

A photograph of a wooded area with a dirt path, a tree trunk, and stone steps leading up a hillside. The text is overlaid on the top right of the image.

Fort Bunker Hill

Rock Creek Park

Fort Circle Park | North

Cultural Landscapes Inventory
National Park Service

Urban Heritage Project | PennPraxis
University of Pennsylvania
June 2021

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Cultural Landscape Overview + Management Information



Inventory Unit Summary & Site Plan

Inventory Summary

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:

CLI General Information:

Purpose and Goals of the CLI

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) is an evaluated inventory of all significant landscapes in units of the national park system in which the National Park Service has, or plans to acquire any enforceable legal interest. Landscapes documented through the CLI are those that individually meet criteria set forth in the National Register of Historic Places such as historic sites, historic designed landscapes, and historic vernacular landscapes or those that are contributing elements of properties that meet the criteria. In addition, landscapes that are managed as cultural resources because of law, policy, or decisions reached through the park planning process even though they do not meet the National Register criteria, are also included in the CLI.

The CLI serves three major purposes. First, it provides the means to describe cultural landscapes on an individual or collective basis at the park, regional, or service-wide level. Secondly, it provides a platform to share information about cultural landscapes across programmatic areas and concerns and to integrate related data about these resources into park management. Thirdly, it provides an analytical tool to judge accomplishment and accountability.

The legislative, regulatory, and policy direction for conducting the CLI include:

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 USC 470h-2(a)(1)). Each Federal agency shall establish...a preservation program for the identification, evaluation, and nomination to the National Register of Historic Places...of historic properties...

Executive Order 13287: Preserve America, 2003. Sec. 3(a)...Each agency with real property management responsibilities shall prepare an assessment of the current status of its inventory of historic properties required by section 110(a)(2) of the NHPA...No later than September 30, 2004, each covered agency shall complete a report of the assessment and make it available to the Chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Secretary of the Interior... (c) Each agency with real property management responsibilities shall, by September 30, 2005, and every third year thereafter, prepare a report on its progress in identifying... historic properties in its ownership and make the report available to the Council and the Secretary...

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Federal Agency Historic Preservation Programs Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act, 1998. Standard 2: An agency provides for the timely identification and evaluation of historic properties under agency jurisdiction or control and/or subject to effect by agency actions (Sec. 110 (a)(2)(A)

Management Policies 2006. 5.1.3.1 Inventories: The Park Service will (1) maintain and expand the following inventories...about cultural resources in units of the national park system...Cultural Landscape Inventory of historic designed landscapes, historic vernacular landscapes,... and historic sites...

Cultural Resource Management Guideline, 1997, Release No. 5, page 22 issued pursuant to Director's Order #28. As cultural resources are identified and evaluated, they should also be listed in the appropriate Service-wide inventories of cultural resources.

Responding to the Call to Action:

The year 2016 marks the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service. A five-year action plan entitled, “*A Call to Action: Preparing for a Second Century of Stewardship and Engagement*” charts a path toward that second century vision by asking Service employees and partners to commit to concrete actions that advance the agency’s mission. The heart of the plan includes four broad themes supported by specific goals and measurable actions. These themes are: Connecting People to Parks, Advancing the NPS Education Mission, Preserving America’s Special Places, and Enhancing Professional and Organizational Excellence. The Cultural Landscape Inventory relates to three of these themes:

Connect People to Parks. Help communities protect what is special to them, highlight their history, and retain or rebuild their economic and environmental sustainability.

Advance the Education Mission. Strengthen the National Park Service’s role as an educational force based on core American values, historical and scientific scholarship, and unbiased translation of the complexities of the American experience.

Preserve America’s Special Places. Be a leader in extending the benefits of conservation across physical, social, political, and international boundaries in partnership with others.

The national CLI effort directly relates to #3, Preserve America’s Special Places, and specifically to Action #28, “Park Pulse.” Each CLI documents the existing condition of park resources and identifies impacts, threats, and measures to improve condition. This information can be used to improve park priority setting and communicate complex park condition information to the public.

Responding to the Cultural Resources Challenge:

The Cultural Resources Challenge (CRC) is a NPS strategic plan that identifies our most critical priorities. The primary objective is to “*Achieve a standard of excellence for the stewardship of the resources that form the historical and cultural foundations of the nation, commit at all levels to a common set of goals, and articulate a common vision for the next century.*” The CLI contributes to the fulfillment of all five goals of the CRC:

- 1) *Provide leadership support, and advocacy for the stewardship, protection, interpretation, and management of the nation’s heritage through scholarly research, science and effective management;*
- 2) *Recommit to the spirit and letter of the landmark legislation underpinning the NPS*

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3) Connect all Americans to their heritage resources in a manner that resonates with their lives, legacies, and dreams, and tells the stories that make up America's diverse national identity;

4) Integrate the values of heritage stewardship into major initiatives and issues such as renewable energy, climate change, community assistance and revitalization, and sustainability, while cultivating excellence in science and technical preservation as a foundation for resource protection, management, and rehabilitation; and

5) Attract, support, and retain a highly skilled and diverse workforce, and support the development of leadership and expertise within the National Park Service.

Scope of the CLI

CLI data is gathered from existing secondary sources found in park libraries, archives and at NPS regional offices and centers, as well as through on-site reconnaissance. The baseline information describes the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in the context of the landscape's overall significance. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features, and allows for an evaluation of the landscape's overall integrity and an assessment of the landscape's overall condition. The CLI also provides an illustrative site plan that indicates major features within the inventory unit and generates spatial data for Geographic Information Systems (GIS). The CLI also identifies stabilization needs to prevent further deterioration of the landscape and provides data for the Facility Management Software System

Inventory Unit Description:

Fort Bunker Hill, Reservation 443, is a 6.32-acre park located in northeast Washington, D.C., approximately 3.4 miles northeast of the United States Capitol and approximately 2.67 miles west of Bladensburg, Maryland. The Fort Bunker Hill cultural landscape is a component landscape of the Civil War Defenses of Washington. Fort Bunker Hill is bordered on the west by 14th Street NE, on the south by Otis Street NE, on the east by 13th Street NE, and on the north by Perry Street NE.

Fort Bunker Hill is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the 1974 Civil War Fort Sites nomination and the 1977 Defenses of Washington revision of the 1974 nomination as a contributing feature. The nomination lists Fort Bunker Hill's period of significance as 1861-1865, and for its military significance (Criteria A). This CLI argues that the Fort Bunker Hill cultural landscape is eligible under National Register Criteria A, C, and D, and that the period of significance should be expanded to include the years 1902-1937. Expanding the period of significance will recognize Fort Bunker Hill's role in the development of parks and recreation in Washington, D.C., as well as the Civilian Conservation Corps' involvement in landscape beautification and restoration projects at the site from 1935-1937.

Fort Bunker Hill was one of the 68 forts built as a defensive ring around Washington at the start of the Civil War. It was among the first of the fort sites to be surveyed and acquired, with construction underway by the fall of 1861. It was constructed by General Joseph Hooker's Brigade (including the First and Eleventh Massachusetts, Second New Hampshire, and Twenty-Sixth Pennsylvania volunteer regiments), which was part of the restructuring of General Irvin McDowell's army into General George

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B. McClellan's Army of the Potomac. The hilltop earthwork, erected on the acquisitioned property of Jehiel Brooks, received its official designation as Fort Bunker Hill on September 30, 1861, by order of McClellan. It was part of the northern arc of the Defenses of Washington, which were selected and constructed in anticipation of a possible attack from the north, as Washington, D.C had faced during the War of 1812.

As was the case with several of the fortifications, Fort Bunker Hill continued to be modified and altered over the course of the war, as the army's engineers addressed structural and visibility issues with the fort's design. By December 1862, Chief Engineer J. G. Barnard called for two additional batteries to be constructed to support Fort Bunker Hill. One of the batteries occupied an advanced position on the northeastern slope of Fort Bunker Hill, while the other flanked Fort Bunker Hill on the low hill southeast of the fort. These batteries, with covered passages were likely completed in early 1863, but they were still deemed weak by late June 1863, so a third battery was constructed on a rise northwest of Fort Bunker Hill. The third battery was likely complete by late 1863 (United States War Department 1888: 911-912; United States War Department 1889: 895).

On the southwestern slope of Fort Bunker Hill, numerous wood-framed buildings were erected to house and provide services for the fort's garrison and its supporting batteries. Because space within the earthwork was limited, the support structures were erected outside of the fort's parapet walls. By war's end, there were 32 framed structures on the Queen/Brooks property (outside the confines of the earthworks). They included sixteen quarters for commissioned and non-commissioned officers, three barracks for enlisted artillerymen, two guardhouses, five stables, a horse shed, a blacksmith shop, a post office, and a prison (The Daily National Republican 1865a; The Daily National Republican 1865c).

Despite—or perhaps because of—these alterations, Fort Bunker Hill and the other defenses were never subject to a Confederate attack. Their usefulness as a deterrent was clear however, as General Early attested after the war. Fort Bunker Hill, together with the other forts in the northern arc, was critical as a buttress in the city's defense.

As the war came to an end and the structures were sold at auction, the Queen/Brooks family reclaimed possession of the fort and its surrounding land. Although they resumed farming the larger estate after the war, the hilltop fort site was difficult to plow and thus remained intact and largely untouched (National Archives and Records Administration 1870). Bellair, the Brooks mansion, remained standing southwest of the earthworks, and by 1884, the former Bladensburg Road west of the fort was newly renamed as Bunker Hill Road (Boschke 1861, updated 1880).

Even more significantly for the fort's larger landscape and context, the Metropolitan Branch of the Baltimore and Ohio (B&O) Railroad was introduced in 1873, running north-south to the west of the earthworks, and the Brookland subdivision was created around Fort Bunker Hill in 1887 as one of Washington, D.C's first streetcar suburbs. Soon after, the area around the fort site was platted with a street grid and narrow lots, but the fort itself remained largely intact within the perimeter streets of Fort Street to the south, 13th Street NE to the west, Omaha Street to the north, and 14th Street NE to the east. Within just a few years of Brookland's creation as a subdivision, newspaper accounts indicate that

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the Brookland Citizens' Association had formed, and that the association supported the creation of a public park on the site of Fort Bunker Hill (The Evening Star 1895b: 20).

In 1902, the publication of the McMillan Plan bolstered the Citizens' Association's cause and spurred efforts to preserve Fort Bunker Hill as part of a circle of green spaces around the city (National Park Service 2013c). This ring of parks would be established on the former sites of the Civil War Defenses of Washington, as part of the City Beautiful movement's re-envisioning of the District of Columbia. Fort Bunker Hill was, by this time, surrounded by suburban development, and the site itself featured a limited number of houses around its periphery.

The District's efforts to acquire the land stalled until the late 1920s, when the National Capital Parks Commission (NCPKC) was authorized to purchase land related to the Civil War Defenses of Washington. A year later, on April 30, 1926, Congress replaced NCPKC with the larger and more empowered National Capital Park and Planning Commission (NCPPC), and in 1927, this commission purchased the site of Fort Bunker Hill (National Capital Park and Planning Commission 1927: 31).

The creation of the park at Fort Bunker Hill corresponded with the formation of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) during the Great Depression. By the end of 1935, CCC members from Camp NP-8-VA (located along the George Washington Memorial Parkway, near the Memorial Avenue Bridge) began work at Fort Bunker Hill (HABS DC-858 2004:40-41), where the CCC's projects included not only the planting of trees and the construction of walkways, but also the development of the site as a recreational area—most significantly with the construction of an amphitheater on the site's eastern slope. It included a stage, circumscribed by a wall 65 feet long and three feet high, with fixed log seats for 250 people set into the hillside. An additional 150 audience members could be accommodated on the ground or in portable chairs (Davidson 2004: 96-97).

Today, Fort Bunker Hill is situated in the midst of a largely residential area of northeast Washington, D.C., near the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in America (northeast of the site) and Catholic University of America (west of the site). The site's Civil War earthworks deteriorated, although some remnants are visible. The landscape retains most of the vegetation pattern and features from its 20th century conversion to a park, including the amphitheater on its eastern slope, its circulation pattern around the cleared hilltop, its overgrown hillsides, and the grassy periphery along the encompassing streets.

This CLI finds that Fort Bunker Hill cultural landscape retains integrity from the 20th century period of significance (1902-1937), and retains limited integrity from the Civil War-era period of significance (1861-1865). Fort Bunker Hill displays the seven aspects that determine integrity as defined by the National Register of Historic Places (location, design, setting, feeling, materials, workmanship, and association) through the retention of landscape characteristics and features.

Site Plan



Site Plan of Fort Bunker Hill created by U Penn GIS

Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name:	Fort Bunker Hill
Property Level:	Component Landscape
CLI Identification Number:	600141
Parent Landscape:	600138

Park Information

Park Name and Alpha Code:	Rock Creek Park - Fort Circle Park - North -ROCR
Park Organization Code:	3472
Subunit/District Name Alpha Code:	Rock Creek Park - Fort Circle Park - North - ROCR
Park Administrative Unit:	Rock Creek Park

Concurrence Status

Inventory Status: Incomplete

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

This Cultural Landscape Inventory was researched and written by Margaret (Molly) Lester, Independent Researcher, University of Pennsylvania. Primary and secondary source material from within the National Park Service and local repositories was consulted to complete the inventory and is listed in the bibliography. Research and editorial assistance was provided by Martha Temkin, Cultural Resource Specialist, National Capital Region, National Park Service; Maureen Joseph, Regional Historical Landscape Architect, National Capital Region, National Park Service; Joshua M. Torres, Cultural Resource Program Manager, Rock Creek Park; Kym Elder, Program Manager, Civil War Defenses of Washington, National Park Service; Simone Monteleone, Chief of Resource Management, Rock Creek Park and Randall F. Mason, Associate Professor and Chair, Historic Preservation, University of Pennsylvania.

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence:	No
Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence:	06/14/2017
National Register Concurrence:	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination

Concurrence Graphic Information:

Statement of Concurrence
Fort Bunker Hill Cultural Landscape Inventory

The preparation of this CLI for Fort Bunker Hill is part of the National Park Service's efforts to update cultural resource inventories, as required by Section 110(a)(1) of the National Historic Preservation Act.

- The District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office concurs with the findings of the Fort Bunker Hill Cultural Landscape Inventory. In addition, it concurs that the identified cultural landscape resources of the Fort Bunker Hill cultural landscape retain integrity to the site's identified periods of significance: 1861-65; and 1902-1937.



David Maloney
District of Columbia Historic Preservation Officer

1/19/2017
Date

Fort Bunker Hill SHPO Concurrence



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Capital Region
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20242

Memorandum

To: Regional Landscape Architect, National Capital Region
From: Superintendent, Rock Creek Park
Subject: Statement of Concurrence, Fort Bunker Hill Cultural Landscape Inventory

I, Julia Washburn, Superintendent of ROCR, concur with the findings of the Fort Bunker Hill Cultural Landscape Inventory for, including the following specific components:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: Must be Preserved and Maintained

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Fair

Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Fair: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character defining elements will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory for the Fort Bunker Hill is hereby approved and accepted.

Acting

Superintendent, ROCR

6/14/17
Date

Superintendence concurrence FY 2017

Geographic Information & Location Map

Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

Fort Bunker Hill, Reservation 443, is a 6.32-acre park located in northeast Washington, D.C., approximately 3.4 miles northeast of the United States Capitol and approximately 2.67 miles west of Bladensburg, Maryland. The Fort Bunker Hill cultural landscape is a component landscape of the Civil War Defenses of Washington. Fort Bunker Hill is bordered on the west by 14th Street NE, on the south by Otis Street NE, on the east by 13th Street NE, and on the north by Perry Street NE.

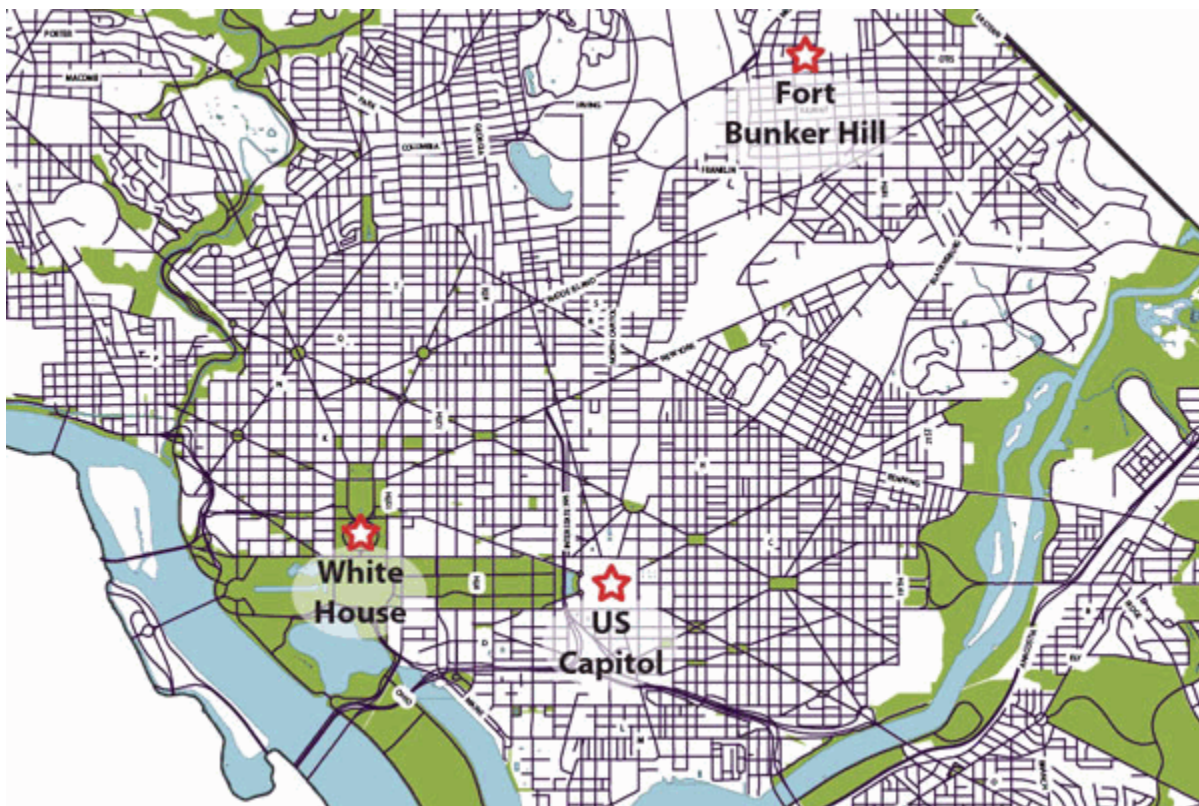
State and County:

State: DC

County: District of Columbia

Size (Acres): 6.32

Location Map:



Location Map: Fort Bunker Hill is located approximately 3.4 miles northeast of the United States Capitol and 2.8 miles west of Bladensburg, Maryland.

