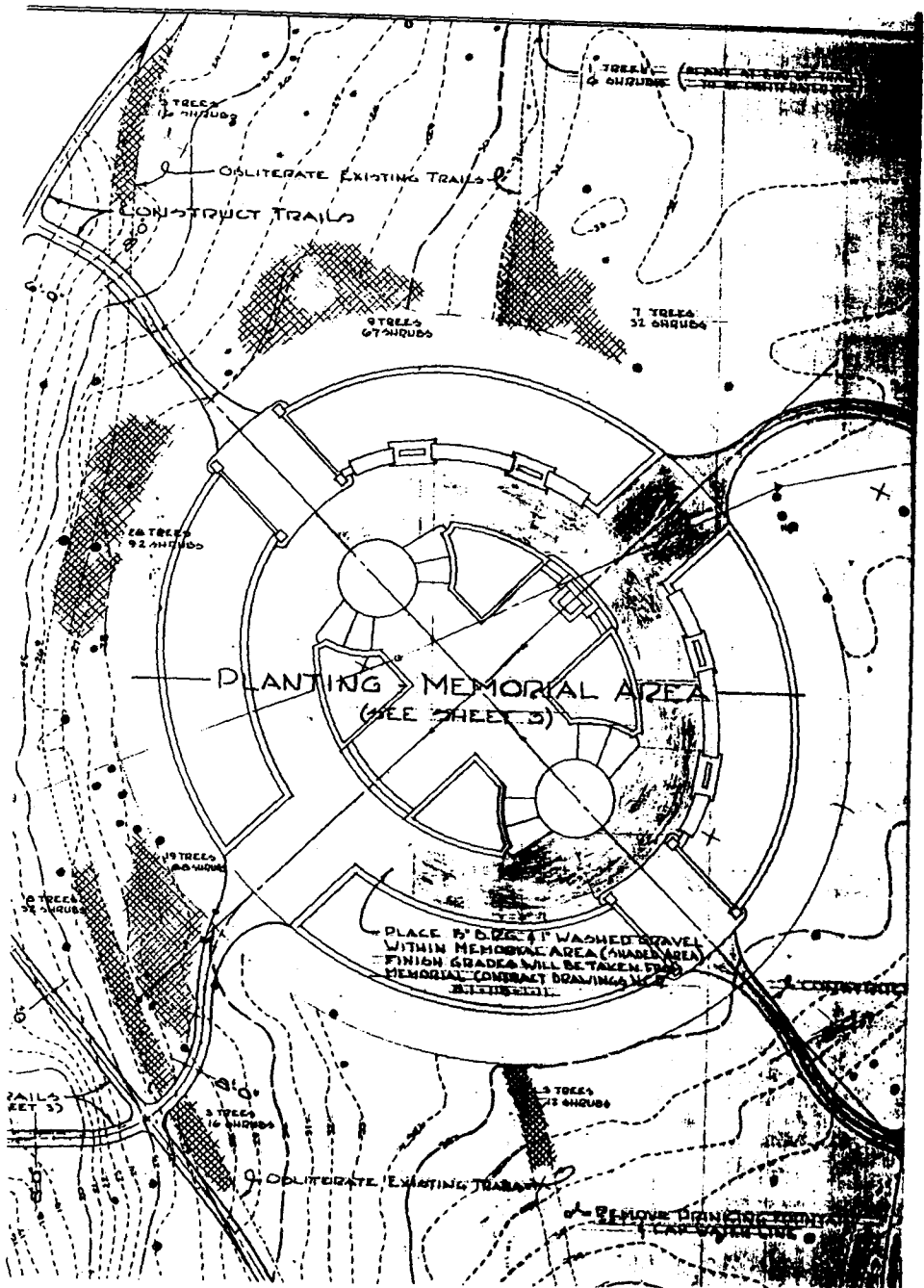


Fig. 11
 Planting Plan, Theodore Roosevelt Memorial, Detail
 February 1965

Fig. 12

**Theodore Roosevelt Island
Map Showing Contributing Resources**

1. North plateau, woodland landscape (Contributing Site)
2. South plateau, woodland landscape (Contributing Site)
3. Marsh/swamp landscape (Contributing Site)
4. Little Island (Contributing Site)
5. Mason house ruins (Contributing Site)
6. Mason icehouse ruins (Contributing Site)
7. raised earthen mound on which Mason house stood (Contributing Structure)
8. Theodore Roosevelt Memorial (Contributing Structure; including trail leading to it and landscaping on and around it)
- 9-11. Woods Trail, Upland Trail, and northern section of Swamp Trail (3 Contributing Structures: trails whose current alignment corresponds to alignment in Olmsted Brothers General Plan of 1945)
12. north transverse trail (Contributing Structure: historic road trace across north end of island, between ferry site and causeway)
13. remnants of historic Mason's Causeway, from Theodore Roosevelt Island shore across Little River channel to Virginia shore (Contributing Structure)
- 14-15. two retaining walls (Contributing Structures)
- 16-19. approximate location of remnants of c. four ferry wharves along north shore (Contributing Objects)
20. ruined boat beached on north shore (Contributing Object)
21. main trail along northern half of western shore

*The location of the six Washington benches (Contributing Objects) are not marked; there is one at the end of the pedestrian bridge, one at the north end of the boardwalk, two along the Upland Trail on the south plateau, one on the Woods Trail, and one at the comfort station

