

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Garden Club of America Entrance Marker at Georgia Avenue (at Kalmia Road and Alaska Avenue)
other names _____

2. Location

street & number Georgia Avenue at Kalmia Road and Alaska Avenue not for publication
city or town Washington, D.C. vicinity
state District of Columbia code DC county _____ code 001 zip code _____

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments).

David Maloney DAVID MALONEY ACTING SHPO 6-19-2007
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

DC HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- Determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Garden Club of America Marker at Georgia Avenue
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

- Private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
1	_____	objects
1	_____	Total

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

number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
0

Garden Club of America Markers in Washington, D.C.

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION/CULTURE/monument/marker

RECREATION/CULTURE/monument/marker

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th-Early 20th Century American

foundation _____
walls _____
roof _____
other Aquia Creek Sandstone

Narrative Description

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

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Garden Club of America Marker at Georgia
Avenue

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Description Summary:

Between April 1932 and October 1933, pairs of stone markers, designed by architect Edward Donn to identify important entrances into the District of Columbia from Maryland and Virginia, were erected at six different locations into the city. The single marker at Georgia, Alaska, and Kalmia Avenues is one of seven surviving markers (three pairs and one single marker). This single marker is found in the median at the center of Georgia Avenue at the District line at Kalmia Road and Alaska Avenue. The surviving pairs of markers are located at Westmoreland Circle, at Wisconsin Avenue (at Western Avenue), and at Chevy Chase Circle. All of the extant markers have signs of weathering, pollution and other abuse. Most, if not all, have been knocked over at some point by motorists, or removed entirely and re-erected in the same general, but not exact same locations. The missing markers were likely removed and discarded during road widenings and/or construction; however, nothing is known for sure of their fate.

General Description:

The markers are upright, rectangular-shaped, dolmen-like stones constructed of Aquia Creek sandstone. Although the stones originally rose approximately five feet in height, they are now of varying heights depending on whether and how many times they have been knocked over and broken by erratic motorists and re-erected on their broken bases. The markers feature fluted shafts with fluting on-center running vertically the full length of the shaft, and horizontally along the edges, forming a defined edge or border.

On the markers located at the Maryland-District line, the seal of Maryland (the shield of the Calvert Coat of Arms) is located on one side towards the upper part of the stone shaft, with "Maryland" incised in uppercase lettering below the seal. On the opposing side and also at the upper part of the shaft, is a cartouche carving representing the District of Columbia and the commemoration of George Washington. "District of Columbia" is incised in uppercase lettering below the cartouche. The District of Columbia cartouche features a bas-relief depicting George Washington standing upon a pedestal with Lady Justice on the ground next to the pedestal holding a laurel wreath at its front. George Washington is flanked in the background by the dome of the Capitol building and a rising sun. In the foreground, an eagle is perched upon a garland emanating from a central laurel wreath.

The Virginia markers (no longer extant) had a seal of Virginia on one side and the commemorative seal of Washington on the other side.

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An inscribed dedication "Erected by the Garden Club of America 1932" was meant to appear on one of the undecorated sides at the lower part of the marker; however, not all of the markers retain this dedication panel. Similarly, a metal fence comprised of four metal bollards with chains linked between them, originally surrounded the markers. Today, only two of the markers retain these chain fences. Finally, the markers were originally set within planting schemes designed by the Maryland and Virginia Garden Clubs, respectively. Today, only the markers on Georgia Avenue and Chevy Chase Circle are set within (recently) planted beds.

Georgia Avenue Marker:

The Georgia Avenue marker is a single marker located in a median on-center of the avenue with its original metal bollard and chain fence surrounding it. The median is located just north of the intersection of Kalmia Road on the west and Alaska Avenue on the east, both marking the District line into Maryland. The central location of the marker may indicate that this was originally planned to be a single marker rather than one of a pair of markers. However, period archival resources refer to the "pair" of markers at Georgia Avenue indicating that two markers likely existed at one time. Nothing is known about the existence or whereabouts of the second marker.

The marker is comprised of two blocks that have been cemented together (clearly the marker was knocked over and re-erected on its base); however, the marker stands 56" high (almost its full original 60" height), with the dedication panel partially above ground and visible at the lower bottom of the marker on the east side of the shaft. The Maryland seal, located on the south side of the marker, is in excellent condition as is the fluting, though the shaft itself is severely cracked for its full length, down the center of the east side wall. On the obverse side is the cartouche commemorating George Washington and representing the District of Columbia. The faces of the figures have been abraded and lost.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- Criteria A, B, C, D with checkboxes. C is checked.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- Criteria A, B, C, D, E, F, G with checkboxes. F is checked.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on files (NPS):

- Documentation checkboxes: Preliminary determination, previously listed, etc.

Area of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Community Planning and Development; Landscape Architecture

Period of Significance

1932-1933

Significant Dates

1932; 1933

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Edward Donn, Architect

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Summary Statement of Significance:

The Garden Club of America markers are stone markers that were erected to mark important entrances to the District of Columbia from Maryland and Virginia in 1932 and 1933. Originally planned to be dedicated as part of the 1932 George Washington Bicentennial celebration, the markers were constructed both concurrently with the series of events celebrating the 200th anniversary of Washington’s birth and following the celebration. The markers were designed by local Washington, D.C. architect Edward Donn for the Garden Club of America which sponsored their erection in collaboration with the National Capital Parks and Planning Commission and under the review of the Commission of Fine Arts. Of the original six pairs of markers identified as having been constructed, three pairs and a single marker survive in various degrees of preservation.