Management Unit: ROCR

Tract Numbers: Reservation 443

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Must be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 06/14/2017

NPS Legal Interest:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Public Access:

Type of Access: Unrestricted

National Register Information

Existing National Register Status

National Register Landscape Documentation:

Entered Inadequately Documented

National Register Explanatory Narrative:

Fort Bunker Hill is listed on the National Register as part of the 1977 Defenses of Washington revision of the 1974 Civil War Fort Sites nomination. The National Register lists Fort Bunker Hill's period of significance as 1861 to 1865. The fort is listed on the National Register for its military significance.

According to research conducted for this CLI and the categories of National Register documentation outlined in the "CLI Professional Procedures Guide," the Fort Bunker Hill landscape is inadequately documented based on the existing National Register documentation. This CLI maintains that the Fort Bunker Hill cultural landscape is eligible under National Register Criteria A, C, and D and recommends adding a second period of significance, 1902 to 1937. This second period of significance will recognize Fort Bunker Hill's role in the development of parks and recreation throughout Washington, D.C, and the partial implementation of the McMillan Plan, which was designed in part to promote the natural beauty of the area and convey to citizens the importance of the capitol city. This later period of significance also recognizes the role of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) at Bunker Hill. The Corps, created under President Franklin Roosevelt as one of his New Deal programs during the Great Depression, put millions of laborers to work. At Fort Bunker Hill, the CCC was responsible for the construction of new recreational features, including a hillside amphitheater and a picnic grove that bolstered the site's new use as a public park.

Existing NRIS Information:

Other Names:	Circle Forts- 780043399
Primary Certification Date:	07/15/1974

National Register Eligibility

National Register Concurrence:	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
Contributing/Individual:	Contributing
National Register Classification:	District
Significance Level:	National

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Significance Criteria: A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history

Significance Criteria: C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values

Significance Criteria: D - Has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important to prehistory or history

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category: Military

Area of Significance Subcategory: None

Area of Significance Category: Landscape Architecture

Area of Significance Category: Community Planning and Deve

Area of Significance Category: Entertainment - Recreation

Statement of Significance:

Fort Bunker Hill is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the 1974 Civil War Fort Sites nomination and the 1977 Defenses of Washington revision of the 1974 nomination.

The National Register lists the period of significance as 1861 to 1865. This CLI recommends that the period of significance for the cultural landscape be extended to include the years 1902 to 1937. This time period includes the site's acquisition and conversion to public parkland under the direction of the McMillan Plan. This period of significance also encompasses the years that the Civilian Conservation Corps was involved in landscape beautification and restoration projects on the site, as part of the larger campaign to create a recreation infrastructure in Washington, D.C in the 1920s and 1930s.

This CLI proposes that the fort cultural landscape is eligible under three of the National Register's standards for evaluating the significance of properties. Under Criterion A: Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. Fort Bunker Hill is associated with several significant events in American history, including the Civil War, the creation of the National Capital Planning Commission, and the proposal of Fort Drive. It is also significant under Criterion C: Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, as an example of the Civil War-era earthworks, as well as its significance in typifying the work completed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the National Capital Region. Under Criterion D: Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history, Fort Bunker Hill has the potential to yield information related to the site's pre-colonial settlement, as well as its Civil War

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construction and use, and the later development of the land around the site as a streetcar suburb (known as Brookland or University Heights).

The Fort Bunker Hill cultural landscape is eligible under Criterion A for its association with the Civil War. Fort Bunker Hill was one of the ring of fortifications built around Washington at the start of the Civil War. It was among the first of the fort sites to be surveyed and acquired, with construction underway by the fall of 1861. It was constructed by General Joseph Hooker's Brigade (including the First and Eleventh Massachusetts, Second New Hampshire, and Twenty-Sixth Pennsylvania volunteer regiments), which was part of the restructuring of General Irvin McDowell's army into General George B. McClellan's Army of the Potomac. The hilltop earthwork, erected on the acquisitioned property of Jehiel Brooks, received its official designation as Fort Bunker Hill on September 30, 1861, by order of McClellan. It was part of the northern arc of the Defenses of Washington, which were selected and constructed in anticipation of a possible attack from the north, as Washington, D.C had faced during the War of 1812. Fort Bunker Hill, together with the other forts in the northern arc, was therefore critical as a buttress in the city's defense. While Fort Bunker Hill saw minimal direct military action during the war, it—as well as the other defenses of Washington—had a deterrent effect on the Confederate Army's plans for invasion of the capital city.

Under Criterion A, Fort Bunker Hill is also eligible as part of the development of parks in Washington D.C and for its significance in association with Fort Drive, the planned parkway designed to connect the Civil War forts around the city. With the publication of the McMillan Plan in 1902, the Senate Park Commission called for the acquisition of the former fort sites around D.C and the creation of a public greenway that would link all of them together. Fort Bunker Hill was included in the proposed sites, and local neighborhood groups actively lobbied various District officials and agencies to pursue the conversion of the fort site to a park. The idea languished for two decades, but beginning in 1919, Fort Bunker Hill and the other defenses of Washington drew renewed interest and efforts on the part of the newly-created National Capital Parks Commission (NCPC). Charged with creating and improving the city's park facilities, NCPC purchased the site of Fort Bunker Hill on July 14, 1927.

The Fort Bunker Hill cultural landscape is also eligible under Criterion C based on the major recreational development projects implemented by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) between 1935 and 1937. Of the various fort sites where the CCC had projects, Fort Bunker Hill has some of the most visible and extensive remains of their interventions, including the hillside amphitheater that takes advantage of the fort's topography, as well as small-scale features such as a concrete drinking fountain. Fort Bunker Hill is also more generally characteristic of the sites where CCC was actively involved in forest protection, landscape restoration, and construction of picnic areas and public amenities. These CCC initiatives had a physical impact on the site and its active use as a community resource, including many interventions that can still be read in the landscape today.

Under Criterion D: Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history. A preliminary assessment of Fort Bunker Hill could potentially reveal archaeological information related to prehistory or related to history for its role in the Civil War. In the centuries before being settled by English colonists, the site of Fort Bunker Hill and its surrounding area was settled by

the Nacotchtank people of the Algonquin Indian tribe. If archaeological sites exist, they may contribute to the eligibility of the landscape by yielding information about the site’s pre-colonial history, the fort’s construction and occupation during the War, and the site’s inhabitants and development—within the larger context of Brookland, as a streetcar suburb—since the Civil War.

Chronology & Physical History

Cultural Landscape Type and Use

Cultural Landscape Type: Historic Site

Current and Historic Use/Function:

Primary Historic Function: Fortification-Other

Primary Current Use: Outdoor Recreation-Other

Current and Historic Names:

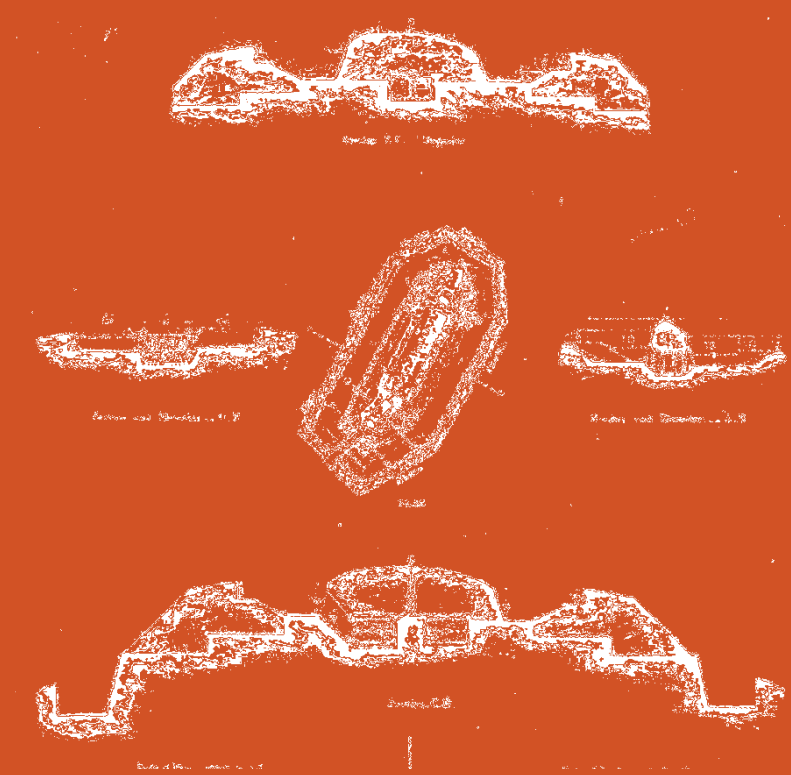
Name	Type of Name
Fort Bunker Hill	Both Current And Historic

Ethnographic Study Conducted: No Survey Conducted

Chronology:

Year	Event	Annotation
9500 - 8000 BCE	Inhabited	Paleo-Indian peoples hunt in the Coastal Plain along the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers.
8000 - 2200 BCE	Inhabited	Archaic-Indian peoples hunt, fish, and seasonally camp along the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers.
2200 - 1608 BCE		Native Americans, including the Nacotchtank people of the Algonquin Indian tribe, cultivate crops and establish villages along the Potomac River.
CE 1608	Explored	Captain John Smith is first Englishman to explore and map the Potomac River and its Eastern Branch
CE 1612	Platted	Captain John Smith publishes General Historie of Virginia, which maps his explorations along the Potomac River and its Eastern Branch (later named the Anacostia River).
CE 1632	Colonized	On June 20, 1632, King Charles I grants Maryland to Cecilius Calvert, the second Lord Baltimore.

Chronology + Physical History



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CE 1634	Settled	Maryland is settled by Englishmen sent by Cecilius Calvert, the second Lord Baltimore
CE 1700 - 1729	Purchased/Sold	John Wightt takes ownership of Benjamin Haddock's land at some point between Haddock's purchase of the property in 1700 and Wightt's death in 1729.
CE 1713	Land Transfer	Richard Marsham dies and bequeaths his land in Beall's Inclosure to his grandD.Children, members of the Queen family. Under their ownership, the land becomes known as Queensborough.
CE 1729	Land Transfer	Upon Wightt's death, the land is bequeathed to his son, also named John Wightt.
CE 1729 - 1780	Built	Land records indicate that a dwelling was constructed on the site sometime between the death of John Wightt (the elder) and 1780.
CE 1790	Established	Maryland cedes land for the establishment of a permanent seat of government for the United States.
	Established	Pierre L'Enfant lays out the new federal city of the District of Columbia, sited between the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers, and includes the land future site of Fort Bunker Hill within the boundaries.
CE 1819	Land Transfer	Cary Boyd Wightt and Eleanor Boyd Queen, wife of Nicholas Lewis Queen, inherit the estate of John M. Wightt.
CE 1830	Land Transfer	Ann Margaret Queen, daughter of Nicholas Queen, marries Colonel Jehiel Brooks. Brooks becomes a partial owner of 185-acre property with Ann Queen and her siblings.
CE 1861	Engineered	Three units of infantry and military engineers make a reconnaissance mission around the District of Columbia on May 23, 1861, to scout locations for fortifications around the capital city.
	Land Transfer	The Union Army requisitions a portion of the Brooks estate for the construction of what would become Fort Bunker Hill.

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	Built	In the fall of 1861, Union troops of the Army of the Potomac clear a heavily wooded hill on the Queen/Brooks property and construct earthworks atop the hill. The hilltop works are named Fort Bunker Hill.
CE 1861 - 1865	Built	Over the course of the war (1861-1865), 32 framed structures were erected on the southwestern slope of the fort (outside the confines of the earthworks and the current boundaries of the site). They included 16 quarters for commissioned and non-commissioned officers, three barracks for enlisted artillerymen, two guardhouses, five stables, a horse shed, a blacksmith shop, a post office, and a prison.
CE 1863	Built	An advanced battery is constructed at the base of the hill below Fort Bunker Hill, along with a flanking battery to the southeast, between Fort Bunker Hill and Fort Saratoga.
CE 1864	Maintained	As of May 17, 1864, fort is armed with eight 32-pounder barbettes, two 30-pounder Parrotts, one 8-inch siege howitzer, one 4 1/2-inch siege rifle, one 10-inch siege mortar, and one Cohorn mortar.
	Moved	General Hardin, a commander of a division in the Defenses of Washington, requests that the signal station from Fort Lincoln be moved to Fort Bunker Hill, where it could be of more use.
	Planted	The revetments and parapets of Fort Bunker Hill are repaired and re-sodded.
	Altered	A new magazine, constructed of logs and oak boards, is built to replace the original pine-frame magazine.
CE 1865	Military Operation	The defenses of Washington begin to be decommissioned as the Civil War draws to an end. Fort Bunker Hill is categorized as a second class fort and is decommissioned.
	Purchased/Sold	Henry Queen, Jehiel Brooks's brother-in-law and business partner, purchases seven of Fort Bunker Hill's thirty-two wood-framed support structures from the United States.
CE 1866 - 1873	Built	Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company constructs the Metropolitan Branch of the railroad. The branch runs across the western portion of the Brooks property.

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CE 1865 - 1880	Altered	Sometime between the end of the war in 1865 and 1880, the former Bladensburg Road, located west of the fort, is renamed Bunker Hill Road.
CE 1886	Land Transfer	Jehiel Brooks dies and bequeaths the Brooks estate to his family.
CE 1887	Purchased/Sold	The heirs of the Brooks estate sell 134 acres of property to Ida U. Marshall. This acreage includes the southwest corner of block containing Fort Bunker Hill and the area once containing the barracks and officers' quarters located to the southwest of the fort.
	Purchased/Sold	Marshall quickly resells the 134-acre tract to Benjamin Leighton and Richard Pairo for \$75,000.
CE 1890 - 1892	Built	University Heights developers erect a wooden observation tower atop Fort Bunker Hill. This may have been a temporary installation, however, as it does not appear on contemporary topographical maps or similar surveys.
CE 1899		The Franciscan Monastery, known today as Mount St. Sepulchre Franciscan Monastery, neighboring Fort Bunker Hill along 14th Street is dedicated.
CE 1900	Built	A house is constructed on the southwest corner of Fort Bunker Hill Park, at the corner of Otis Street NE and 13th Street, immediately south of the remaining earthworks.
CE 1902	Planned	The McMillan Plan calls for the design of a new Fort Drive connecting all the former fort sites in a green parkway around the city. Fort Bunker Hill (11.9 acres) is included as a proposed additional reservation to be acquired as part of the Fort Drive.
CE 1903	Altered	Fort Street is renamed Newark Street circa 1903.
CE 1907	Altered	Newark Street is renamed Otis Street, and Omaha Street is renamed Perry Street, circa 1907.

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CE 1927	Purchased/Sold	On July 14, 1927, the National Capital Park and Planning Commission purchases the undeveloped block, no. 3966, containing the remnants of Fort Bunker Hill. The commission intends to make the site a park for Brookland and the vicinity, with designs that include a playground.
CE 1935 - 1937	Built	The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) constructs an amphitheater, picnic area, walks, water fountains, and plants trees at Fort Bunker Hill Park.
CE 1943 - 1959	Demolished	The house at the southwest corner of the site is demolished.
CE 1978	Abandoned	Catholic University's drama department ceases productions at the Fort Bunker Hill amphitheater, contributing to the subsequent decline in the park's use and condition.
CE 2009	Established	Brookland residents organize as the Friends of Fort Bunker Hill Park to assist the National Park Service in the management and conservation of the natural and cultural resources of Fort Bunker Hill Park.

Physical History:

PRE-COLONIAL HISTORY AND SETTLEMENT (1608-1632)

Archaeological and historical evidence suggests that humans have inhabited the area around present day Washington, D.C for approximately 13,000 years. For nearly 10,000 years, the area appears to have been used by temporary foraging groups. The first inhabitants of the area around the Potomac River were hunters and gatherers. They roamed the landscape in small groups, and their tools were made of stone, bone, and wood. These Native Americans established larger, more permanent settlements along the Potomac circa 2200 BC. They constructed new tools including large, heavy stone points called “broadspears” and carved large bowls out of steatite or soapstone. Around 3,000 years ago, Native Americans in the Middle Atlantic Region began to experiment with farming, cultivating crops such as maize as early as 1000 AD. Populations grew and large permanent villages were founded along the Potomac River (Bedell, et al. 2011: 2, 9-12).

In 1608, English settler Captain John Smith explored the area along the Potomac River, encountering the Nacotchtank people of the Algonquin Indian tribe. He later included the region on his 1612 map and in his “General Historie of Virginia,” which detailed his travels up the Potomac River and its Eastern Branch (later named the Anacostia River) (Burr 1920: 167). Both the tribe’s name and that of the “Anacostia” River are derivations of the Indian word Anaquashatanik, which means “a town of traders”—a reference to the Nacotchtanks’ settled, agricultural lifestyle on the riverbanks. The riverbanks were marshy, allowing for crops of wild rice and other edible plants, while the nearby slopes and ridges—culminating in the ring of hills where Fort Bunker Hill and the other Defenses of Washington were placed—were forested habitats for abundant game (Lapp 2006:1). As they had for several centuries before John Smith’s travels through the region, the Nacotchtanks farmed this fertile land and lived in houses built of branches and animal skins. They quickly became a favored trading village for the English settlers of Virginia, appearing on Smith’s oldest map, which was published in 1612 and became the basis for many later navigational charts of the Anacostia River and the Chesapeake Bay (Burr 1920: 167). The English explorer Henry Fleet, who arrived in the Virginia colony in 1621 and is considered by some historians to be the first colonist to set foot on the land that is now Washington D.C, observed hundreds of Native Americans in the vicinity “bartering furs and other wares” (Bushong 1990: 20).

COLONIAL SETTLEMENT (1632-1790)

When English colonists expanded their settlements in the Americas, the land around Fort Bunker Hill was included within the boundaries of the colony of Maryland, established by charter from King Charles I in 1632. Led by Leonard Calvert, colonists established the first permanent settlement at St. Mary’s City in 1634 (Scharf 1879: 77-79). From there, settlement gradually expanded throughout the colony of Maryland over the course of the 17th century, although it remained concentrated along the region’s waterways, including the Eastern Branch and the Potomac River.