Fig. 12
 Theodore Roosevelt Island
 Map showing Contributing Resources

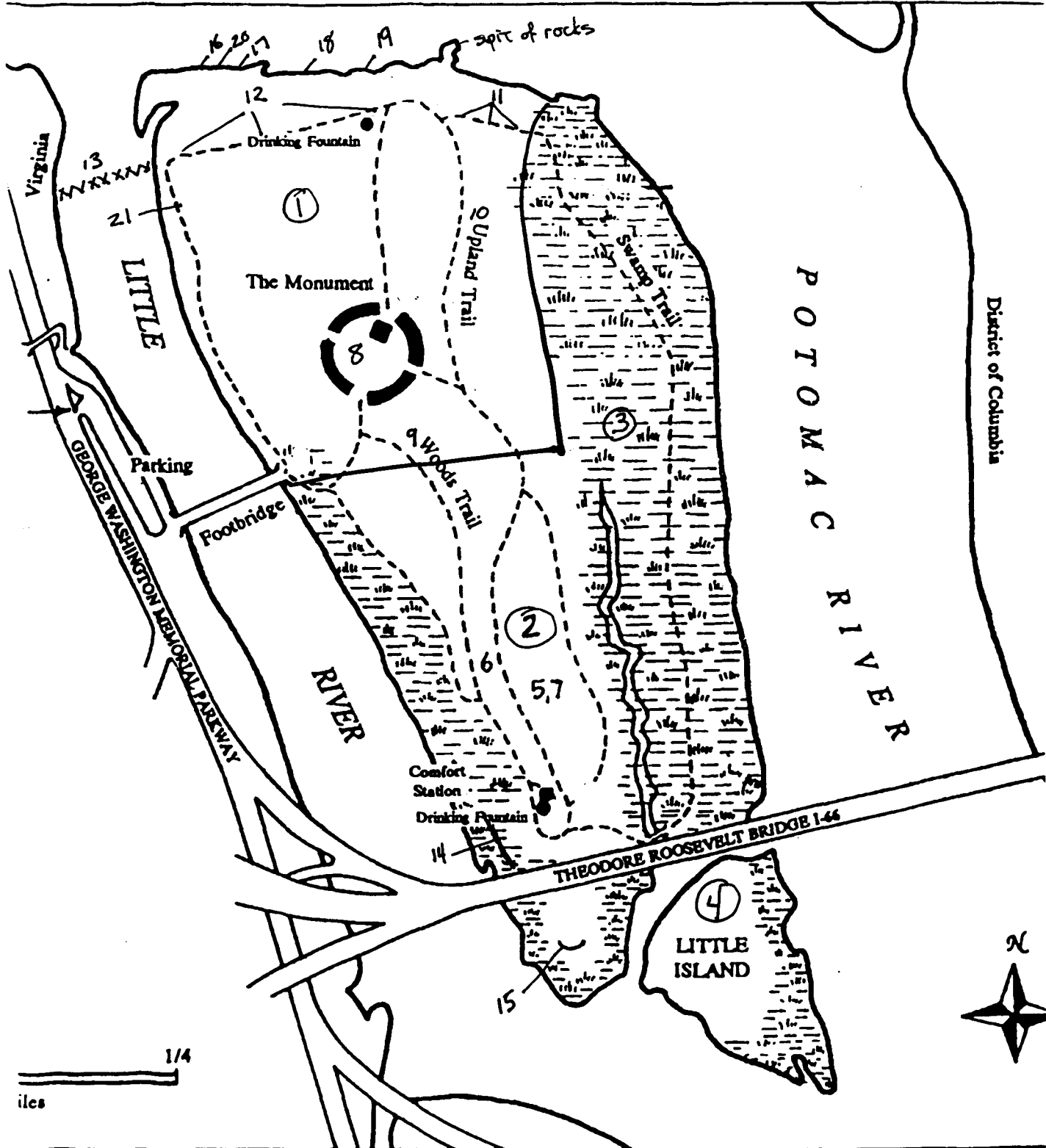


