

**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 Markers at Westmoreland Circle

other names \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Location**

street & number Reservation 559  not for publication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).

Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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).

DAVID MALONEY / ACTING SHPO 6-19-2007  
Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

DC HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE  
State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby, certify that this property is:

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

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Garden Club of America Markers at Westmoreland Circle  
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**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
2	objects
2	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 19<sup>th</sup>-Early 20<sup>th</sup> 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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### 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 pair of stone markers at Westmoreland Circle represents two of seven surviving markers (three pairs and one single marker). The surviving pairs of markers are located at Westmoreland Circle, at Wisconsin Avenue (at Western Avenue), and at Chevy Chase Circle. The single marker is located in the median at the center of Georgia Avenue at the District line at Kalmia Road and Alaska Avenue. 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) held a seal of Virginia on one side and the commemorative seal of the District of Columbia on the opposing 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 dedication panels survive. 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 at Georgia Avenue and Chevy Chase Circle are set within (recently) planted beds.

### Westmoreland Circle Markers:

The Westmoreland Circle markers are located on either side of the grassy circle, at the inside of its circumference and generally on-axis with Western Avenue (on the west side of Westmoreland Circle the extension of Western Avenue is actually the Dalecarlia Parkway). The western-most marker is located beneath an oak tree and is surrounded by its original chain fence. The western marker is in relatively good condition with both the District and Maryland cartouches legible, though both seals are quite weathered and worn down. The edges of the marker have suffered abuse, with major spalling in particular, apparent on the southwest edge of the marker, on its upper half.

The eastern-most marker, located in the open with no tree or chain fence for protection, is more susceptible to out-of-control motorists. The marker is not fully upright, but is slightly tilted, having been hit and re-erected on several occasions. The stone face has been sheared away from this marker at one of its lower corners (this corner is presently located towards the inside of the circle on the southeast side), though the Maryland seal remains in excellent condition and surprisingly unweathered.

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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)

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

**Criteria Considerations**

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

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**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

**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):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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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 200<sup>th</sup> 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:

#### Westmoreland Circle Markers

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 entry 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 pairs of markers were placed at the 16<sup>th</sup> Street entrance, at Wisconsin Avenue, at Georgia and Alaska avenues, and on the Virginia side of "both the Highway and Key Bridges." The article states, "It is hoped that the Garden Club of America will similarly mark other entrances to the city as they are developed into impressive

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gateways.”<sup>1</sup> Little is known about exactly when the Westmoreland Circle markers were erected, and there is some speculation that the pair of markers erected on 16<sup>th</sup> Street were moved to Westmoreland Circle.<sup>2</sup> In any case, it is known that the Westmoreland Circle markers stood at the Circle by June 1935 when a Westmoreland Hills resident wrote to Charles Moore at the Commission of Fine Arts, stating,

“I notice the nice Boundary stones which have been put on the circle of Massachusetts Avenue Extended. I like them very much, but if you will notice some time, you will see, I think, that they have not been rightly oriented. The Maryland District Line neither goes through the plane of either their surfaces, or through the corners. I think when you or your representative sees them you will see that they need turning so as to mark the boundary properly.”<sup>3</sup>

A return letter from Moore to the concerned citizen explains that the Westmoreland Circle markers, like those at Chevy Chase Circle, were not meant to mark the actual boundary line, but were simply a notification that one was passing a boundary.

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<sup>1</sup> “Notables Attend Francis Newlands Fount Dedication,” *The Evening Star*, October 13, 1933, B-1.

<sup>2</sup> This speculation is simply based on the fact that the 16<sup>th</sup> Street entry markers are mentioned in press reports, but are no longer extant, while the Westmoreland Circle markers are not mentioned in period newspaper accounts at all.

<sup>3</sup> Letter from Anson Phelps Stokes to Mr. Charles Moore, Commission of Fine Arts, dated June 6, 1935 (on file at the Commission of Fine Arts).

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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 200<sup>th</sup> 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.

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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 1 7 9 0 2	4 3 1 2 9 6 8	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 Westmoreland Circle markers are located opposite one another, along the Western Avenue axis of the Circle, approximately two feet within the outside circumference of the curb of the circle.

## Boundary Justification:

The Westmoreland Circle markers have stood at Westmoreland Circle since at least 1935, by which time the markers had been erected.

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### PHOTOGRAPHS

*The following information is common to all photographs:*

Garden Club of America Markers at Westmoreland Circle  
Washington, D.C.  
Kim Williams, photographer  
March 2007  
DC Historic Preservation Office (DC HPO)

- 1) View of eastern marker looking north showing south and west sides of marker  
1 of 6
- 2) View looking eastern marker looking southeast showing north and west sides of marker  
2 of 6
- 3) View of eastern marker looking north showing Seal of Maryland on south side  
3 of 6
- 4) View of western marker looking north  
4 of 6
- 5) View of Western marker looking south  
5 of 6
- 6) View of western marker looking south showing District of Columbia cartouche  
6 of 6