In 1687, the land around Fort Bunker Hill—including the hill on which the fort was later

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built—was patented to Colonel Ninian Beall (Beauchamp 1975: 174; Henley 1993: 909). Beall was a landmark figure in the establishment of the colony of Maryland, and later, his property (which passed through several subsequent landowners and their descendants) figured prominently in the founding of Prince George’s County in 1696 and the concession of land for the new District of Columbia in 1791. Born c. 1625 in Largo, Fifeshire, Scotland, he fought with the Scottish Royalists against Oliver Cromwell at the Battle of Dunbar, Scotland (Benedetto et al. 2003: 30). When Cromwell’s forces conquered the Royalists in 1652, thousands of the defeated Scots were imprisoned or deported to the West Indies and America. Among the captured was Colonel Ninian Beall, who was sentenced to indentured servitude for Richard Hall in the Province of Maryland (Reno 2008: 98-9).

After his release in 1658—the same year that Cromwell died and Charles II was restored to the throne—Beall was named commander of the colonial forces in Maryland and began to acquire large swaths in the province. In exchange for his sponsorship of about 200 immigrants from Scotland, Beall was granted patents for over 25,000 acres of land. Among his many patents was one for a 1,503-acre tract of land known as “Beall’s Inclosure,” which encompassed the future site of Fort Bunker Hill.

At the time, the Colony of Maryland was divided into geographic entities distinguished as “hundred” and “parishes.” Hundreds, which were platted by the Justices of the County Court and controlled by County Officers, were planned as efficient units of political administration. New hundreds were created as necessary, as settlement expanded; the area around Fort Bunker Hill was part of one such hundred expansion—the hundred created in 1715 and known as Rock Creek (Verrey and Henley 1987: 18). As settlers took advantage of available land, many colonists purchased large tracts and either subdivided them for sale or bequeathed them to their descendants.

Benjamin Haddock and Richard Marsham were two such colonists. Haddock purchased 456 acres of Beall’s Inclosure in 1700, while Marsham acquired the other 1,040 acres in 1709. (The discrepancy in land acreage between Beall’s original land grant and the Haddock/Marsham purchases can be attributed to imprecise land surveys.) Haddock died within a few years of this land purchase, and at some point after his death, John Wightt took ownership of Haddock’s land. Wightt’s name is associated with the land by the time of Wightt’s death in 1729, when he bequeathed the land to his son, also named John (Verrey and Henley 1987: 19-20). Both Marsham and Wightt’s wills bequeathed property and slaves to their heirs, although the younger John Wightt’s holdings and bequests to his two sons were somewhat more modest. Marsham, meanwhile, retained his large tract until his death in 1713; his will bequeathed shares in the property to his grandD.Children, the sons of his daughter Katherine and her husband, Samuel Queen. Portions of Wightt’s land and Marsham’s property remained in their families until the late 19th century (Verrey and Henley 1987: 20).

Under the ownership of Richard Marsham’s grandD.Children—members of the Queen family—the Marsham portion of the Inclosure became known as “Queensborough.” In particular, the Queensborough portion of the Inclosure passed to Samuel and Katherine’s son Samuel (d. 1734), grandson Samuel (d. 1758), and great-grandson Walter (c. 1752-1819), after

the death of Walter's brother Edward. Walter Queen expanded the acreage by purchasing additional land from his great-uncle Marsham (the son of Samuel and Katherine Queen) (Verrey and Henley 1987: 36). Walter likely lived somewhere on the Queen Inclosure tract by the late 18th century, on a possible site east of the fort's hill. In the last few decades of the 18th century, Walter Queen's economic fortunes rose and fell even as his family grew to include ten children; his financial records indicate the sale and purchase of both slaves and land several times in the 1780s and 1790s. Despite his accumulation of debts, and the eventual forfeiture of portions of his land, Queen and his family seem to have remained in place on the land near the future Fort Bunker Hill (Verrey and Henley 1987: 38-40).

In the broader landscape around the Queen estate, Bladensburg had become one of the primary settlements in the southern Prince George's County by the late 18th century. During these same decades, a thoroughfare known as the Old Road was established between the town of Bladensburg and the settlements near the Rock Creek hundred. It extended along a north-south path directly east of the eventual site of Fort Bunker Hill, with an additional route known as Bladensburg Road that extended to the west of the fort's future site (Boschke 1861). When the boundaries of Maryland and the District of Columbia were established at the end of the 18th century, both roads were the link between the District's northernmost settlements and the more populated town of Bladensburg (Verrey and Henley 1987: 26). The proximity of these roads likely contributed to the growth of this area in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, as the Wightt family and others farmed large tracts of land in Washington County and sold their harvests at market in Bladensburg. At various points in the 19th century, both Bladensburg Road and Old Bladensburg Road were renamed; for several decades after the Civil War, the Bladensburg Road west of the fort site was known as Bunker Hill Road (Lydecker and Greene 1884). Today, the historic Bladensburg Road west of the fort corresponds with Michigan Avenue NE; the Old Bladensburg Road that ran east of the site extended along the roughly the same path as the current Bladensburg Road (Alt. Route 1) (Verrey and Henley 1987: 26).

This period—from the late 17th through the 18th century—was one of relative prosperity in the colony of Maryland, as tobacco remained profitable and towns such as Bladensburg expanded. By the late 18th century, when Prince George County was politically restructured and a census was taken, the area was generally associated with small-scale, slaveholding planters and yeoman farmers (Verrey and Henley 1987: 27-32). Thus, the eventual site of Fort Bunker Hill remained an agricultural landscape of farmland and limited homesteads through the 18th century (Verrey and Henley 1987: 36-39).

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FEDERAL CITY (1790-1812)

With the resolution of the Revolutionary War around this time, the new government of the United States resolved to move its capital from Philadelphia to the area around the branch of the Eastern and Potomac Rivers. When Pierre L'Enfant laid out a design for the new capital city in 1790, the area between the two waterways was ceded by Maryland and included within the boundaries of the District of Columbia. Foreshadowing the construction of the forts 70 years later, the decision to include additional land beyond the rivers was one of military deterrence. Then-Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson recommended that the land west of the Potomac and east of the Eastern Branch be annexed to serve as a buffer for the city in the

event of an attack on the new capital (Cantwell 1973-1974: 334).

The area around the future site of Fort Bunker Hill was considered part of Washington County, rather than the Federal City, for much of the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The Brooks and Queen estates were located north of Boundary Street (what is now Florida Avenue), and thus fell outside the regular grid of streets that L'Enfant planned. Instead, the landscape remained largely agricultural through the early 19th century.

PRE-CIVIL WAR HISTORY (1812-1830)

Even as the District of Columbia grew and landowners such as Brooks established settlements and towns nearby, the capital and the country remained politically fragile. The advent of the nineteenth century brought with it new threats from old enemies, as the menace of war with England never completely receded. Within twenty years of the establishment of the capital, the deliberate openness and sense of ease in L'Enfant's plan became the city's liability during the War of 1812. Unprotected by any peripheral defenses, and left exposed by a country that thought the need for such protection had passed, the District quickly fell into the hands of the British Army (CEHP Incorporated 1998: Part I, Chapter II, 6).

As the British advanced on the city from the northeast in 1814, the United States Navy burned a bridge downstream (south of Benning Road) in an effort to thwart an attack after the Battle of Bladensburg. The British were not deterred, however, merely moving upstream to cross the river at the Benning Road Bridge (Overbeck and Chatmon 2010: 259). As Washington burned in August of 1814, remnants of buildings and urban fabric that were once proud symbols of the new republic stood as reminders of the destruction caused by an invading imperial army. This symbolism and military weakness had a lasting impact on the psyche of the young nation, and on the design of the capital's defenses as the 19th century progressed.

BROOKS/QUEEN ESTATE (1830-1860)

Within a few decades of the War of 1812, the adjacent Wightt and Marsham tracts of the Inclosure had been linked by marriages and relations between the Queen and Brooks families. In 1830, Ann (the eldest child of Nicholas L. and Eleanor Queen) married Colonel Jehiel Brooks, a lawyer who grew up in Vermont and Ohio before moving to Mississippi and Louisiana. In 1828, he moved to Washington in hopes of securing a political appointment, and by 1830—the same year as his marriage to Ann Queen—he was named the United States Commissioner for the Caddo and Quapaw Indians of Louisiana (Feeley and Dempsey 2011: 10). Although they briefly moved to Louisiana while Jehiel completed negotiations for his post, they returned to Washington by 1837 (Verrey and Henley 1987: 59). For most of the next two decades, however, Jehiel Brooks remained entangled in various legal disputes related to his time and property in the Caddo territory. It is unclear whether Brooks won (among various federal inquiries and civil lawsuits, he did make an appearance at the United States Supreme Court), but it is clear that the legal issues drained his family finances (Verrey and Henley 1987: 59).

Despite these legal costs and distractions, Jehiel Brooks constructed the Brooks Mansion (named “Bellair”) between 1836 and 1840, on a portion of the Brooks/Queen estate southwest

of the eventual fort site. This house and estate were constructed in the Greek Revival style and modelled after Andrew Jackson Downing's principles of landscape design. It remains extant today and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1975 (Beauchamp 1975: Section 8). The estate likely replaced or reused (as an outbuilding) a former structure from the Wightt estate. It should be emphasized, however, that the land associated with Bellair, and with the site of Fort Bunker Hill, legally belonged to Ann Queen Brooks, rather than her husband, Jehiel (Verrey and Henley 1987: 61-62).

Brooks continued to campaign for political appointments, including an appeal to then-Secretary of State James Buchanan to be named Warden of the Penitentiary. Evidence suggests, however, that his only appointment by the mid-19th century was as Supervisor of Roads for Washington County. Brooks evidently did a poor job in this position, as his neighbors signed a petition in 1849 complaining about the state of the roads in their area—particularly Old Bladensburg Road (Verrey and Henley 1987: 63-64). Although the outcome of this petition is unclear, it points to the ongoing use and significance of Old Bladensburg Road—a thoroughfare to Maryland that was all too important as the country moved toward war in the 1860.

On the eve of the Civil War, the Brooks estate was a landscape of cultivated fields and contained forestation. As the 1861 Boschke map indicates, a driveway extended from Bladensburg Road (west of the eventual fort site) to the Brooks mansion, located southwest of the fort's hilltop. No other structures stood on the site before the war. Instead, the crest and its eastern and western slopes were evidently covered in low growth and mature trees. The slope northeast of the hilltop was relatively clearcut.

FORTIFICATION OF THE FEDERAL CITY (1860-1861)

When war loomed again in the mid-19th century, the federal government was all too conscious of Washington's defenseless borders. As civil war approached, the atmosphere in Washington was one of apprehension and uncertainty. John Brown's raid at Harper's Ferry in 1859 had heightened tensions in the border states, as Southern states feared a slave insurrection and Northern states—as well as the federal capital—rushed to strengthen their militias. (Before 1860, most of the regular army was posted further west, where conflicts with the Native Americans demanded the greatest military concentration.) (Billings 1960/1962: 123-4) The looming threat was so great that President Lincoln's inauguration on March 4, 1861, was conducted under military guard. Seven states had already seceded from the Union by this time, and Confederates were already positioned across the Potomac River in Alexandria, Virginia (one of the secessionist states), preparing for an attack on the capital (Miller 1976: 3).

Unlike the War of 1812, the threat to the capital this time was internal, rather than external, and the Union leaders wanted to reinforce Washington, D.C. as both a symbolic and strategic center for the nation. Military officers had learned from the combat losses of 1812, and city officials wished to avoid the demoralizing psychological damage of that war as well. Washington, D.C could no longer go unprotected, and Union leaders sought to capitalize on its open space for a tactical, and not simply a ceremonial, purpose (McCormick 1967: 3).

The District's geographic location in the middle of the Eastern Seaboard was an asset in the

early years of the Republic. The city was carved out of the territory of its neighboring states, establishing the federal capital as the geographic and governmental center of the new nation. In the wake of the Battle of Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861, however, Washington, D.C.'s position became a liability. The federal city was surrounded by the southern state of Virginia (which seceded on April 17 of that year) and the southern sympathizer state of Maryland, with just Fort Washington (twelve miles south of the city) as protection (Cox 1901: 1). That outdated fort, completed in 1824, was a distant and ineffective buttress for the federal city, with few armaments and even fewer troops stationed there. Designed to protect more against naval attacks than land armies, it was even more isolated and precariously located than the rest of the District of Columbia. In its position along the Potomac River, the fort was on the border with Maryland and was separated by less than a mile of water from Virginia (McClure 1957: 1). It did little to protect the city from attacks over land—as the British Army had proved in the War of 1812 (Cooling 1971/1972: 315).

As of January 1861, the only regular troops stationed near Washington were a few hundred Marines and enlisted men stationed at the Washington Arsenal at the branch of the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers (Miller 1976: 3). When President Lincoln called for volunteer soldiers on April 15, 1861, for military offensives, his Union commanders quickly began to put in place a system of military defenses to protect the Union capital from surrounding threats (McCormick 1967: 2). On May 23, 1861, three infantry units accompanied military engineers on a reconnaissance mission around the capital city as they scouted locations for a ring of fortifications around the capital city (Miller 1976: 4).

Under the command of General George McClellan's Chief Engineer, Major John G. Barnard, Union engineers surveyed the northern approaches between the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers. The quick examination of the land provided insight on the roadways into the city and the "defensive character of the ground" (United States War Department 1881: 680). Based on the topography of this northern arc of hills, engineers quickly selected seven sites for what would become Forts Pennsylvania (later known as Fort Reno), Massachusetts (later renamed Fort Stevens), Slocum, Totten, Bunker Hill, Saratoga, and Lincoln. An additional four sites were later established to fill the perceived gaps in the northern defenses, resulting in Forts Gaines, DeRussy, Slemmer, and Thayer. According to Barnard's report to General J. G. Totten, Chief of Engineers, on December 10, 1861, these defensive works were begun in August and completed and armed by early December of that year (United States War Department 1881: 678-685).

The engineers' plan for the ring of defenses around Washington, including Fort Bunker Hill, reversed the city's siting from one of low-lying vulnerability to one of buffered impregnability. Where Washington had been defenseless and exposed in the War of 1812, its army officers now looked to capitalize on the ring of hills around the city, which formed a strategically-elevated shield several hundred feet above the rest of the city. (Indeed, some historians refer to the Defenses of Washington as the city's shield during the war, and the Army of the Potomac as its sword. [Cooling and Owen 2010: 1]) Once cleared of trees and undergrowth according to the engineers' plans, these ridges would host a circle of fortifications—linked by rifle trenches—that could command views not only to other

neighboring defenses and the city, but to any military threats that might approach from Maryland, Virginia, or the sea.

Working swiftly in the early months of 1861, the Army bought, seized, and confiscated the agricultural land for 68 military posts and battlements around the edge of the city. By the end of 1861, a 37-mile ring of battlements, trenches, rifle pits, and military roads encircled the capital on land that was, until recently private farmland (McClure 1957: 1). The Army's acquisition of land for the full ring of fort sites was an exercise in federal authority and military necessity, as Brigadier General Barnard noted in his 1871 report:

The sites of the several works being determined upon, possession was at once taken, with little or no reference to the rights of the owners or the occupants of the lands—the stern law of “military necessity” and the magnitude of the public interests involved in the security of the nation’s capital being paramount to every other consideration. (Barnard 1871: 85)

Indeed, the move was an emphatic signal to both the area landowners and the South’s commanders that federal power would supersede individuals’ property rights in the fight to protect and preserve the Union. (The transformations in the landscape were executed so quickly that the army’s map of the line of defenses, published late in 1861, simply superimposed the designs for the fortifications on the Boschke map, printed just a few months earlier, with no effort to map the new topographical patterns of the now fully-cleared ridges.)

As the engineers scouted sites for the ring of defenses, the topography and vistas of the Queen/Brooks estate held clear strategic advantages. As is evident on the 1861 Boschke map (which was based on surveys conducted from 1856 to 1859), the estate was notable for its proximity to both Old Bladensburg and Bladensburg Roads, with various approaching driveways that led directly to the house near the hilltop. A small driveway from Bladensburg Road to the north made a small roundabout in front of outbuildings before continuing on to Colonel J. Brooks’ house. A second drive approached the house from the south, leading from Old Bladensburg Road and past the McDaniel property to Brooks’ estate. The land immediately surrounding the Brooks house was largely clear-cut in the years before the war, with a few plots of agricultural crops adjacent to the house. The crest and slope north and east of the house, as well as a parcel of land southwest of the house, were covered with trees and low growth (Boschke 1861).

At least one source indicates that Colonel Jehiel Brooks’ was as combative as ever when faced with the requisition of his family estate, suggesting that he challenged the US Army’s acquisition of his land (Feeley and Dempsey 2011: 10). Nevertheless, the army claimed the property (and land for the 68 other forts) by 1861. By winter of that year, construction on Fort Bunker Hill was underway, and the site’s vegetation was increasingly clearcut. Within a few months, the earthworks were complete, and by 1863, nearly all of the antebellum vegetation was gone, with just a small area of vegetation on the hill’s southeastern slope (Hodasevich 1863).