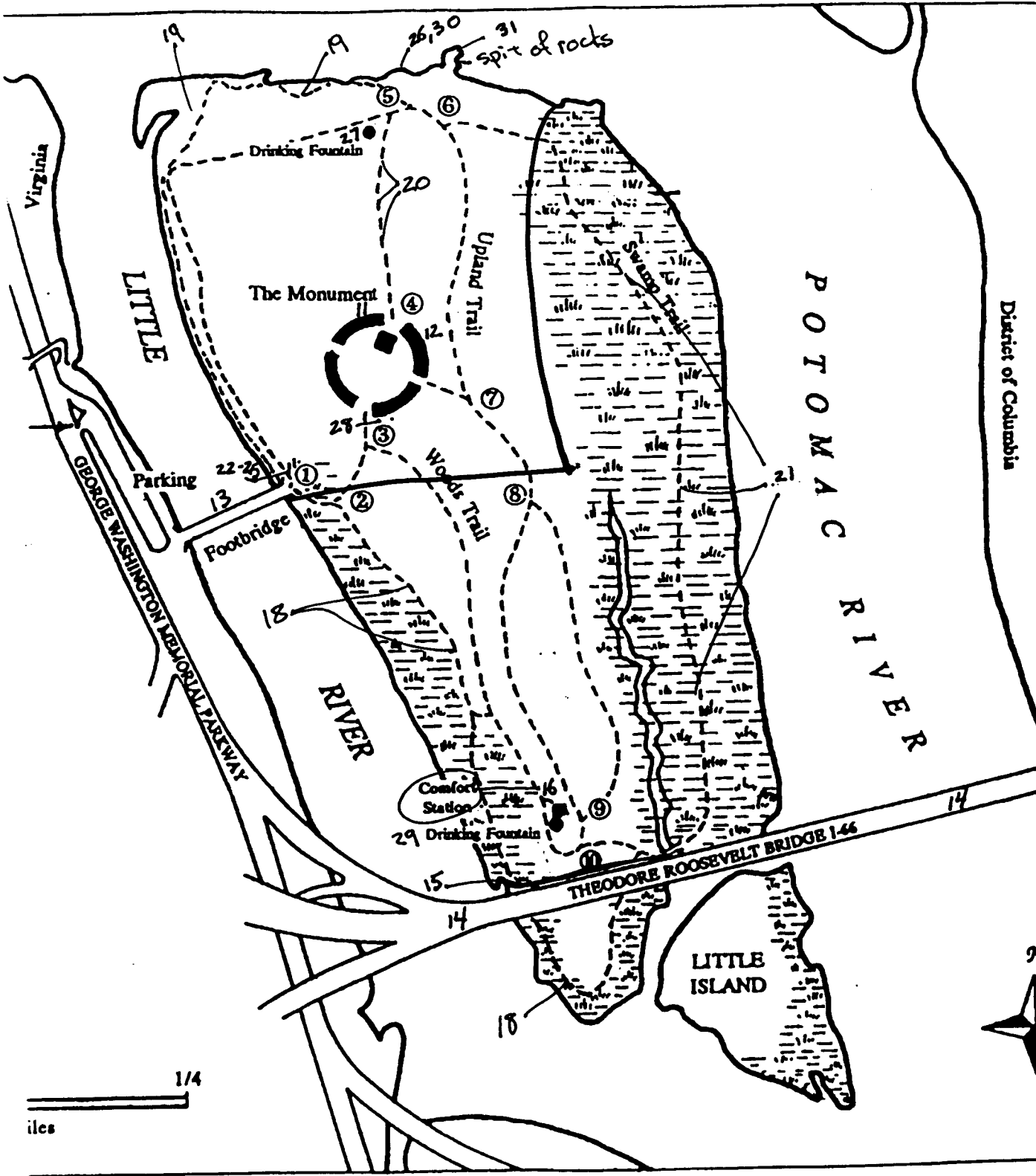
Fig. 13
Theodore Roosevelt Island
Map Showing Non-Contributing Resources