The markers are significant both as surviving objects associated with the important George Washington Bicentennial Celebration, a national celebration commemorating the contributions made by the “first true American,” and as landscape objects marking the District-Maryland and District-Virginia line at notable entry points into the city. The ornamentation of the stone markers (i.e the depiction of George Washington) is emblematic of the efforts of the era to arouse nationalistic sympathies and, as such, provides an excellent artistic expression of the time.

The markers are significant under Criterion C and Criterion Consideration F with Art and Landscape Architecture as the Areas of Significance. The Period of Significance for the markers extends from 1932 to 1933, when the first and last of the markers are known to have been dedicated.

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Resource History and Historic Context:

Georgia Avenue Marker

The first pair of entry markers was erected on April 24, 1932 on the Virginia side of Key Bridge. Over a year later, in October 1933, another pair of entrance markers was dedicated at Chevy Chase Circle, along with the Newlands Memorial Fountain. According to the *Evening Star*, the Chevy Chase markers were the “sixth to be placed by the Garden Club of America at important gateways to the city.” The article notes that the other five pairs of markers were placed at the 16th Street entrance, at Wisconsin Avenue, at Georgia and Alaska avenues, and on the Virginia side of “both the Highway and Key Bridges.” Other than this reference, little is known about the erection of the Georgia Avenue marker[s] and what may have happened to the other one of the pair, if indeed there were two erected at the site.

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Garden Club of America Marker at Georgia
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Major Bibliographical References:

“Commission of Fine Arts Minutes,” October 16, 1930; January 6, 1931; February 12, 1931; April 15, 1931; May 26, 1933. The minutes include copies of correspondence between Charles Moore, Chairman of CFA and Ulysses S. Grant, III, Director, Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital; and between Mr. Moore and Mrs. Frank B. Noyes, Chairman, National Capital Committee, The Garden Club of America.

“D.C. Line Markers Set,” *The Evening Star*, April 24, 1932.

“D.C. Memorial and Entry Pylons Will be Hastened,” *The Evening Star*, n.d. (circa March 1931) (from the Garden Club of Chevy Chase Vertical Files).

“Entrances to Washington,” *The Washington Post*, September 7, 1931, Editorials.

“Favor 2-Column Portals Design,” *The Evening Star*, December 19, 1930 A-2.

“Francis Newlands Will be Honored: Fountain at Chevy Chase Circle Will be Dedicated Tomorrow Afternoon,” *The Evening Star*, October 11, 1933 B-1

“Fund to Aid Clubs Beautify Portals Pledged by AAA,” *The Evening Star*, April 27, 1931.

“Notables Attend Francis Newlands Fount Dedication,” *The Evening Star*, October 13, 1933.

“Opening of Circle Gateway to Hills,” *The Washington Post*, November 20, 1932, R2.

“Plans for the Nationwide Celebration of the 200th Anniversary of the Birth of George Washington, 1932. Issued by the George Washington Bicentennial Commission, Washington, D.C. Washington, D.C.: U. S. Government Printing Office, 1931.

“Portals to be Studied, Planning Commission to Study Massachusetts Avenue Circle,” *The Evening Star*, December 17, 1931 B-1.

Ravenel, Alicia. “The GCA Mystery Markers in Washington, D.C.,” Unpublished paper for the Garden Club of Chevy Chase, MD., 1993

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“Report of the Commission of Fine Arts, July 1, 1929 to December 31, 1934,” Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1936.

“Tentative Programs of Major Events Arranged by the United States George Washington Bicentennial Commission and by the District of Columbia George Washington Bicentennial Commission in Observance of the Two Hundredth Anniversary of the Birth of George Washington,” Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1932.

“Tributes Paid to Memory of Newlands,” *The Washington Post*, October 13, 1933 p. 15.

“West D.C. Portal Plans are Ready,” *The Evening Star*, January 1, 1932.

“Wisconsin Avenue Entrance to City to be Considered,” *The Evening Star*, October 19, 1929.

Garden Club of America Marker at Georgia Avenue
Name of Property

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	1 8	3 2 4 4 3 0	4 3 1 6 7 1 1	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2				4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kim Williams

Organization D.C. Historic Preservation Office date October 2006

street & number 801 North Capitol Street, NE telephone 202 442-8840

city or town Washington, D.C. state District of Columbia zip code 20815

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

Photographs

- X Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

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

Property Owner

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

name National Park Service; District Of Columbia, Department of Transportation

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et. seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Verbal Boundary Description:

The Georgia Avenue marker is located in a median on the west side of Georgia Avenue at the intersection of Alaska Avenue and Kalmia Road at the Maryland/District line.

Boundary Justification:

The Georgia Avenue marker has stood at this location since its erection in 1933.

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Garden Club of America Entrance Markers at
Georgia Avenue

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PHOTOGRAPHS

The following information is common to all photographs:

Garden Club of America Markers at Georgia Avenue (at Kalmia Road and Alaska Avenue)

Washington, D.C.

Kim Williams, photographer

March 2007

DC Historic Preservation Office (DC HPO)

- 1) View looking north on Georgia Avenue at Kalmia Road and Alaska Avenue showing south side of marker
1 of 4
- 2) View looking northwest showing south and east sides of marker
2 of 4
- 3) Detail of Maryland cartouche, south side of marker
3 of 4
- 4) East elevation of marker showing severe crack
4 of 4