Fort Bunker Hill

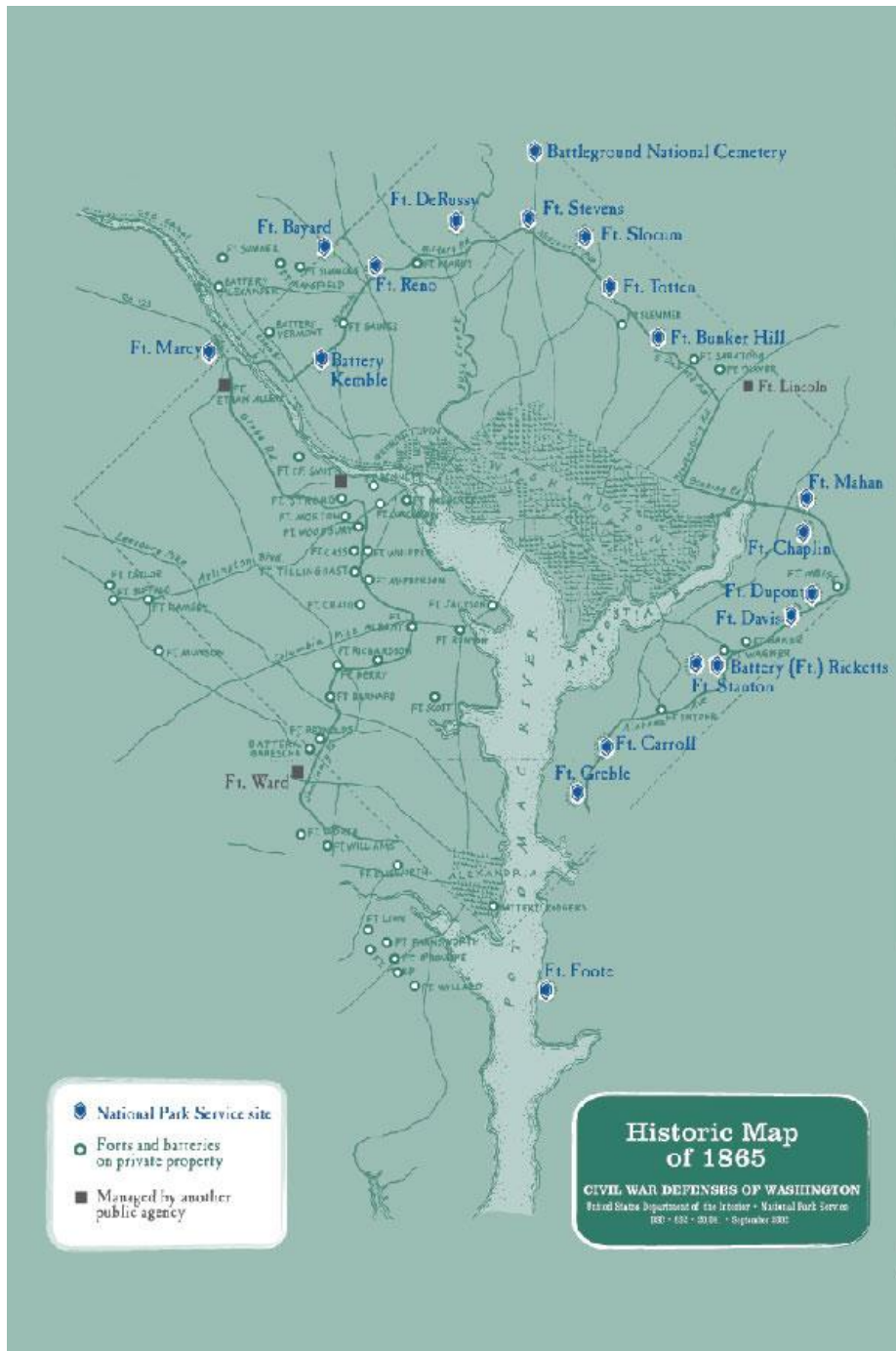
Rock Creek Park - Fort Circle Park - North



1861: Boschke map of the District of Columbia, with future hilltop site of Fort Bunker Hill highlighted. (Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division)

Fort Bunker Hill

Rock Creek Park - Fort Circle Park - North



Modified 1865 map of the Defenses of Washington, distinguished by their current ownership and management status. (National Park Service)

DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF FORT BUNKER HILL (1861-1864)

Camp Union was established in mid-August 1861 on the former War of 1812 battlefield outside Bladensburg, Maryland. General Joseph Hooker's Brigade was among the divisions garrisoned at Camp Union. Comprised of the First and Eleventh Massachusetts, the Second New Hampshire, and the 26th Pennsylvania volunteer regiments, Hooker's Brigade represented the restructuring of McDowell's army into McClellan's Army of the Potomac (United States War Department 1897: 434-435). Accounts of Hooker's brigade in the fall of 1861 indicate that the soldiers were busy drilling and performing the duties of military life, which included the construction of the ring of earthworks on the northern edge of the District:

Details were ordered daily for the construction of the earthworks around Washington, digging trenches and felling trees in the woods and orchards that might interfere with the range of the redoubts and forts. Drills, fatigue duty, with a review by the President, and two by Gen. McClellan were the only events that disturbed the quietude of the brigade camp. (Hutchinson 1893: 25-26)

Hutchinson and his comrades in the 11th Massachusetts Volunteers, also known as the Boston Volunteers, are credited with erecting Fort Bunker Hill. The fort was sited atop the highest point on the Queen/Brooks property, between Fort Saratoga (to the east) and Fort Slemmer (to the west). In order to construct the earthworks, the Boston Volunteers cleared the heavily wooded hill on the Queen/Brooks estate and dug the entrenchments at its summit. They also clear-cut the fruit trees, orchards, and wild growth on the surrounding acreage to improve visibility and the fields of fire from the earthworks. The Brooks mansion remained intact and in place southwest of the earthworks, as indicated on the 1863 topographical map of the defenses northeast of the Potomac (Hodasevich 1863).

The hilltop earthwork on the Queen/Brooks property received its official designation as Fort Bunker Hill on September 30, 1861, by order of General McClellan. Historians point to the fort's association with the Boston Volunteers to explain its honorific name, which commemorates both the soldiers that constructed the fort and a key Revolutionary War battle fought in Boston. Although McClellan designated Bunker a "fort," this elongated earthwork, which occupied a convex-heptagonal footprint, was by definition a redoubt, as the general shape of the earthwork was defined by "the contour of the summit of the hill" (Scott 1864: 498). The perimeter of the earthwork measured 205 yards. It comprised a redan whose pan coupé (three walls) at the northeast end that were linked to a redan at the southwest end by parallel curtain walls, which were set on a northeast orientation (Mahan 1856: 12; Cooling and Owen 2010: 197).

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As with the other forts in the ring of defenses around Washington, the engineers' design for Fort Bunker Hill was based on the fortification principles published in Dennis Hart Mahan's 1836 field manual, *Treatise on Field Fortification*. Earth shoveled from the peripheral ditch was shored up as the eight-foot walls (also known as parapets), which consisted of the exterior, superior, and interior slopes (Mahan 1856: 22, Plate I; Cooling and Owen 2010: 197). The interior slope in particular was revetted with timber to support an adequate banquette for posted soldiers and small arms; the outer earthen parapets were sodded. Although this root mat provided a natural protection against erosion, the sod did need to be replaced as the war progressed and both weather and soldiers took their toll on the fort (Mahan 1856: 36-37; United States War Department 1893: 285).

On the interior of the redoubt, gun platforms intersected with the banquette at the corners of the earthworks (Mahan 1836: 22, Plate 1; Cooling and Owen 2010: 198). From the banquette, soldiers could stand and shoot "over the crest of the parapet [or superior slope] with ease" (Scott 1864: 79). The majority of guns at Fort Bunker Hill were barbette, meaning that they were fired over the superior slope rather than through embrasures cut into the walls of the fort. In the early years of the war, the fort's armament included at least eight 32-pounders mounted on seacoast carriages. By the spring of 1864, the armament also included an 8-inch siege howitzer, one Coehorn mortar, one 10-inch siege mortar, one 4½-inch ordnance, and two 30-pounder Parrotts (Cooling and Owen 2010: 197, 257).

The sally port, or entrance, of the fort was cut through the center of the west-facing wall (known as the gorge wall) on the southwest end of the earthworks. A twelve-foot-wide double-leaf gate was inserted in the sally port opening and consisted of two eight-foot tall (and six-inch thick) gates hung on strap hinges from 13½" x 13 ½" posts. A crossbar set into L-shaped brackets—one on each section of the gate and post—secured the double gate closed (Cooling and Owen 2010: 200).

The interior of the fort included little open space, as an elongated earthen traverse occupied much of the land within the earthworks. A magazine and several bombproofs were placed within the traverse. In the event of an attack on the redoubt, the traverse would have provided posted soldiers protection from enfilade fire.

CIVIL WAR (1861-1865)

As was the case with several of the fortifications, Fort Bunker Hill continued to be modified and altered over the course of the war, as the army's engineers addressed structural and visibility issues with the fort's design. By December 1862, Chief Engineer J. G. Barnard called for two additional batteries to be constructed to support Fort Bunker Hill. One of the batteries occupied an advanced position on the northeastern slope of the hill with Fort Bunker Hill, while the other flanked Fort Bunker Hill on the low hill southeast of the fort. These batteries with covered ways were likely completed in early 1863, but they still deemed weak by late June 1863, so a third battery was constructed on a rise northwest of Fort Bunker Hill. The third battery was likely complete by late 1863 (United States War Department 1888: 911-912; United States War Department 1889: 895).

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Moreover, a report written on September 30, 1864, noted that the structures within the traverse had been constructed hastily using white pine boards and framing. As a result of their rushed construction, the structures were leaking and the boards were compromised due to rot. The report recommended that soldiers replace the structures' pine frame and boards with oak logs and boards (United States War Department 1888: 911-912; United States War Department 1893: 286-287).

On the southwestern slope of Fort Bunker Hill, numerous wood-framed buildings were erected to house and provide services for the garrison of Fort Bunker Hill and its supporting batteries. Because space within the earthwork was limited, the support structures were erected outside of the fort's parapet walls. By war's end, there were 32 framed structures on the Queen/Brooks property (outside the confines of the earthworks). They included sixteen quarters for commissioned and non-commissioned officers, three barracks for enlisted artillerymen, two guardhouses, five stables, a horse shed, a blacksmith shop, a post office, and a prison (The Daily National Republican 1865a; The Daily National Republican 1865c).

By the end of the war, the following Union regiments of infantry and artillery were associated with Fort Bunker Hill: 11th Massachusetts Volunteers, which constructed the fort in Fall 1861; 2nd Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery (112th Volunteers), including Company A (June 1862-March 1864), Company B (August 1862-March 1864), Company C (November 1862-May 1863), Company D (June 1863-March 1864), Company F (August-September 1862), and Company M (December 1863-March 1864); 9th New York Heavy Artillery (138th Volunteers), including Companies A, E, F, G, H, I, and K (September 1862); 3rd Massachusetts Heavy Artillery, including Company K (November 1863-February 1864) and Company D (March-June 1865); 150th Ohio National Guard (May-August 1864); 14th Michigan Battery Light Artillery (May 1864); 3rd United States Artillery, Battery G (June 1864); 1st New Hampshire Heavy Artillery, Company L (May-November 1864); and the 1st Massachusetts Heavy Artillery (June-August 1865). (Cooling and Owen 2010: 198; Ward 1900: n.p.; Roe 1899: n.p.; Adjutant General of Massachusetts 1932: 554-656, 770-847; Cannon 1903: n.p.; United States War Department 1891a: 895; United States War Department 1891b: 581; Samuel 1875: n.p.).

Few of the fortifications saw real combat, but the Defenses of Washington had a clear deterrent effect throughout the war. As a newspaper article noted of the defenses in 1884: That the garrison of Washington was never called upon to withstand a siege is no argument against the precautions taken to insure the possession of the National Capital against any possible contingency, and that, through the darkest hours of the struggle for existence, the National Government could remain in security within sight of the debatable ground trodden by hostile soldiers is no slight testimonial to the wisdom that planned and the engineering skill that executed this important work. (The National Tribune 1884)

For four years, the ring of hills around the District of Columbia served as a topographical, psychological, strategic, and militaristic buffer to nearly all Confederate attacks on the capital. Indeed, the only substantial threat to the defenses—and, therefore to the capital city—came in 1864, when Confederate General Jubal Early led an attack on Fort Stevens on July 11. In that battle, General Early led a raid into Maryland and fired shots on Fort Stevens—and on President Abraham Lincoln, who was at the fort during the battle—before being rebuffed by

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the Union Army and their defenses (Kaufmann and Kaufmann 2004: 285). Nevertheless, although it precipitated fear of another attack on Washington, General Jubal Early's 1864 raid on Fort Stevens was ultimately unsuccessful and constituted the last real threat to Washington, D.C before the end of the war in 1865.

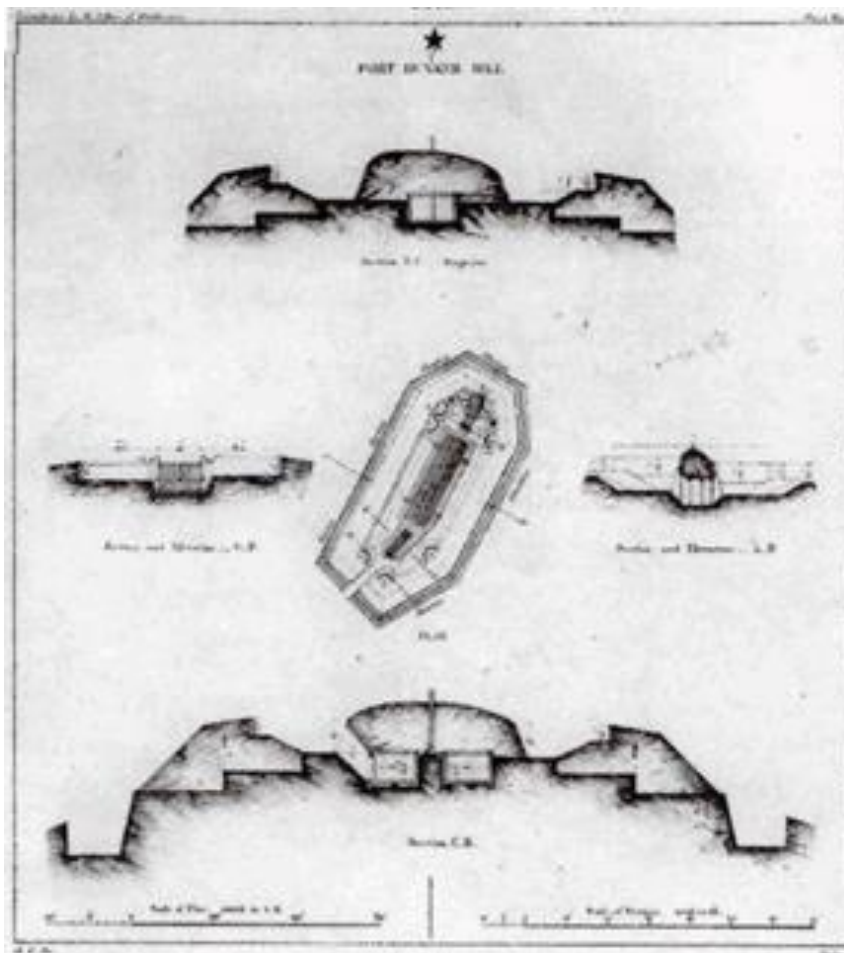
Information about the 1865 condition of the fort and its larger landscape is limited. However, it can be reasonably assumed that soldiers continued to clear-cut and maintain the cleared hilltop through the end of the war; later maps support this assumption, with a slow return of vegetation on the site's hillsides. The earthworks and interior structures remained intact. On the larger Brooks/Queen estate, the fort's 32 auxiliary structures stood outside the confines of the earthworks, southwest of the hill that hosted the fort.



Fort Bunker Hill, as depicted on the 1861 Boschke map (left) and the 1861 Lines of Defense map (right), (Boschke map, Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division; Lines of Defense map, Historic Map Works Rare Historic Maps Collection)



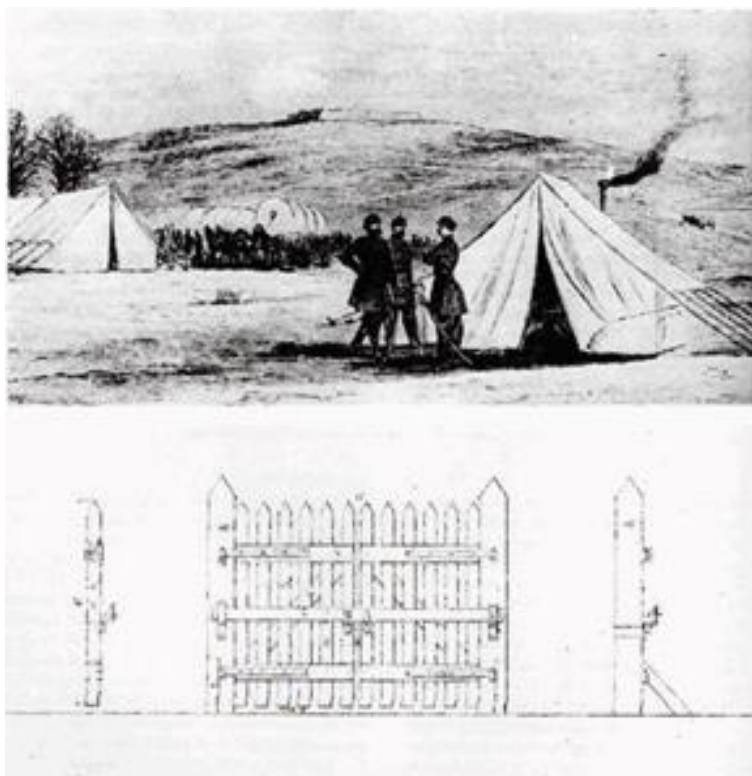
Early map of Fort Bunker Hill environs (date unknown). (National Archives, as printed in Cooling and Owen 2010)



Engineer drawings of Fort Bunker Hill's magazine (top), sections and elevations (center left, center right, bottom), and plan (center). (National Archives, as printed in Cooling and Owen 2010)

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Soldier sketch of Fort Bunker Hill (top), auxiliary buildings in the foreground and earthworks in the background. Bottom: engineer drawing of Fort Bunker Hill's gate. (National Archives, as printed in Cooling and Owen 2010)

SETTLEMENT AROUND THE FORT (1862-1865)

In the years during and after the war, the Civil War Defenses of Washington had not only a strategic and symbolic role in the Union's victory and survival, but also a more tangible impact on the growth and settlement of the city and its landscape. The abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia in 1862—predating Lincoln's 1863 Emancipation by a year—prompted a mass migration of slaves to the city (McFadden-Resper and Williams 2005: 4). By 1863, thousands of former slaves had claimed their freedom in the District, and by the war's end, the city's black population had nearly doubled from 18,000 in 1860, to 31,500 in 1865 (Hutchinson 1977: 69-70). This influx of escaped slaves from the South often gravitated toward the land around the forts, which they saw as protection for both the capital city and for themselves. On the run from enslavement and their former masters, many of them sought refuge near the soldiers' encampments, which at times provoked hostility with the white soldiers.

In response to the mounting tensions around the forts between the escaped slaves and the city's Union troops (and neighboring residents), a new federal policy issued in August 1861 classified the free slaves as "contraband" of the war. Under the "contraband" law, escaped slaves could earn their official emancipation if they worked for the Union Army—including helping to construct and maintain the city's fortifications (National Park Service 2013b). The historical records of the contrabands' migration and settlement near the Defenses of Washington in general, as well as historic newspaper accounts that indicate several contrabands lived nearby, suggests that they may have played a role in the construction of Fort Bunker Hill, but further research is needed to confirm their role at this particular site (The Evening Star 1863).