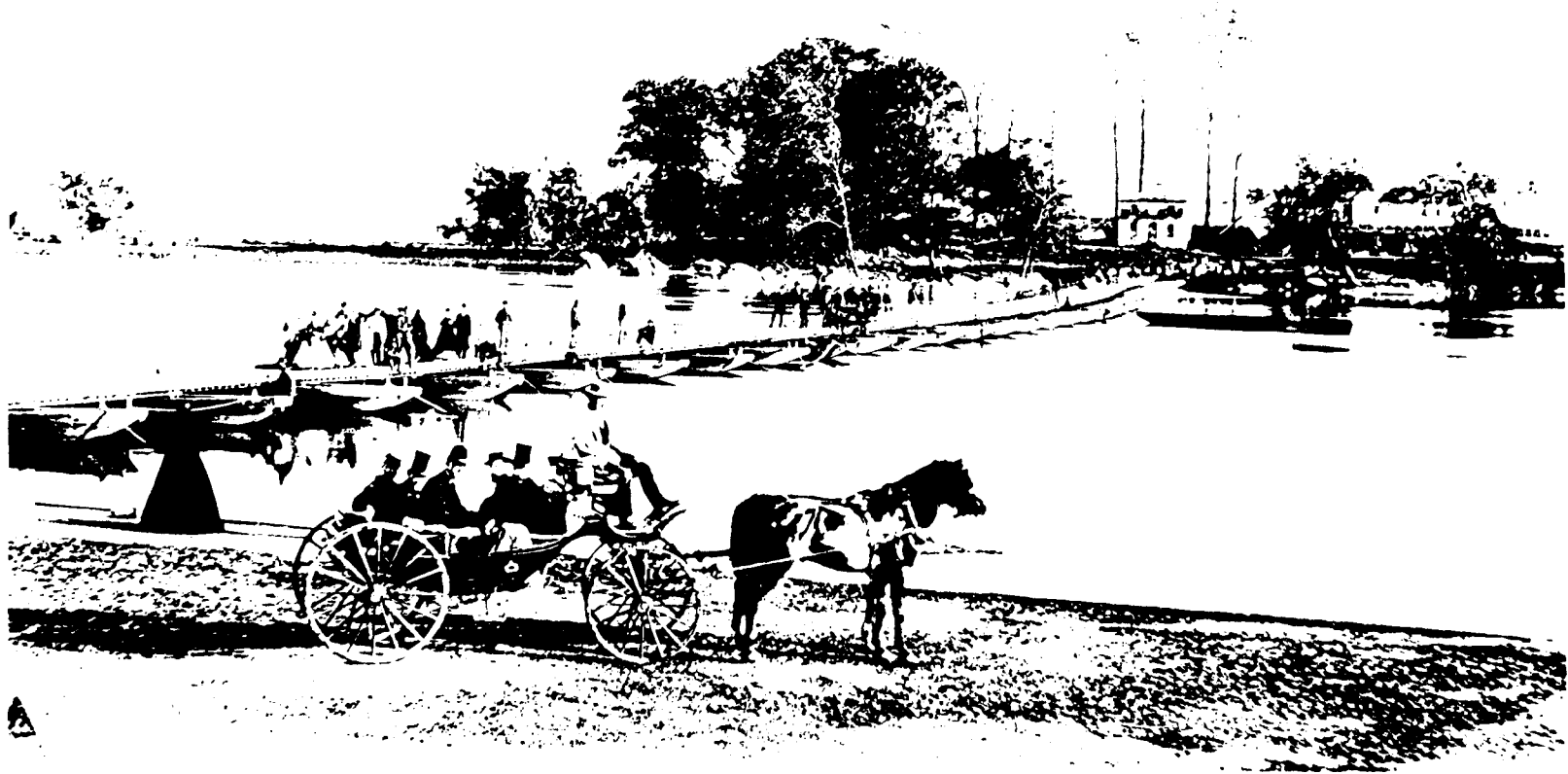
- 1-10. numbered signposts (Non-Contributing Objects)
- 11. ranger station (Non-Contributing Building)
- 12. storage building (Non-Contributing Building)
- 13. pedestrian bridge (Non-Contributing Structure)
- 14. Theodore Roosevelt Bridge (Non-Contributing Structure)
- 15. chain-link fence (Non-Contributing Structure)
- 16. comfort station (Non-Contributing Building)
- 17-20. four social trails (Non-Contributing Structures; 17, along northern half western shore, 18, along southern half western shore, 19, looping trail along north shore, 20, trail from north transverse trail to monument)
- 21. boardwalk through marsh and swamp, including bridge across inlet (Non-Contributing Structure)
- 22. rustic log fence (Non-Contributing Structure)
- 23. NPS bulletin board (Non-Contributing Object)
- 24-26. three other signs (Non-Contributing Objects)
- 27-29. three water fountains (Non-Contributing Objects)
- 30. high-water marker (Non-Contributing Object)
- 31. remains of NPS wharf (Non-Contributing Object)