DECOMMISSIONING OF THE FORTS (1865)

By the time of General Robert E. Lee's surrender in April 1865, the defenses' circumferential system comprised 68 enclosed forts (with perimeters totaling 13 miles); 93 unarmed batteries; 1,421 gun emplacements; 20 miles of rifle trenches; and 30 miles of military roads—all constructed in just four years (Cooling 1971/1972: 330-2). Nearly as quickly as they had been erected, however, they were dismantled or abandoned, and their sites were sold or ceded to their original owners. The Union Army did retain eleven sites as a precautionary military measure, but the other forts, batteries, and block-houses—including Fort Bunker Hill—were ordered immediately dismantled by an order from the Headquarters of the Department of Washington on June 23, 1865 (The Daily National Republican 1865b). The order fulfilled a May 10, 1865, memorandum issued by Lieutenant Colonel Barton Stone Alexander (the chief engineer of the defenses around Washington, following Barnard's promotion in June 1864) that listed Fort Bunker Hill as a second-class fort that was unnecessary to retain after the war's conclusion.

According to the November 4, 1865, edition of The National Republican, Henry Queen declined the offer of the thirty-two wood-frame structures associated with Fort Bunker Hill "in satisfaction for damages" sustained during the army's occupation of the Queen/Brooks property (The Daily National Republican 1865c). Instead, the wood-frame structures sold at the

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November 3 auction for \$2,054, while Henry Queen purchased the fort's blacksmith shop, store house, three officers' quarters, ordnance sergeant's quarters, and post office. Earlier that same day, Queen attended the auction at Fort Slemmer and purchased one of its quarters; he also purchased the timber rights for the battery to the southeast of Fort Bunker Hill on November 28, 1865, for five dollars (Alexander 1865). Research has not found any documentary evidence to indicate who purchased the timber rights from Fort Bunker Hill itself.

Thus, within the first year after the end of the war, all of the fort's former auxiliary buildings were removed, leaving only the earthworks. Vegetation began to reclaim the hillsides, although later maps suggest that its progression over the actual crest of the hill was limited.

POST CIVIL WAR (1865-1890)

As the war came to an end and the structures were sold at auction, the Queen/Brooks family retook possession of the fort and its surrounding land. Although they resumed farming the larger estate after the war, the hilltop fort site was difficult to plow and thus remained intact and largely untouched (National Archives and Records Administration 1870). Bellair, the Brooks mansion, remained standing southwest of the earthworks, and by 1880, the former Bladensburg Road west of the fort was now denoted on maps as Bunker Hill Road (Boschke 1861, updated 1880).

Even more significant, in terms of the fort's larger landscape in the late 19th century, was the 1873 introduction of the Metropolitan Branch of the Baltimore and Ohio (B & O) Railroad, which by this time ran north-south to the west of the earthworks. At the intersection of the railroad tracks with Bunker Hill Road, the railroad erected "Brooks Station and Post Office" on the Brooks/Queen property (Hopkins 1887). Brooks Station is now known as University Station (in reference to Catholic University of America, established in 1885 and located nearby and west of Fort Bunker Hill). The arrival of the railroad was a milestone in the development of the area, as it encouraged both travel and development between the Washington City and its larger county.

In 1882, a bicyclist from New Hampshire rode through northeast Washington County and noted of the area near Fort Bunker Hill:

The road [likely, Lincoln and Bunker Hill Roads] led through a slightly hilly and fairly well-wooded country, chiefly along the line of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad....Broad fields, most of them in a perfect state of cultivation, which upon a closer approach, proved to be planted chiefly with sweet potatoes....Wheat is already bearded out, and on one farm a lot of men were engaged in bunching hay....The farm houses as a rule were well built and nicely painted...Continuing, the road led on to Fort Bunker Hill, an appropriate name, though the hill rises rather more abruptly than its Charlestowne namesake....There is nothing left now but the broken-down earthworks and bomb-proofs. (Independent Statesman 1882)

His observations confirms that the landscape near Fort Bunker Hill remained agrarian until late into the nineteenth century. Similarly, the 1884 topographical map and the 1887 Baist map show various houses that are irregularly dispersed across the landscape, which is otherwise occupied by patches of vegetation (Lydecker and Greene 1884). This suggests that the land was still largely agricultural and that the development of the landscape was, to this point, informally

planned. However, by 1890, the railroad and other development forces dramatically shifted the context around the former fort.

BROOKLAND AND UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS (1886-1903)

When Jehiel Brooks died in 1886, the Queen/Brooks estate passed to his children. (His wife, Ann Queen Brooks, died in 1876.) The only tenant to this point had been Brooks' son, as Jehiel tried to keep the family estate intact in spite of his erratic financial stability. Yet, whether due to an inability or an unwillingness to farm the land, or a necessity to settle family debts, the Brooks family sold the estate—including Fort Bunker Hill—within a year of Jehiel's death (Verrey and Henley 1987: 96). (Elizabeth Queen retained 50 acres for her use, and the railroad retained ownership of 14 acres.) The purchaser was Ida U. Marshall, who then conveyed the 134 acres in trust to Benjamin Leighton and Richard Pairo in 1887, vesting them with the right to subdivide the property (Verrey and Henley 1987: 97). The resulting subdivision, one of Washington, D.C.'s first streetcar suburbs, was known as "Brookland."

Within a year of the creation of Brookland (and University Heights to the north), maps of the area indicate a grid of platted streets and narrow lots. They quickly circumscribed the earthworks of Fort Bunker Hill, although they left the fort site largely intact within the perimeter streets of Fort Street (to the south, and obviously named after Bunker Hill), 13th Street NE (to the west), Omaha Street (to the north), and 14th Street NE (to the east) (Hopkins 1891). However, it is worth noting that the introduction of the street grid so near to the fort's hilly site necessitated regrading of the fort's northern and western slopes. Although the earthworks were historically positioned on the topographical high ground, the current severe grade of Fort Bunker Hill's northern and western edges is likely a result of the surrounding street grid in the late 19th century.

Around this same time, the District's electric streetcar tracks were extended in 1890 along 4th Street to Bunker Hill Road/Michigan Avenue, enabling additional migration and commuting between the city center and the Brookland neighborhood (Fletcher 2014: 12). By 1891, the population of Brookland swelled to 700 people (Pearce 1988: 174). One real estate company marketed the merits of the neighborhood thus in 1892:

Brookland...has an elevation of two hundred feet above THE POTOMAC RIVER AT HIGH TIDE. The Metropolitan Branch of the B & O R.R. and the Eckington and Solders' Home Road [the streetcar] furnish rapid transit to the business part of the city. A charter has been granted the Suburban Street Railway Company to build an electric road from the Centre Market to Brookland... The District have built a Brick Schoolhouse erected Street Lights and, LAID PLANK SIDEWALKS on a part of the streets (Pearce 1988: 174).

The residential neighborhood was recommended for the same qualities—the topography's views and vistas—as its wartime function. However, where Fort Bunker Hill and the other defenses of Washington operated as a buffer far from the city they were designed to protect, the neighborhood of Brookland was now completely accessible from the city center, thanks to the introduction of the railroad and the streetcar.

By 1896, the Brookland School had doubled in size, and it was enlarged again in 1903. The neighborhood gained a firehouse and a church, and many of the streets were paved with gravel

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or macadam by the early 20th century. In 1904, the street names and numbers were changed to adopt the alphabetized nomenclature of the rest of the city (Pearce 1988: 174-75).

Around Fort Bunker Hill, Fort Street became Newark Street, while Omaha Street retained its name. In addition, a house was constructed c. 1900 on the southwest corner of the fort's square within the grid, at the corner of Newark and 13th Streets (United States Geological Survey 1900). This house may have been associated with Harry Burton and William Walker, whose names are ascribed to the fort site on 1903 maps of Brookland (Baist 1903). The landscape was otherwise recreational by the start of the 20th century, used for leisure by neighborhood residents and curious tourists who were drawn by its association to the Civil War. According to an 1892 topographical map of the region, vegetation on the fort's eastern and western slopes had begun to reclaim the earthworks—although the topography of the ramparts and trenches was still legible in the landscape (United States Coast and Geodetic Survey 1892). Despite this regrowth, the elevated site evidently still retained its views: an 1892 article references a wooden observation tower that the Brookland developers constructed on the fort site, with multiple platforms that allowed the people of University Heights and Brookland to observe local fireworks (The Evening Star 1892). This tower may have been a very temporary installation, however, as it is not represented on any maps. Further research is necessary to determine its precise location and its duration on the site.



1887 Hopkins map (left), , the 1900 topographical map (right) . Fort Bunker Hill is denoted with a green star. (Baist 1887, Washingtoniana Map Collection, DC Public Library; United States Geological Survey 1900, NOAA Historical Map and Chart Collection)



By 1907, the Brookland subdivision surrounded the site, . (Baist 1907, Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division)

THE FORTS IN THE LATE NINETEENTH AND EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURIES (1892-1900)

Despite this booming development all around Fort Bunker Hill, and the intrusion of Brookland's subdivision and street grid on what had been the larger fort site during the war, the earthworks themselves remained intact, if deteriorated. In fact, they seem to have unexpectedly benefited from the development of Brookland. A topographical survey from 1892 confirms that the earthworks—including the sally port and the traverse, as well as some rifle pits—were largely consistent with their wartime forms (Averill 1892). As so much of the area shifted from farmland to private housing, the earthworks—and the square that they occupied within the street grid—became an informal public park even before the land was publicly owned. As with several of the other Civil War defenses, Fort Bunker Hill assumed a level of significance in public opinion despite the fact that it remained privately owned.

In the latter decades of the nineteenth century, as Fort Bunker Hill and the other defenses reverted to private ownership and began to disappear, they assumed a degree of curiosity and even mystique for the country. Several newspapers published stories about the defenses and their role in the war, with headlines such as “Roadside Sketches” and “Scenes that Thrill” paired with suggested itineraries for visiting the surviving forts (The Evening Star 1891). In spite of the public interest and the romanticization of the defenses, however, many of the sites in the system continued to languish and deteriorate. In their descriptions of the forts in the late nineteenth century, military reports and the newspapers chart the gradual loss of several of the forts' original form and fabric due to natural growth or outright demolition.

While the newspapers' descriptions implicitly tracked the gradual loss and demolition of many of the defenses, however, the maps and accounts of Fort Bunker Hill indicate that it fared better than most in the decades after the war. Indeed, although the perimeter of the Fort

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Bunker Hill site shrank in the face of surrounding development, the growth of Brookland around the fort seems to have preserved it as a neighborhood park—long before the other forts were reconsidered as community resources and public parks. Within just a few years of Brookland’s creation as a subdivision, newspaper accounts indicate that the Brookland Citizens’ Association had formed, and that the association supported the creation of a public park on the site of Fort Bunker Hill. An 1895 article reported that,

A letter from the Northeast Citizens’ Association was read, asking co-operation in suggesting to the Commissioners certain tracts for public parks. After some discussion, it was the general opinion that Brookland people should endeavor to secure the setting apart of the old Fort Bunker Hill site as a public park, not only on account of its desirable location, but because of the historic interest that attaches to the ground. (The Evening Star 1895b: 20)

Four years later, in 1899, that same newspaper recounted that:

The principal business of the evening was the adoption of the report of the special committee [of the Brookland Citizens’ Association] appointed to select a site for a park in that subdivision. The committee, of which Mr. Joseph Baumer was chairman, submitted an elaborate report, which was quite extensively discussed, and, as amended, three sites are suggested, namely: one, block 34, which is the square east of the Episcopal Church; two, the site of old Fort Bunker Hill;...three, block 24....Capt. Baumer, in his report, says that the Bunker Hill site contains 441,299 square feet of ground, which, exclusive of four residences, is valued at an estimated cost of \$56,600. The residences on this site he estimates at about \$10,000, making the total cost \$66,600. He adds:

‘The site described is generally known as the most beautiful and historic site in the District of Columbia, and, aside from its importance and value in this respect, its high and commanding situation, with its pure and invigorating breezes, would be an ideal spot for the purpose proposed.’ (The Evening Star 1899, 8)

It is notable that, at this time, the proposed park site included six residences, since insurance maps at the time denote only one structure on the square of land consistent with the current boundaries. The structures mapped to the south of the site were therefore included within the proposed park’s boundaries, as they were envisioned as of 1899. This is consistent with additional comments from that newspaper account that indicate that “the southern boundary will front on Providence Street, Brookland’s main thoroughfare”; Providence Street, also labeled on maps at the time as Milwaukee Street, corresponds to Newton Street today.

The discussion about Fort Bunker Hill’s conversion to a park also indicates its condition as of 1899: “[the site] is to a large extent covered with trees, a portion of its southern boundary being traversed by a ravine, which is susceptible of being made very attractive.” This is consistent with contemporary maps, which represent the earthworks intact on the crest. The ramparts and trenches are then surrounded by low growth and trees around nearly the entire hillside (United States Coast and Geodetic Survey 1892).

Meanwhile, plans for the park’s northwestern boundary—to be “traversed by the proposed boulevard connecting the outlying fortifications within the limits of the District of Columbia”—alludes to the larger plans for the entire ring of forts that emerged in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

PRESERVATION OF THE FORTS (1890-1901)

Fort Bunker Hill represents an early example of the forts' re-conception as public parks, but by the early twentieth century, a steady stream of local interest and newspaper articles highlighted the beauty and significance of the forts, even as they (picturesquely) deteriorated. The travelogues and other press coverage that began soon after the war had continued to the start of the twentieth century. By then, several of the former defenses shared a trajectory of deterioration and demolition—sites such as Fort Bunker Hill and Fort Dupont were exceptions to the general rule—but the ring of sites around the city still generated interest from public officials and local residents with a growing concern for the forts' preservation.

As the only fort in the defenses of Washington to see a presidential visit and military action during the war, Fort Stevens was the most prominent target for the early preservation movement. Beginning in the 1890s, patriotic organizations concentrated their efforts on preserving Fort Stevens—together with Forts Reno and DeRussy—and recreating a battlefield park in what was by then, like Fort Bunker Hill, a streetcar-suburb context. In the ensuing decade, public interest in the preservation of the forts expanded to include the full ring of defenses around the city, including Fort Bunker Hill. Indeed, given the proximity of its neighbors, Fort Bunker Hill presented a particularly vocal—and especially local—case of neighborhood support for the preservation of the Civil War defenses. Together, the fortifications became a prime focus of the city beautification efforts introduced a few years later under the McMillan Plan.

THE MCMILLAN PLAN AND FORT CIRCLE DRIVE (1901-1902)

In 1901, as part of the McMillan Plan that redesigned much of downtown Washington, city officials began to consider the restoration and preservation of the forts with a new use as parks. Named after Senator James McMillan of Michigan, the McMillan plan was spearheaded by the United States Senate Park Commission, which was founded in 1900 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the relocation of the national capital from Philadelphia to Washington (Robinson and Associates 2004: 48). With roots in the City Beautiful Movement, the McMillan Plan sought to realize sections of the city's original L'Enfant plan that had never been implemented and to reorient the city with an infrastructure of green spaces (National Park Service 2013c).

As part of that effort to renew the city's overlooked and undervalued areas, the plan included in its objectives a proposal to create a 28-mile parkway connecting the Civil War forts of D.C as a string of public parkland. It promoted the forts not only for their history, but as a network of civic green space that would benefit the growing city:

It is necessary to mention the chain of forts which occupied the higher summits....The views from these points are impressive in proportion to their commanding military positions, and they are well worth acquirement as future local parks, in addition to any claim their historical and military interest may afford. (Moore 1902: 111)

As part of the plan, the fort sites would once again transition from private use to public ownership—with due process of sale and purchase this time. The Fort Drive plan also signaled a remarkable shift in the sites' significance from one of wartime necessity—and protection of the federal capital from its own citizens—to one of peacetime public benefit. This narrative was

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not lost on proponents of the plan, as the Washington Post made evident in a 1931 article about “when Washington was fort-girdled”: “Thus the defenses which stood in protection of Washington will be preserved to us and a far lovelier purpose than that for which they were originally constructed” (Salamanca 1931).

The McMillan Plan envisioned a northern arc of parks that would include Fort Bunker Hill: “With the forts indicated on the map—Stevens, Totten, Slemmer, Bunker Hill, and Thayer—and with such other small parks and viewpoints as may be selected later, a northern park circuit of great interest would thus be formed, having views off into the country in contrast with the principal inner circuit of larger parks, presenting views chiefly south toward the city” (Moore 1902: 111). Once again, the topography of the fort sites was used to great advantage, and the McMillan Plan recognized that the views from the forts to Maryland beyond held great public value for the city of Washington.

FORT BUNKER HILL IN THE EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY (1902-1925)

During these public discussions, the site of Fort Bunker Hill remained largely intact and unaffected for the first quarter of the 21st century. The house at the southwest corner of the site remained standing, and the peripheral streets around the earthworks prevented any further encroachment of development. The vegetation pattern remained relatively consistent, with mature trees returning to the hillside and the visible remains of the earthworks intact on the crest of the slope. Around this time, the nomenclature of the street grid shifted somewhat, as Fort Street became Otis Street c. 1907, and Omaha Street became Perry Street. (The streets north and south of Fort Bunker Hill also shifted names, in keeping with the A-Z naming system.) (Baist 1907)

The fort site, as an unofficial park, was frequently used by neighborhood residents for Civil War anniversaries and public celebrations, including July 4 festivities (The Washington Post 1910: 14). July 4, in fact, seems to have become an annual tradition at Fort Bunker Hill, as newspaper records throughout the 1910s and 1920s attest. Meanwhile, Brookland residents continued to lobby for the formal designation of Fort Bunker Hill as a park, expressing grievances along the way at the perception that Northeast Washington was neglected in such planning initiatives (The Washington Post 1925: 2).

FORT DRIVE AND THE ACQUISITION OF PARKLAND (1925-1927)

Although the McMillan Plan revived public interest in Fort Bunker Hill and the fort sites, and ignited further interest in their preservation as a grand system, the Fort Drive idea saw little progress in the first decade after the report’s release. Several bills were introduced, authorizing the purchase of sites for the fort circle parks and fort drive; yet, faced with lack of funds or initiative, these attempts consistently failed. Fort Dupont, east of the Anacostia, was one of the earliest parks acquired, with a Congressional resolution passed in 1912. However, most other park projects—including Fort Bunker Hill—continued to stall and fail until 1925. On March 3 of that year, the National Capital Parks Commission (NCPC, which was created in 1924) received its first authorization and appropriation for the purchase of land related to the Civil War Defenses of Washington. A year later, on April 30, 1926, Congress replaced NCPC with the larger and more empowered National Capital Park and Planning Commission (NCPPC), which continued to push for further funding for the Fort Drive Plan (CEHP Incorporated 1998: Part II,

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Chapter III, 4).

With the creation of the NCPPC, the Brookland Citizens' Association renewed its 30-year effort to designate Fort Bunker Hill as a neighborhood park. They anticipated resistance from the Commission based on the severe slope of the site (a result of the grading of the street grid), recognizing that "the rather precipitate slope of the site... would in a measure contradict the plan of the commission to develop park areas as much as possible on level ground" (The Washington Post 1926). However, the Citizens' Association contended that the slopes could be used for "the construction of artificial cascades, which would flow down from an elevated terrace. A wading pool could be placed at one end."

Most notably, the association's arguments to the NCPPC took stock of the fort's condition by that time—61 years after the fort's decommissioning:

The fort site...[was] practically in the same condition which the close of the civil war found it. It [was] overgrown with second growth chestnuts and pines, the chestnuts, however, being for the most part dead. The old breastworks and trenches are still visible in fretted time-leveled ridges. The ground about the fort still affords occasional bullets. But the site is grown up in brushwood except for a few trees, and should be developed, the citizens of the community contend. (The Washington Post 1926)

The report added that if the site was developed, rather than reserved as a park, then community residents hoped to see a branch of the public library constructed on one corner and another portion reserved for band concerts.

After over thirty years of lobbying various agencies and commissions, the Brookland Citizens' Association finally found success in the era of the NCPPC. Within just a year of its creation, the NCPPC moved forward with the acquisition of the six-acre Fort Bunker Hill property "to serve as a park for Brookland and vicinity" (National Capital Park and Planning Commission 1927: 31). The Commission's plans for the site included the insertion of a playground (location unknown), which was never built (The Washington Post 1927).

The purchased land comprised most of the square encompassed by Otis Street, 13th Street NE, Perry Street, and 14th Street; the only exception to the acreage given over to newly-created U.S. Reservation 443 was the southwest corner, on which the c. 1903 house remained standing and was left intact (Baist 1936). The square to the south of this city block, which was considered in previous discussions about a potential park, remained residential.

CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS (1933-1937)

Although the acquisition of Fort Bunker Hill and a few other fort sites represented the successful preservation of a handful of Civil War defenses, the plan for the larger Fort Circle Drive continued to face delays and roadblocks. Nevertheless, although it was never fully realized, the Fort Circle Drive initiative paved the way for other preservation initiatives and public investment in the forts, most notably with the creation of the Civil Conservation Corps (CCC) at the height of the Great Depression in 1933. Across the country, millions of young men found employment at the CCC camps, where they lived and worked in exchange for uniforms, shelter, food, and a stipend. In general, CCC enrollees worked with the Department of the Interior or the Department of Agriculture, with projects that included the construction

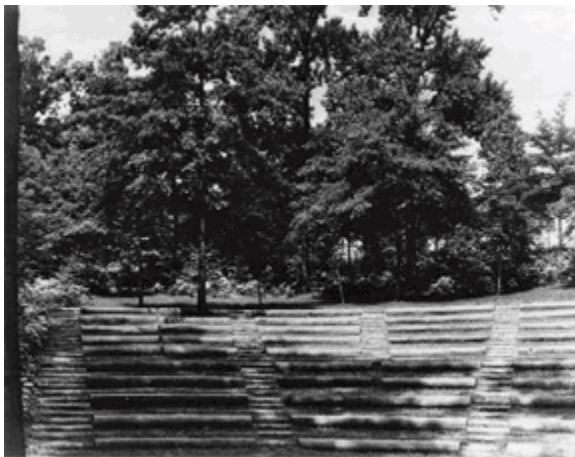
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and maintenance of roads or picnic areas, the creation of athletic fields or cabin camps, and—in the case of the Civil War Defenses of Washington—the repair or reconstruction of the Civil War-era forts and their surrounding parks (Davidson 2004: 2). Of the many fort sites in the D.C metropolitan area where the CCC worked, their role was most evident at Fort Stevens, where they reconstructed many of the original features of the fort that General Jubal Early attacked in 1864.

They were also involved in projects at several other forts, though, including Forts Mahan and Dupont in Anacostia, and Fort Bunker Hill near Rock Creek Park. By the end of 1935, CCC members from Camp NP-8-VA located on the northwest side the Memorial Avenue Bridge along the George Washington Memorial Parkway. They began work at Fort Bunker Hill, where the CCC's projects included not only the planting of trees and the construction of walkways, but also the development of the site as a recreational area—most significantly with the construction of an amphitheater on the site's eastern slope. It included a stage, circumscribed by a wall 65 feet long and three feet high, with fixed log seats for 250 people set into the hillside. An additional 150 audience members could be accommodated on the ground or in portable chairs (Davidson 2004: 96-97).

CCC workers also created a picnic grounds and constructed features such as tables, benches, and water fountains. A survey of CCC-era resources conducted by the Historic American Buildings Survey posited that the picnic grounds were likely constructed in the large, flat, cleared area on the site's highest point, in the park's southwest corner—in other words, at the center of the former earthworks. Alternatively, the southeast corner of the site, at a lower elevation, is also relatively flat and clearcut, and could have accommodated the CCC picnic grounds (consistent with the location of two picnic tables today). Further research is necessary to determine the precise location of the CCC's twelve table-and-bench groupings. The CCC also installed four water fountains throughout the site. Existing evidence of the site does not indicate that these fountains survived to the present day. The CCC remained involved at Fort Bunker Hill until at least early 1937 (Davidson 2004: 41).



The Fort Bunker Hill amphitheater, constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps, in a c. 1960 photograph. (National Park Service, as printed in Einberger 2014)

MID- TO LATE-TWENTIETH CENTURY (1937-1978)

In keeping with its neighborhood context, newspaper records indicate that Fort Bunker Hill was very actively used by Brookland residents throughout the 20th century (particularly during the summer months). At various times, it was used for: concerts (e.g. *The Washington Post* 1937); movie screenings (e.g. *The Washington Post* 1938a; *The Washington Post* 1969); campfire programs (e.g. Lewis 1938: B5); naturalist talks (e.g. *The Washington Post* 1938b); summer camps (e.g. *The Washington Post* 1939); and historical tours (e.g. *The Washington Post* 1940). One source also suggests that the amphitheater was used by the Catholic University drama department for at least one production, and by the band Earth, Wind, and Fire for a concert (Einberger 2014: 138).

The house on the southwest corner of the park's block remained standing until sometime between 1943 and 1959, at which point it is no longer present on historic maps (Baist 1943; Baist 1959). Photographs confirm that the amphitheater was very intact as of the early 1960s. However, when Catholic University stopped staging productions in the amphitheater in 1978, research suggests that the amphitheater began to deteriorate as it fell into disuse. Around this same time, the CCC-era picnic tables were removed (Einberger 2014: 138). A bronze plaque, affixed to a boulder, was installed by the National Park Service at an unknown date.

CURRENT (1978-Present)

Little seems to have been altered in the immediate context of Fort Bunker Hill's earthworks since the mid-twentieth century. Aerial photographs of the last twenty years indicate few changes to the earthworks and the surrounding landscape of the site. The earthworks, including the sally port and the traverse, are still visible, although they are much obscured by brush and other ground cover.

On the northeast hillside of the site, the amphitheater and its stage are still evident today, although they are severely deteriorated and few log seats remain in place. A historic photograph of the amphitheater c. 1960 suggests that the hillside and crest have much denser tree cover today than was present in the middle of the twentieth century, but aerial photographs of the last few decades do not suggest significant changes in vegetation in the last 30 years. The picnic benches and tables have been replaced, as have the original rustic "bubbler" water fountains. The current water fountains—of which there are two—are somewhat obscured by plantings, but consist of an octagonal design with a concrete-aggregate finish. The light standards that formerly lit the amphitheater productions are inoperable but extant.

Analysis + Evaluation of Integrity



Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

Landscape Characteristics and Features

Landscape characteristics identified for Fort Bunker Hill are topography, spatial organization, land use, buildings and structures, circulation, vegetation, views and vistas, and small scale features.

The site for Fort Bunker Hill was selected for its topography. Its position at 230 feet above sea level provided an elevated vantage of the surrounding landscape, including several strategic sites that Fort Bunker Hill was designed to protect. The topography remains the same as it was throughout the historic period, and retains a high degree of integrity.

The spatial organization of Fort Bunker Hill dates to the later part of the historic period, when the site was converted to a park and the CCC implemented various recreation improvement and beautification projects on the site. There have been minor additions to the landscape in the form of wayfinding and interpretive signs since the later period of significance, but the site retains its historic spatial organization and has a high degree of integrity.

The Civil War-era military land use aspect of the Fort Bunker Hill cultural landscape ended when the United States government sold the property in 1865. However, the land use at Fort Bunker Hill has not changed since the 20th century period of significance. The site remains a public park, and is used for recreation, education, and interpretation. As it has since the CCC era of involvement at the site, the park serves a public function and is open for general recreational use. Land use at Fort Bunker Hill retains integrity.

The site has some integrity of buildings and structures from each of its two periods of significance. From its Civil War-era period of significance, portions of Fort Bunker Hill's earthworks remain intact. This includes remnants of the sally port, parapets, rifle pits, outer ditch, and likely evidence of the magazine. The other auxiliary buildings and structures that stood on the site during its 19th century period of significance are no longer present. From the site's 20th century period of significance, the amphitheater and stage installed by the Civilian Conservation Corps remain partially intact. The site retains integrity of buildings and structures.

Fort Bunker Hill's Civil War era circulation pattern, including its military access road from the former Bladensburg Road (later Bunker Hill Road, now Michigan Avenue) southwest of the earthworks, does not exist on the site today. Some or all of the current social paths, however, likely date to the CCC's interventions at the site during the later period of significance. These social trails include a path from the lowest area of the site, on the eastern edge along 14th Street NE, through the historic amphitheater and up the hill to the earthworks at the highest point on the site, on the western edge along 13th Street NE. The site therefore retains some integrity of circulation.

There was limited vegetation at Fort Bunker Hill during the Civil War, in keeping with the site's

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strategic design and use. The current vegetation pattern is not, therefore, consistent with the 19th century period of significance, but the mature trees and cleared, grassy areas (around the edge of the site and on the hilltop) do likely date to—or predate—the CCC-era period of significance and their projects on the site. Fort Bunker Hill’s vegetation retains integrity from its 20th century period of significance.

The views and vistas from Fort Bunker Hill during the Civil War extended to the countryside surrounding the fort—in particular, towards the north and east. These vistas remained intact for several years after the war, but the redevelopment of the site and the surrounding area in the late 19th century—and in particular, the construction of the Brookland subdivision around the site—affected the views from the landscape at Fort Bunker Hill. In addition, during the later periods of significance, vegetation growth within the site has also affected the historic views from the 19th century period of significance. The present day views and vistas therefore retain integrity, consistent only with the 20th century period of significance.

Fort Bunker Hill’s small-scale features have little to no integrity. The site has no surviving features from its 19th century period of significance. Most of the extant features, including signage (regulatory and wayfinding), picnic tables, and a commemorative boulder and plaque, were installed at the site after the 20th century period of significance and are non-contributing. Other non-contributing features include the two concrete drinking fountains, located adjacent to the amphitheater and along the social trail at the center of the site near the remnants of the outer ditch. These fountains are not consistent with the water fountains installed by the CCC, which were constructed using hollow logs. The contributing status cannot be determined for two features at the site. The two tall light standards are located in the amphitheater area and provided stage lighting to performances; it is not known when they were added to the site, but the documentary evidence from the CCC’s work on the site makes no reference to them (Davidson 2004: 97). In addition, a small concrete pier is located near the amphitheater stage, but further research is necessary to clarify its function and time of construction. The small-scale features of Fort Bunker Hill’s cultural landscape therefore do not retain integrity.

Fort Bunker Hill retains archaeological integrity. Although the site has seen limited archaeological investigation to date, it is highly likely that future archaeological study of the area around Fort Bunker Hill will locate additional resources from the Civil War-era period of significance. Additionally, resources dating to the second period of significance, the CCC’s involvement at the site, and the site’s use for recreation may be discovered, and would help shed light on twentieth-century alterations to the area.

Aspects of Integrity

1. The location aspect of integrity involves the place where the landscape was constructed. During the Civil War, Fort Bunker Hill occupied a larger area than the present-day park. Over the course of the late 19th century and early 20th century, its boundaries were whittled down by the platting of new streets and development in the surrounding area. During the later period of significance, when Fort

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Bunker Hill was reacquired as parkland the CCC was involved in projects on the site, the boundaries of the park were established in their current locations. The historic earthworks and other contributing landscape features remain in their historic locations.

2. Design is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a cultural landscape or historic property. Portions of the Civil War-era design of the site survive intact, including remnants of the sally port, parapets, outer ditch, and magazine. The primary incursion on the historic design of the earthworks is found on the southwest corner of the site, where the grading of 13th Street NE in the late 19th century (before the second period of significance) resulted in a steeper slope and affected the outer ditch and parapets on the west side of the earthworks. In addition to these aspects of integrity from the 19th century period of significance, Fort Bunker Hill retains the layout established by the CCC during the later period of significance. This includes the amphitheater design and the circulation and vegetation patterns that were implemented by the CCC. Fort Bunker Hill retains overall integrity of design.

3. Setting is the physical environment of a cultural landscape or historic property. During the Civil War, Fort Bunker Hill's setting was rural, occupied by only a few local landowners. During the later period of significance, the site's setting was marked by suburban development and dense populated residential neighborhoods. Its immediate context was comprised of single-family homes and the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in America, which was established as Holy Land College in 1897. Currently, Fort Bunker Hill is still a park and historic site within an urban community, with single-family homes and the Franciscan monastery as its immediate neighbors. The park's cultural landscape retains the essential integrity of setting for the 20th century period of significance.

4. Materials are the physical elements of a particular period, including construction materials, paving, plants, and other landscape features. The earthen outerworks, parapets, sally port, and magazine of the 19th century period of significance, as well as the concrete drinking fountains, fixed log amphitheater seating, and concrete stage from the 20th century period of significance, contribute to the material integrity of Fort Bunker Hill. There has been some loss of vegetative material and soil, but this does not detract from the overall integrity of materials on the site.

5. Workmanship includes the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular period. The earthen forms of Fort Bunker Hill's surviving Civil War-era features offer evidence of 19th century military workmanship. These features have deteriorated since their original construction, but they still demonstrate the craft and skills of the site's wartime laborers. In addition, the fixed-log seating of the 20th century amphitheater demonstrates the workmanship of the CCC's laborers, despite their deterioration in recent decades. Fort Bunker Hill retains integrity of workmanship.

6. Feeling is a property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period. Because the site's Civil War-era layout, design, and features have been compromised by vegetation and surrounding development, the site does not retain integrity of feeling from its 19th century period of significance. However, the feeling of the site's 20th century use and design as a recreational green space remains consistent. Fort Bunker Hill remains a public park in the midst of an urban

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neighborhood, with the vegetation, circulation pattern, and CCC-era amphitheater that contribute to and maintain the integrity of feeling from the CCC era. Fort Bunker Hill retains a high degree of integrity from its later period of significance.

7. Association is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property. Fort Bunker Hill is associated with the Civil War, the beautification of urban sites as parks, and the Civilian Conservation Corps. Links to these historic events and movements are still evident at the park. Fragments of the earthworks are still visible on the site and accessible for visitors to explore. Waysides and interpretive programs provide visitors with information on the historic significance of the site (particularly related its earlier period of significance, during the Civil War), but do not discuss the CCC's role in the creation of the park site. Several park features, including the amphitheater, a few small-scale features, and the circulation pattern, date to the CCC's involvement at the site during the later period of significance. The cultural landscape reflects the links to the historic periods and retains a high degree of integrity of association for the periods of significance.

CONCLUSIONS

After evaluation the landscape features and characteristics within the context of the seven aspects of integrity established by the National Register, this CLI finds that the Fort Bunker Hill cultural landscape retains partial integrity from its periods of significance (1861-1865 and 1902-1937). While there have been some changes to the landscape and several features have deteriorated, the overall historic integrity of the property is high.

Aspects of Integrity:	Location
	Design
	Setting
	Materials
	Workmanship
	Feeling
	Association

Landscape Characteristic:

Topography

HISTORIC

The site's elevation was the primary consideration when army officials scouted locations for Fort Bunker Hill and the other Civil War Defenses of Washington in 1861. Its position at 230 feet above sea level, as well as its views toward Fort Slemmer to the northwest and Fort Saratoga to the southeast, were critical characteristics for the fort throughout its first period of significance (1861-1865). During the later period of significance (1902-1937), the topography of the site allowed for the construction of an amphitheater on the eastern side of the site. The seating and stage associated with this amphitheater contributed to the recreational use and the significance of the site as a public park. Refer to Buildings and Structures section for

description of how the earthwork features and amphitheater manipulated the ground plane.

EXISTING

Fort Bunker Hill's elevation has not changed significantly since the later period of significance. The topography on the western edge of the earthworks was somewhat altered in the late 19th century, when the platting of 13th Street NE affected the southwest corner of the parapets and the outer slope of the earthworks; these alterations predate the second period of significance. The topography on the eastern half of the site is consistent with the 20th century period of significance.

EVALUATION

Fort Bunker Hill's topography contributes to the historic character of the site and retains a high degree of integrity.

Spatial Organization

HISTORIC

During Fort Bunker Hill's early period of significance (1861-65), the landscape's elevation, together with its views toward the landscape north and east of the capital, was the organizing principle for the arrangement of the site. Engineers designed the fort's earthworks to take advantage of the crest of the hill, and auxiliary buildings were arranged on the lower hillside southwest of the earthworks. The entrance to the fort was at the southwestern corner of the earthworks, leaving the north and east parapet walls as a stronger buffer toward the vulnerable approaches to the city (Cooling and Owen 2010: 200). A few landscape features, including a magazine and several bombproofs, were located within the fort, but most of the 32 supporting structures were arranged outside the confines of the earthworks, a short distance away to the southwest of the fort (The Daily National Republican 1865a; The Daily National Republican 1865c).

The fort saw a limited number of modifications throughout the war, as engineers corrected issues with the fort's design and hasty construction. These alterations included the repair—but not relocation—of the structures within the earthworks (United States War Department 1888: 911-912; United States War Department 1893: 286-287). In the larger landscape of the fort, the modifications included the construction of two additional batteries that were designed to support Fort Bunker Hill. One of the batteries occupied an advanced position on the northeastern slope of the hill with the fort, while the other flanked the fort on the low hill southeast of the fort. A third battery was later constructed on a rise northwest of Fort Bunker Hill (United States War Department 1888: 911-912; United States War Department 1889: 895).