*not shown on map:

- 5 NPS Mall-type benches on boardwalk in marsh and swamp (Non-Contributing Objects)
- 18 waysides (Non-Contributing Objects)

Fig. 13
 Theodore Roosevelt Island
 Map, Non-Contributing Resources





Photographer unknown

Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs

June 1865

Analoatan Island, pontoon bridge from Georgetown
shore to island, looking west

#14



Rendering by Richmond K. Fletcher

Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace Files, New York NY

Rendering c. 1935

Olmsted Bros. plan for island forest

#15



Photographer unknown

Location of original negative unknown

c. 1935

CCC workers clearing brush on ^{TR} island

#16



THEODORE ROOSEVELT ISLAND
WASHINGTON, D.C.
THE SOUTHERN END OF THE ISLAND
Olmsted Brothers • Landscape Architects • • • Brookline, Mass.

Rendering by Richmond & Hecker

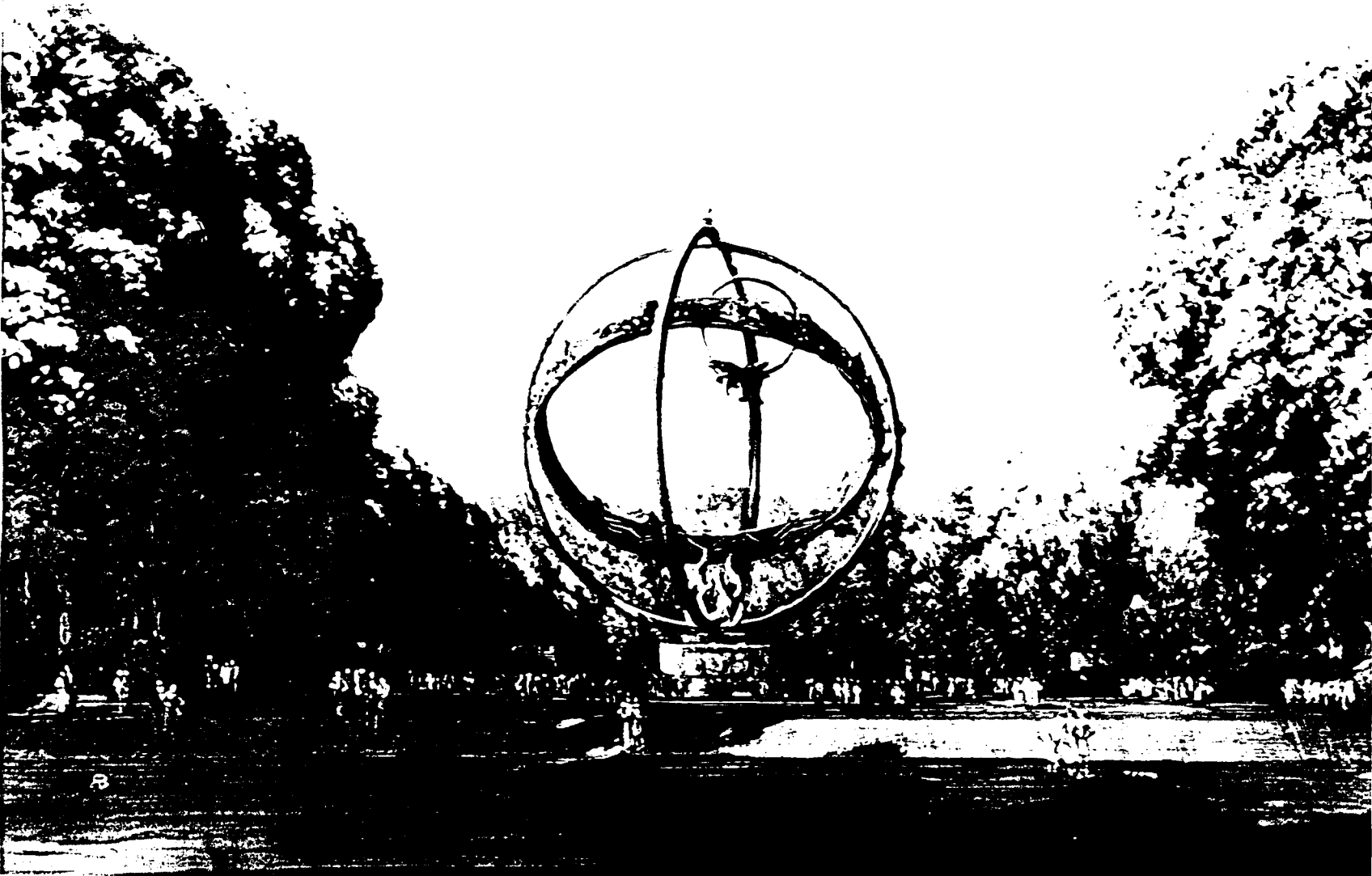
Location of original negative unknown

(probably NPS, MRCE; number on back of print
is NPS 1651-B)

c. 1937

Olmsted Bros. plan for southern end of island

#17



Artist e photographer unknown

Location of original negative unknown

Rendering dated 1958

Proposed memorial to TR in the form of an
armillary sphere, designed by Eric Ogler
and Paul Manship