In the decades between this early period of significance and the later 20th century one (1902-37), the spatial organization of the Fort Bunker Hill landscape was significantly altered. The earthworks remained relatively intact—if deteriorated—in their original position, but by the late 1880s, the original fort site was subsumed by the Brookland subdivision (Verrey and Henley 1987: 96). This new street grid and platting around the fort dramatically reduced its size and altered its historic relationship to the site's Civil War-era landscape features, including the

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location of the fort's auxiliary buildings and batteries. Instead, by the 1890s, the earthworks were contained within a city block—bounded by paved streets that altered the topography of the earthworks' western slope—and largely isolated from their historic spatial organization (Hopkins 1891). In addition, a house was constructed c. 1900 on the southwest corner of the site, intruding on the historic configuration (and physical fabric) of the Civil War-era landscape.

During the later period of significance (1902-1937), the Civilian Conservation Corps introduced new landscape features that affected the spatial organization of the site. This included the construction of an amphitheater on the eastern side of the site, accessed from 14th Street NE on the site's eastern boundary. The CCC also introduced or maintained social trails that link the amphitheater to the earthworks, reinforcing the spatial relationship between these two features and reflecting the site's transition from a military landscape to a recreational one. The CCC also inserted a picnic grounds somewhere on the fort site, but further research is necessary to determine the location of these table-and-bench groupings. They were presumably placed on the flat areas at the site's highest point (within the earthworks, at the southwest corner of the site) or at the site's lowest area, on the eastern edge of the park.

The spatial organization did not change dramatically in the decades after the later period of significance. The primary alteration to the site's spatial organization was the demolition—sometime between 1943 and 1959—of the house at the southwest corner of the site (Baist 1943; Baist 1959).

EXISTING

Fort Bunker Hill's spatial organization remains largely consistent with its CCC-era period of significance. The primary difference between the existing conditions and the end of the later period of significance is the absence of the house at the southwest corner of the park. In all other ways, the site's arrangement remains intact (if deteriorated), including the presence of the earthworks in the southwest corner and the amphitheater along the eastern boundary. The entrance of the earthworks is more difficult to discern in the landscape, but it is present and remains oriented at the southwest corner of the remaining earthworks. The amphitheater remains in its original location, oriented eastward toward the stage and the eastern edge of the park. These two primary landscape features are spatially and physically linked via the site's topography (in which the amphitheater is extant on the hillside of the fort) and circulation (via the social trails that connect them).

EVALUATION

The spatial organization from the Civil War period of significance is no longer extant, but Fort Bunker Hill's spatial organization has remained largely consistent since the later period of significance. Fort Bunker Hill thus retains integrity with respect to spatial organization.

Land Use

HISTORIC

Fort Bunker Hill's distinct periods of significance (1861-1865, and 1902-1937) represent different uses of the landscape throughout its history, first as a military installation and second as a place for recreation and interpretation.

Built in 1861 as one of the peripheral Defenses of Washington, Fort Bunker Hill maintained its military use until it was decommissioned and abandoned shortly after the war ended in 1865. For several decades, the fort deteriorated and was largely dismantled as the land transitioned back to agricultural use and limited development. Several houses existed on the larger Fort Bunker Hill site—beyond the current boundaries—into the 20th century, while the surrounding area saw a boom in new construction and development in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. By the early 20th century, the buffer around the earthworks was much smaller, circumscribed by an expanded street grid. The site remained a pocket of undeveloped land in the midst of an urbanizing landscape, as the Brookland subdivisions grew up around Fort Bunker Hill.

The movement to create a park at Fort Bunker Hill predated the publication of the McMillan Plan in 1901, which called for the creation of a Fort Drive linking all of the former Civil War forts as public parks. The plan did not gain traction, however, until 1925, when the National Capital Parks Commission (NCPC) was first authorized to purchase land at Fort Bunker Hill and the other Defenses of Washington sites for use as parkland for the District of Columbia. Fort Bunker Hill was acquired in 1927, and all of the remaining parkland was purchased by the early 1940s. By the early 1930s, the Civilian Conservation Corps was active at Fort Bunker Hill, implementing various construction and beautification projects to enhance its use as parkland. This included the insertion of a picnic grounds, likely at the cleared crest of the hill (according to the Historic American Buildings Survey), and an amphitheater on the hillside on the eastern side of the site.

EXISTING

The site has no current association with its historic 19th century use as a military installation. The entire landscape serves a public recreational use today, with limited wayfinding elements and signs designed to serve an educational interpretive function on the site. This is consistent with the landscape's use during the later years of the 1902-1937 period of significance. Features of its historic recreational use are still evident on the site. The amphitheater has deteriorated but still extant. The picnic grounds are no longer located at the crest of the hill, which is empty today, but a small picnic area exists at the southeast corner of the park. Other uses of the landscape include dog-walking and recreational community gatherings.

EVALUATION

The Civil War-era military aspect of land use at Fort Bunker Hill ended with the

decommissioning and abandonment of the fort in 1865. Its use has not changed, however, since the later period of significance, when it was converted to public urban parkland. The ongoing use of Fort Bunker Hill as a setting for community gatherings and trail-walking contributes to the historic character of land use. While the integrity of land use is impacted by the lack of ongoing military land use, it retains integrity of this characteristic due to the continuation of recreational and interpretive use.

Circulation

HISTORIC

In the years before the Civil War, the Brooks estate was accessed via a driveway that originated at Bladensburg Road, running north-south a short distance west of the site. This driveway, which ran along an east-west path, continued eastward to connect with Old Bladensburg Road, which ran roughly parallel to Bladensburg Road in this area. Both Bladensburg and Old Bladensburg Roads were major thoroughfares that linked the District of Columbia and the commercial center of Bladensburg, Maryland (northeast of the fort).

The interstitial driveway or road that linked these thoroughfares did not extend further until the Civil War, at which point it was lengthened both eastward and westward, intersecting with and extending beyond both Bladensburg and Old Bladensburg Roads. At this same time, the road was formalized as Military Road, linking Fort Bunker Hill with other forts in the ring of defenses around Washington.

Thus, during the early period of significance for Fort Bunker Hill, the site's circulation consisted of a path or road that began at Military Road and ran north up the slope of the fort to the earthworks and through the sally port to the interior of the parapets. An additional, secondary path or road began at the intersection of Military Road and Bladensburg and advanced toward the fort, but turned south and re-crossed Military Road before reaching the earthworks. A third path began at Military Road and extended toward the earthworks, but appears to have stopped (without a clear endpoint) before reaching the earthworks. Lastly, a fourth secondary road began at Military Road and arced up to intersect with (and end at) the primary path to the earthworks. All of these roads were located south and southwest of the earthworks. No circulation existed on the Fort Bunker Hill landscape to the north or east of the earthworks—in keeping with the design to keep those approaches impregnable (Hodasevich 1863).

In the 1870s and 1880s, these secondary roads largely deteriorated or were abandoned. An 1892 map of the area indicates traces of these roads, but none of them extend along the same complete paths as during the Civil War-era period of significance (United States Coast and Geodetic Survey 1892). By this time, Bladensburg Road (west of the site) was known as Bunker Hill Road, and Old Bladensburg Road had been renamed Queens Chapel Road (Baist 1903).

By the late 1890s and early 1900s, with the introduction of the Brookland subdivision, the landscape around Fort Bunker Hill changed dramatically. This resulted in a much-smaller fort site that occupied a city block and was circumscribed by the newly-introduced street grid. This

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cut the earthworks off from their larger Civil War-era context, including the landscape on the lower slopes that had once housed the fort's auxiliary buildings and batteries (Hopkins 1891).

In the first two decades of the later period of significance, the Fort Bunker Hill site does not appear to have any formal roads or paths. By this time (c. 1900), a house was located in its southwest corner, at the intersection of 13th Street NE and Otis Street. However, contemporary maps do not denote any formal circulation features in relation to this house throughout the 20th century period of significance (Baist 1903, 1907, 1913, 1919, and 1936).

Between 1935 and 1937, the Civilian Conservation Corps maintained and constructed walks at the site (Davidson 2004). This likely included the social trail that links the CCC-era amphitheater (on the site's eastern edge) with the earthworks may have been introduced or formalized by the Civilian Conservation Corps. However, further research is necessary to determine the precise trajectories of any CCC-era paths and social trails.

EXISTING

Fort Bunker Hill has a series of footpaths around the site today that generally begin at the edges of the site and converge at the crest of the hill in or around the earthworks. The primary dirt path begins at the amphitheater on the park's eastern edge and extends up the slope of the hill to the remnants of the parapets and trenches at the crest of the hill. It includes rustic timber-edged earthen steps that in many cases are partially eroded or overgrown by vegetation.

At the top of the hill, this primary social trail terminates at a dirt path that occupies a circular footprint within the remnants of the parapet walls. Two secondary social trails begin at this circular footprint and extend down the slope of the hill. The trail in the northwest corner of the park diverges into two social trails that end at 13th Street NE and Perry Street NE; the other secondary social trail that begins at the path within the earthworks runs northwest-southeast in the southern half of the park. It terminates at a social trail that runs north-south and intersects with the primary social path through the amphitheater. All of these social trails are unpaved.

EVALUATION

The Civil War circulation patterns at Fort Bunker Hill are no longer extant. Some or all of the current footpaths (social trails) on the site likely date to the CCC's interventions at the site during the later period of significance. Fort Bunker Hill therefore retains some integrity of circulation.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:

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Fort Bunker Hill's historic circulation, as represented in the 1863 Topographical Map of the Defenses North of Washington. (Hodasevich 1863, Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division; United States Geological Survey 2006, via Google Earth)

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Fort Bunker Hill's extant social trails are dirt paths. The primary social trail (left) has remnants of the CCC-era steps. In some areas, the paths are overgrown with vegetation. (M. Lester 2015)

Vegetation

HISTORIC

Although no known photographs exist of Fort Bunker Hill during the Civil War, a soldier's sketch of the fort, period maps, and records of the army's general treatment of the defenses of Washington indicate that the hilltop was cleared of all trees beginning in 1861 (Boschke 1861). This included the removal of large tree stands on the northern and eastern slopes of the site, improving visibility and establishing views toward Maryland. Army soldiers also removed the cultivated plots—including the fruit trees, orchards, and wild growth—adjacent to the Brooks house, southwest of the earthworks. Within a few months, the earthworks were complete, and by 1863, nearly all of the antebellum vegetation was gone, with just a small area of vegetation on the hill's southeastern slope (Hodasevich 1863). Within the earthworks, the outer earthen parapets were sodded. Although this root mat provided a natural protection against erosion, the sod did need to be replaced as the war progressed and both weather and soldiers took their toll on the fort (Mahan 1856: 36-37; United States War Department 1893: 285).

The landscape remained clearcut and uncultivated through the end of the early period of significance (1861-1865).

According to late 19th century maps, vegetation began to reclaim the hillsides of Fort Bunker Hill in the 1870s and 1880s and continuing into the 20th century. In 1882, a bicyclist observed of the area around Fort Bunker Hill:

The road [likely, Lincoln and Bunker Hill Roads] led through a slightly hilly and fairly well-wooded country, chiefly along the line of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.... Broad fields, most of them in a perfect state of cultivation, which upon a closer approach, proved to be planted chiefly with sweet potatoes.... Wheat is already bearded out, and on one farm a lot of men were engaged in bunching hay.... The farm houses as a rule were well built and nicely painted... Continuing, the road led on to Fort Bunker Hill, an appropriate name, though the hill rises rather more abruptly than its Charlestowne namesake.... There is nothing left now but the broken-down earthworks and bomb-proofs. (Independent Statesman 1882)

His observations confirms that the landscape near Fort Bunker Hill remained agrarian until late in the nineteenth century. Similarly, the 1884 topographical map and the 1887 Baist map show various houses that are irregularly dispersed across the landscape, which is otherwise occupied by patches of vegetation (Lydecker and Greene 1884). This suggests that the land was still largely agricultural and that the development of the landscape was, to this point, informally planned.

According to an 1892 topographical map of the region, vegetation on the fort's eastern and western slopes had begun to reclaim the earthworks—although the topography of the ramparts and trenches was still legible in the landscape (United States Coast and Geodetic Survey 1892). Around this same time, however, the creation of the Brookland subdivision around Fort Bunker Hill refashioned the fort as green space within a residential context. As a result, the site became an informal public park, which allowed for the continued revegetation of the hillsides and the regrowth of mature trees throughout the city block (Averill 1892).

In 1899, public discussions about the official acquisition of Fort Bunker Hill as a public park allude to its condition by the end of the 19th century: “[the site] is to a large extent covered with trees, a portion of its southern boundary being traversed by a ravine, which is susceptible of being made very attractive.” This is consistent with contemporary maps, which represent the earthworks intact on the crest. The ramparts and trenches are then surrounded by ground cover and trees around nearly the entire hillside (United States Coast and Geodetic Survey 1892).

This was the condition of the Fort Bunker Hill landscape by the beginning of the later period of significance (1902-1937). The vegetation pattern remained relatively consistent from 1900 until the mid-1920s, with mature trees returning to the hillside and the visible remains of the earthworks intact on the crest of the slope. By 1926, the National Capital Parks and Planning Commission began to seriously consider acquiring the fort as a public park, and documented the site’s vegetation conditions as follows:

‘The fort site...is practically in the same condition which the close of the civil war found it. It is overgrown with second growth chestnuts and pines, the chestnuts, however, being for the most part dead...But the site is grown up in brushwood except for a few trees, and should be developed, the citizens of the community contend. (The Washington Post 1926)’

From 1935 to 1937, the Civilian Conservation Corps was involved in construction and beautification projects at Fort Bunker Hill. This included planting additional trees throughout the site until the end of the second period of significance (Davidson 2004: 96).

EXISTING

Fort Bunker Hill now has a narrow perimeter of grass and gravel around the edge of the site. Additionally, the northeast and southeast corners of the site have mature trees but are clear of ground cover and are otherwise grassy.

At the center of the eastern site boundary, a large area includes many mature trees but is otherwise clear of the dense brush found elsewhere on the site. This clearing is bifurcated by the primary social trail; on the southern side of the social trail, the clearing features a limited amount of ground cover, while the northern area features little to no ground cover and is otherwise grassy.

From this clearing, the social trail leads to the amphitheater, which is still legible in the landscape primarily because of shifts in the vegetation pattern. The amphitheater, located in the center-east area of the site, features a roughly circular concrete stage with grass and trees around the perimeter. The hillside of the amphitheater features rustic benches for seating, much of which has been overtaken by grass, scattered brush, and a limited number of trees.

At the crest of the hill, the area around the earthworks is generally clear of mature trees and dense brush. This small area along the western half of the site is largely grassy (or soil), with limited ground cover. The hillsides surrounding the crest, including the surviving earthworks on the western half of the site, are covered with a thick growth of mature trees and low brush.

The remainder of the site is almost entirely densely overgrown with mature deciduous and evergreen trees, fallen limbs, brush, and ground cover. There are more deciduous than evergreen trees. No clear planting scheme is evident within the park, although further research is necessary to determine which of the extant trees were volunteers or planted by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Tree specimens throughout the site include: tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*); pin, willow, and white oaks (*Quercus palustris*, *Quercus phellos*, and *Quercus alba*); red mulberry (*Morus rubra*); and red and sugar maples (*Acer rubrum* and *Acer saccharum*). Ground cover and brush specimens include: briar wild rose (*Rosa virginiana*); common ivy (*Hedera helix*); poke berry (*Phytolacca americana*); and chamomile (*Matricaria chamomilla*).

EVALUATION

The vegetation pattern is not consistent with the Civil War period of significance at the site, since the fort was cleared of all growth and trees by the end of the war. However, current vegetation patterns, including the mature trees on the site, do correspond to the 20th century period of significance.

Though their age has not been determined, many of the trees likely date to—or pre-date—the CCC era. The current vegetation is consistent with the CCC's forestation and planting projects, although further research is needed to determine the CCC's planting regimen and plan. Most of the ground cover plantings on the site, including American holly, common ivy, and other ground cover, are non-contributing features. This likely includes the plantings in the amphitheater seating area. The site retains integrity from the later period of significance.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:

Fort Bunker Hill

Rock Creek Park - Fort Circle Park - North



*Vegetation pattern Civil War (top), the 1880s (center), and current condition (bottom).
(Hodasevich 1863, Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division; Lydecker and
Greene 1884, NOAA Historical Map and Chart Collection; United States Geological Survey*

Fort Bunker Hill

Rock Creek Park - Fort Circle Park - North



Fort Bunker Hill's is densely wooded and overgrown at the perimeter (top), with limited cleared areas at the corners of the block (center) and an area along the eastern side of the site (bottom) that has minimal ground cover. (M. Lester 2015)



The vegetation pattern generally consists of a thick growth of mature trees and low brush (top, center). At the crest of the hill in the southwest corner of the site (bottom), a cleared area has minimal ground cover and few trees. (M. Lester 2015)

Buildings and Structures

HISTORIC

During the Civil War, Fort Bunker Hill occupied a convex-heptagonal footprint with a perimeter of 205 yards. It comprised a redan whose pan coupé (three walls) at the northeast end were linked to a redan at the southwest end by parallel curtain walls, which were set on a northeast orientation. Earth shoveled from the peripheral ditch was shored up as the eight-foot walls (also known as parapets), which consisted of the exterior, superior, and interior slopes. The interior slope in particular was revetted with timber to support an adequate banquette for posted soldiers and small arms; the outer earthen parapets were sodded.

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On the interior of the redoubt, gun platforms intersected with the banquette at the corners of the earthworks (Mahan 1836: 22, Plate 1; Cooling and Owen 2010: 198). The sally port, or entrance, of the fort was cut through the center of the west-facing wall (known as the gorge wall) on the southwest end of the earthworks. A 12-foot wide double-leaf gate was inserted in the sally port opening and consisted of two 8-foot tall (and 6-inch thick) gates hung on strap hinges from 13½" x 13 ½" posts. A crossbar set into L-shaped brackets—one on each section of the gate and post—secured the double gate closed (Cooling and Owen 2010: 200).

The interior of the fort included little open space, as an elongated earthen traverse occupied much of the land within the earthworks. A magazine and several bombproofs were placed within the traverse. In the event of an attack on the redoubt, the traverse would have provided posted soldiers protection from enfilade fire. After an 1864 report on the deteriorating condition of the pine-frame traverse structures, the structures were rebuilt using oak logs and boards (United States War Department 1888: 911-912; United States War Department 1893: 286-287).