#18

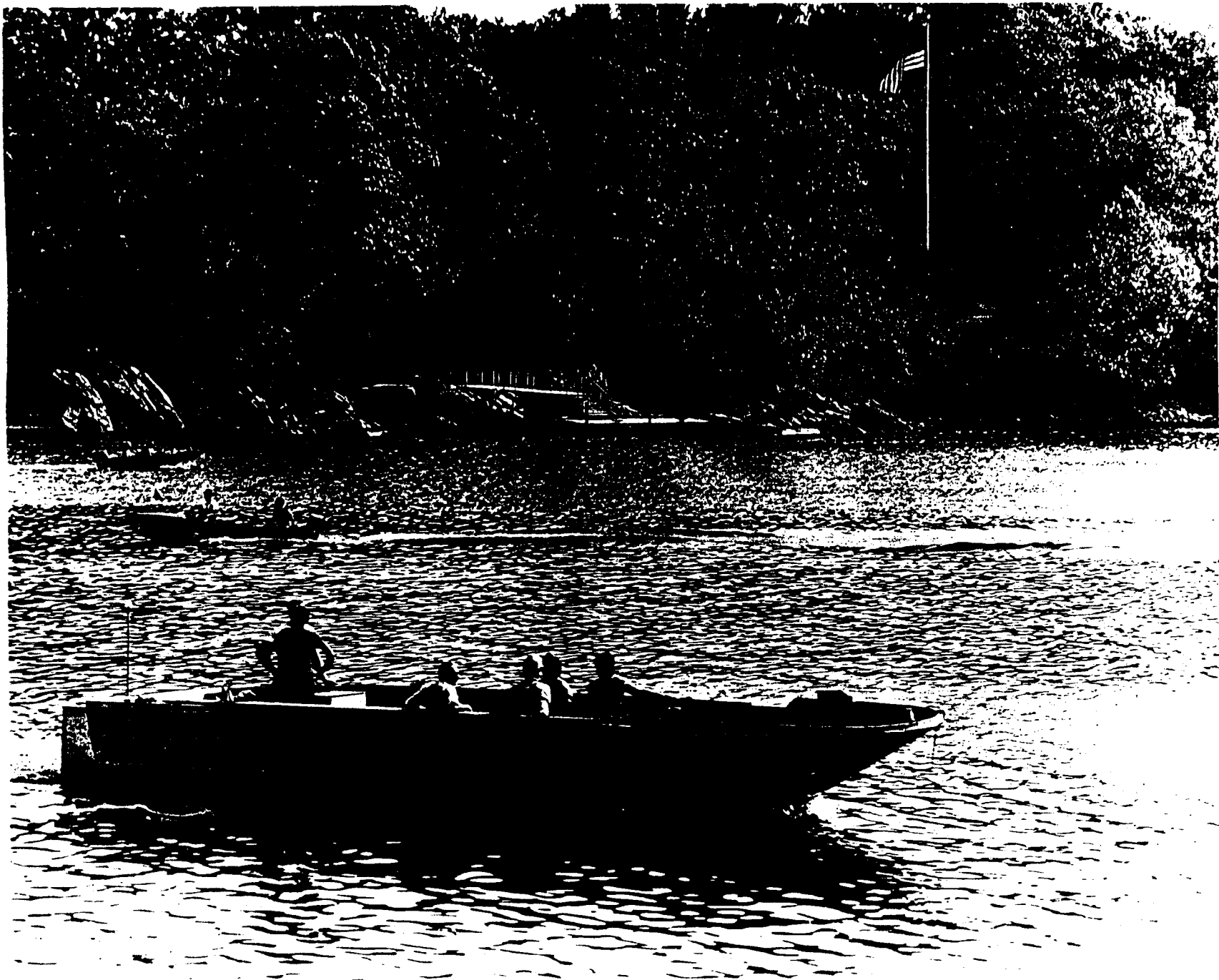


Photographer unknown
Location of original negative unknown
(original may be in APS MRCE)

14 August 1950

Aerial view of TRI from north

#19



Photographer unknown

Location of original negative unknown

c. 1955

UPS launch "Wood Duck" leaving ferry wharf on
northⁿ eastern shore of TR Island for Georgetown