Outside the boundaries of the earthworks, the buildings at Fort Bunker Hill included 32 framed structures on the Queen/Brooks property, southwest of the earthworks (and outside the boundaries of the current park). These structures included 16 quarters for commissioned and non-commissioned officers, three barracks for enlisted artillerymen, two guardhouses, five stables, a horse shed, a blacksmith shop, a post office, and a prison (The Daily National Republican 1865a; The Daily National Republican 1865c).

In the four-decade period between Fort Bunker Hill's periods of significance, a private residence was constructed on the southwestern corner of the park c. 1900. It remained standing on the site until after the later period of significance and was demolished sometime between 1943 and 1959 (Baist 1943; Baist 1959). In addition, a wooden observation tower with multiple platforms existed on the site in 1892, as evidenced by an 1892 article that references neighbors' use of the tower to watch a July 4 fireworks display (The Evening Star 1892). However, this tower may have been a very temporary installation, as it is not represented on any maps, and the research to date has not found any additional references to this tower. Further research is necessary to determine its precise location and its duration on the site.

During the second period of significance (1902-1937), the Civilian Conservation Corps constructed an amphitheater on the eastern slope of Fort Bunker Hill. The amphitheater include a stage, circumscribed by a wall 65 feet long and three feet high, with fixed log seats for 250 people set into the hillside (Davidson 2004: 96-97). By the early 20th century, the earthworks had deteriorated, although traces remained intact, including the sally port and remnants of the parapet walls and outer slope. There is no evidence that the CCC altered these remaining earthworks.

EXISTING

Fragments of the earthworks remain partially intact at Fort Bunker Hill today, including the sally port and the traverse. Since the periods of significance, erosion and weathering have affected these features. Although certain features are discernible, including the sally port and the outer

Fort Bunker Hill

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slope, most of the surviving earthworks are covered in heavy vegetation, which obscures their forms. A small pile of bricks is present on the crest of the hill, perhaps corresponding to the fort's magazine or other interior structure.

The amphitheater is extant, although it has deteriorated. The stage is intact and clearly visible, but vegetation has overtaken portions of the hillside seating, and many of the fixed log seats are rotting or gone.

EVALUATION

Although none of the constructed buildings associated with the 19th century period of significance exist on the site today, Fort Bunker Hill retains partial integrity due to the surviving earthwork fragments of the fort.

In addition, the site retains partial integrity with respect to its 20th century period of significance due to the extant amphitheater, which has deteriorated but retains many aspects of its original form, including its historic design, materials, setting, and location.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Ampitheater; stage, seating, and steps

Feature Identification Number: 177179

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Earthworks

Feature Identification Number: 177177

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

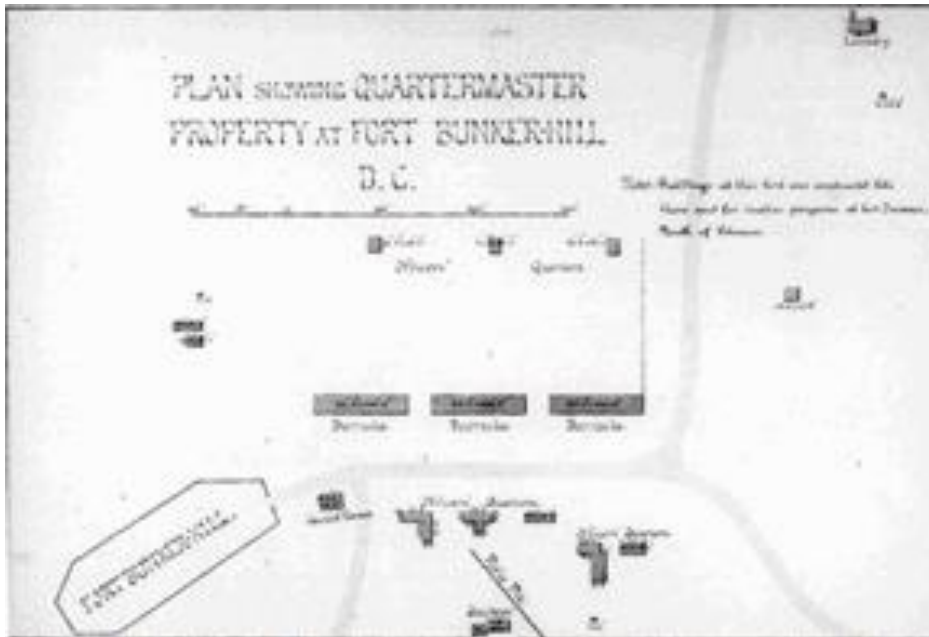
IDLCS Number: 5381

LCS Structure Name: Fort Bunker Hill; Earthworks

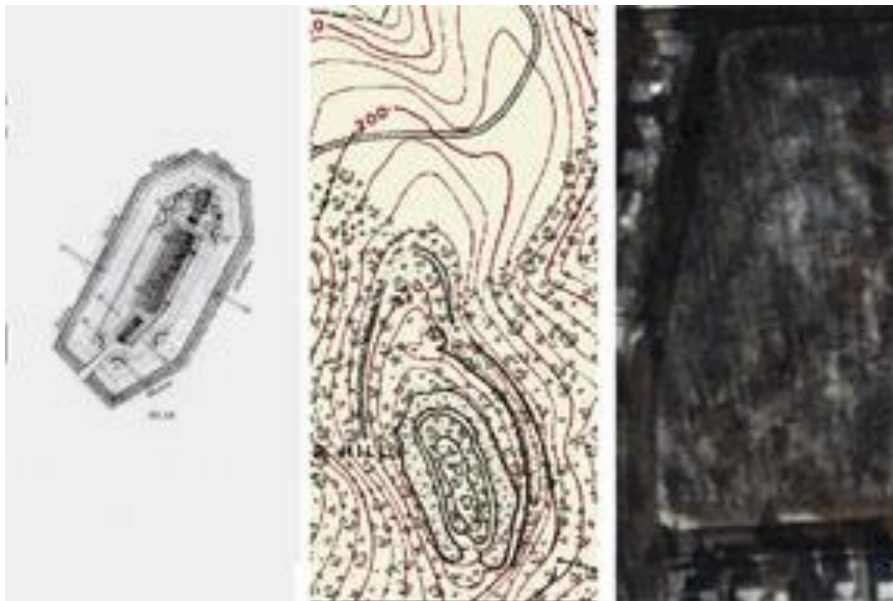
LCS Structure Number: 443-01

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:

Fort Bunker Hill
Rock Creek Park - Fort Circle Park - North



Plan from Fort Bunker Hill's (1861-1865) illustrating the position of the site's auxiliary buildings, including the guard house, officers' quarters, and barracks associated with the fort. (National Archives, as printed in Cooling and Owen 2010)



The earthworks over time. Civil War (left) late nineteenth century (center) current condition (right), (National Archives, as printed in Cooling and Owen 2010; Lydecker and Greene 1884, NOAA Historical Map and Chart Collection; DigitalGlobe 2015, via Goo

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The historic earthworks are still legible, although their condition has deteriorated. Parapet remnants are visible in the top and center photographs, while the bottom photograph depicts the traverse within the parapets. (M. Lester 2015)



Views of the CCC-era amphitheater, including the concrete stage (top) and the deteriorated hillside seating (bottom), which retains traces of the rustic log seating that the Civilian Conservation Corps constructed between 1935 and 1937. (M. Lester 2015)

Views and Vistas

HISTORIC

At the time of its construction, Fort Bunker Hill was surrounded by farms and, more distantly, small villages. The site was a short distance east of both Bladensburg and Old Bladensburg Roads, which served as thoroughfares between the rural edges of the District of Columbia and the commercial center of Bladensburg, Maryland. At 230 feet above sea level, it also had a view to Forts Slemmer (to the northwest) and Saratoga (to the southeast) and to the land north and east of the District, which constituted the Southern sympathizer state of Maryland. The fort's vantages depended on the absence of trees on the hilltop, which was accomplished with the Union Army's order to cut down trees within two miles of each of the Defenses of Washington (Barnard 1871: 2). At Fort Bunker Hill, this included the removal of the fruit trees, orchards, and wild growth on the crest of the hill, although the 1863 topographical map of the northeast defenses indicates that some trees and vegetation remained in place on the slope east of the earthworks (Hodasevich 1863). Over the course of the war, additional batteries were constructed on the eastern slopes of the fort and on a rise northwest of Fort Bunker Hill; views

and vistas to these supporting defenses were critical.

Later maps of the site indicate that in the decades after the war, vegetation returned to the eastern and southern slopes of Fort Bunker Hill's crest, obstructing the views and vistas available from the hilltop (Lydecker and Greene 1884). By 1892, topographical maps show significant growth around and across the hilltop, suggesting that the site had lost many of its Civil War-era views and vistas.

In the early 20th century, the platting and construction of the Brookland subdivision around the fort site resulted in a hilltop that was once again clear-cut, as it had been during the earlier period of significance. While this restored the openness of the fort's views and vistas, however, the setting of those views had changed and now comprised subdivided parcels of land and newly constructed single-family houses that encircled the fort on the new street grid around the site. This new setting, and the resulting views and vistas, remained consistent through the later period of significance.

EXISTING

The views of the Civil War period are almost entirely gone today, cut off by vegetation and 20th century development in the surrounding area. The most significant aspect of the Civil War views from Fort Bunker Hill—the vantages toward Forts Saratoga and Slemmer—is interrupted by the trees and growth on the site itself, which obstruct any view from the crest of the hill toward the other Civil War defense sites.

The late 19th century and the later period of significance, during the CCC's involvement with the site, saw increased development in the area, which is largely consistent with the site's context today. This development affected the full perimeter of the city block that encompasses the earthworks—consistent with the context of the site today. The hillsides were increasingly regrown with trees during the 20th century period of significance, obstructing the 19th century views and vistas from the crest of the fort site.

EVALUATION

The views and vistas from Fort Bunker Hill have been altered by changes in both the surrounding area and within the site's own landscape. Surrounding development has affected the views available from the site, shifting the context from its historically-agricultural setting to the modern developed context that emerged in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and exists today. Moreover, changes in Fort Bunker Hill's own vegetation and growth have had a marked impact on the vistas available from the site interrupting the important 19th century views toward the sites of Forts Slemmer and Saratoga. Fort Bunker Hill's views and vistas do not retain historic integrity.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



The site's original views toward the surrounding land north and east of the fort are obstructed today by vegetation and development around the hill. (M. Lester 2015)

Small Scale Features

HISTORIC

During the early period of significance (1861-1865), small-scale features at Fort Bunker Hill included a fence (presumably wood) enclosing the auxiliary buildings and a wooden gate placed across the sally port. The gate consisted of two 8-foot tall, 6-inch thick gates hung on strap hinges from 13 ½" x 13 ½" posts. A crossbar set into L-shaped brackets—one on each section of the gate and post—secured the double gate closed (Cooling and Owen 2010: 200). It is not known what became of the gate at the end of the war; it may have been destroyed or sold at auction when the fort was decommissioned, as the fence was, but no record of any sale has yet been found. Descriptions of the fort written in subsequent decades refer to the deteriorated earthworks and bombproofs but do not mention any additional features, suggesting that the gate was gone by the 1880s, if not before (Independent Statesman 1882). The research to date has

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not determined what, if any, additional small-scale features existed by the end of the Civil War-era period of significance.

During the site's later period of significance (1902-1937), the Civilian Conservation Corps was involved in several landscape improvement projects at Fort Bunker Hill. This included the creation of a picnic grounds somewhere on the site—possibly in one of the cleared areas within the earthworks or in the southeast corner of the site. This picnic grounds included twelve table-and-bench groupings constructed by CCC laborers. The CCC also installed four water fountains throughout the site (Davidson 2004: 41). Historians from the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) have suggested that the water fountains were rustic bubbler-type fountains, in which the fountain was inserted in a hollow log.

EXISTING

No small-scale features (including fencing or the gate) from the Civil War period of significance (1861-1865) survive on the site today. Most of the features on the site postdate the later period of significance (1902-1937). The contributing status of three features has not been determined based on the research to date; the two lampposts or light stands and the concrete pier.

UNDETERMINED

Light Stands

Two lamp posts located around the amphitheater may date to the second period of significance, contemporary with the construction of the amphitheater, or may have been added later to accommodate additional use of the park.

Concrete Pier

A short concrete pier is located on one side of the amphitheater stage. Further research is necessary to determine its function and time of construction.

NON-CONTRIBUTING FEATURES

Water Fountains

Two octagonal concrete-base water fountains are extant on the site: one is located near the amphitheater on the north side of the primary social trail, while the second is located along a secondary social trail up the slope of the hill. HABS historians have indicated that the CCC-era water fountains were constructed using hollow logs. The extant fountains are presumed, therefore, to have been added later and are considered non-contributing.

Timber Sidewalk Barriers

On the northern perimeter of the site, an informal gravel path is delineated for a short distance by felled logs that are placed along the edge of the park's grassy perimeter.

Wayside and Interpretive Signage

A wayside with the site's name and an interpretive wayside with an overview of the site's history are located at the northeast corner of the site, at the intersection of 14th Street NE and Perry Street NE.

Regulatory Signage

Regulatory signs are located around the perimeter of the site, including one sign on the southern side, one sign on the western side, two signs along the northern side, and one additional sign on the eastern edge of the park.

Kiosk

A bulletin board kiosk is located in the southeast corner of the site, adjacent to the picnic tables. The board has a wood frame and a pitched shingle overhang.

Picnic Tables

There are two tables with attached benches in the southeast corner of the site. Although these features are consistent with the site's land use during the 20th century period of significance, the picnic tables themselves are more recent and non-contributing.

Trash Receptacles

A limited number of trash receptacles are placed around the park. One receptacle is located in the southeast corner of the site, adjacent to the picnic tables and kiosk. A second receptacle is located on the northern side of the park next to regulatory signage for the park.

Bronze Plaque and Boulder

A commemorative boulder and bronze plaque are located along the secondary social trail on the hillside of the fort, near the center of the site. This plaque was installed by the National Park Service, but its inscription is not dated. This feature was likely installed after the later period of significance to commemorate the centennial of the Civil War.

Utility Marker

A short utility marker is located on the north side of the site, along Perry Street NE.

EVALUATION

Fort Bunker Hill's small-scale features have minimal, if any, integrity. With the exception of two features whose significance cannot be determined, all of the site's extant small-scale features postdate the periods of significance

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Trash Cans

Feature Identification Number: 177183

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Signs

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Feature Identification Number: 177185
Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible
Latitude Longitude
0.0000000000

Feature: Amphitheater light stands
Feature Identification Number: 177187
Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined
Latitude Longitude
0.0000000000

Feature: Concrete pier (by amphitheater stage)
Feature Identification Number: 177189
Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined
Latitude Longitude
0.0000000000

Feature: Water fountains
Feature Identification Number: 177191
Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing
Latitude Longitude
0.0000000000

Feature: Timber sidewalk barriers
Feature Identification Number: 177193
Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing
Latitude Longitude
0.0000000000

Feature: Kiosk
Feature Identification Number: 177195
Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing
Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: Picnic tables

Feature Identification Number: 177197

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: Utility marker

Feature Identification Number: 177199

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: Bronze plaque and boulder

Feature Identification Number: 177201

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Extant small-scale features include the picnic tables and signs in the southeast corner of the park (left); concrete water fountains (center), and two light stands around the amphitheater (right). (M. Lester 2015)

Archeological Sites

HISTORIC AND EXISTING

Fort Bunker Hill was fully armed for nearly the entire Civil War-era period of significance. In addition, the area around the earthworks included 32 structures associated with the fort, including quarters and auxiliary buildings for several regiments. By the end of the war, eight regiments were associated with Fort Bunker Hill and its larger encampment. Such a concentration of humanity generally leaves an architectural signature. In 1995, Barbara J. Little authored an archaeological overview and survey plan of the National Capital Area, including the Fort Circle Parks (an alternate name for the Civil War Defenses of Washington). The report deemed the Fort Circle Parks a “Priority #1” survey project, noting that “archaeological survey and inventory of the Fort Circle Parks is insufficient to ensure that archaeological resources under NPS stewardship are conserved, protected, preserved in situ and managed for long-term scientific research and for appropriate public interpretation and education.” The report also determined that “information about the location, characteristics, and significance of the majority of archaeological resources is lacking.”

No archaeological discoveries from Fort Bunker Hill’s periods of significance were noted. Existing conditions in and around Fort Bunker Hill are conducive to further archaeological explorations.

EVALUATION

It is highly likely that future archaeological study of the area around Fort Bunker Hill will locate additional resources from the Civil War-era period of significance. Additionally, resources dating to the second period of significance, including the CCC’s activities at the site and the site’s use for recreation, may be discovered and would help shed light on twentieth-century alterations to the area. Evidence of prehistoric occupation/use of the site may also be revealed by further archaeological investigation. Fort Bunker Hill retains a high degree of archaeological integrity.

Condition



Condition

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 06/14/2017

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The Condition Assessment Date refers to the date the park superintendent concurred with the findings of this CLI. This determination takes into account both the landscape and the buildings situated therein. In order to improve the condition of the property to 'Good' the park should complete the following: The vegetation that is having a negative impact on the CCC era structures should be removed and the CCC-era seating and stage should be stabilized if not rehabilitated.

In order to improve the condition of the cultural landscape from "fair" to "good," the following improvements should be implemented:

- To address erosion concerns and visibility of resources, an earthworks management plan should be implemented. This should follow the best practices supported by that National Park Service regarding earthworks.
- Invasive vegetation should be removed where damaging the resources or negatively impacting the cultural landscape
- Vegetation should be removed from the stage area. The stage should be rehabilitated if deemed a viable option of park management.

Impacts

Type of Impact: Erosion

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Description: Evidence of damage caused by erosion is noticeable on the parapet, sally port, and magazine of the earthworks, and on the hillside seating of the amphitheater.

Type of Impact: Vegetation/Invasive Plants

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Description: The dense trees, undergrowth, and bushes on the hillsides of the park preclude visitors from seeing and understanding the remaining Civil War-era topography, including the surviving sally port. However, this growth also serves to protect the earthwork. Some vegetation removal may be beneficial.

Type of Impact: Vegetation/Invasive Plants

External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	The vegetation on the hillside of the amphitheater and around the concrete platform encroaches on the CCC-era seating and stage.
Type of Impact:	Exposure To Elements
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	The amphitheater stage has deteriorated due to weather.

Treatment

Treatment

Approved Treatment: Undetermined

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Bibliography and Supplemental Information

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