#20



Photographer unknown

Location of original negative unknown (photo of painting
from Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs
Division; painting may be owned by Mason family
descendants)

c. 1820s

Painting showing north elevation of John Mason's house
on island

#52



Photographer unknown

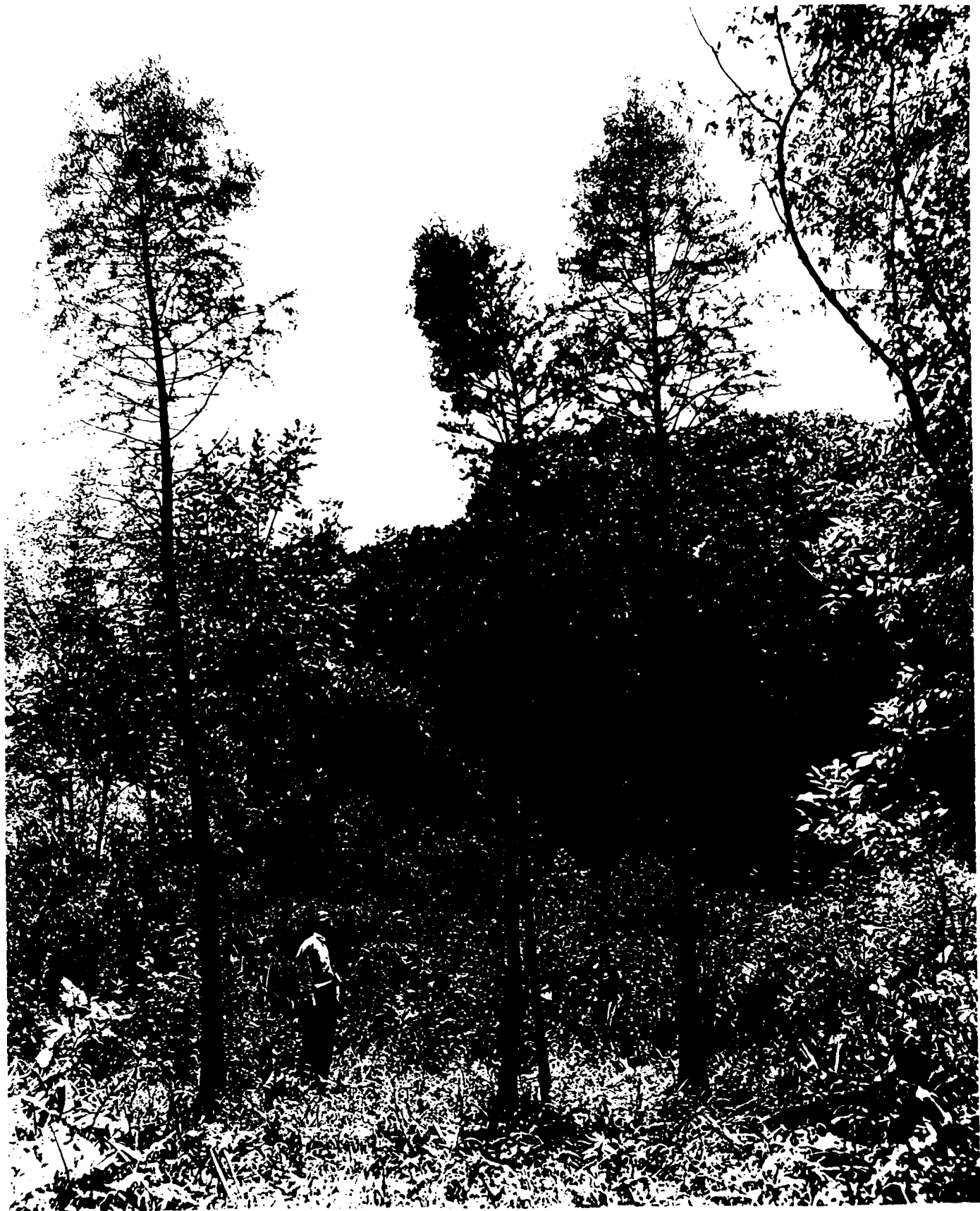
Location of original negative unknown

(possibly from Theodor Hayden Collection,
Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs
Division)

c. 1930s

Forest on Roosevelt Island

#53



Photographer unknown

Location of original negative unknown
(NPS print, original may be in MRCE)

17 July 1952

Tree inspection on island

#54