

**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 process, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Daniel Webster Memorial

other names _____

2. Location

street & number Reservation 62, Massachusetts & Rhode Island Aves. at Scott Circle, N.W. not for publication

city or town Washington vicinity

state D.C. code DC county n/a code 001 zip 20036

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 office/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).

Signature of certifying office/Title _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. State/Federal Agency 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

Daniel Webster Memorial
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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
1	_____	Total
1	0	

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

Memorials in Washington, D.C.

number of contributing resource previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function of Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION and CULTURE: work of art

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION and CULTURE: work of art

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Neoclassicism

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation _____

walls _____

roof _____

other Bronze, Granite

Narrative Description

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

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DESCRIPTION

The *Daniel Webster Memorial*, the focal point of Reservation 62, stands on a large granite pedestal, at the intersection of Massachusetts and Rhode Island Avenues and N Street, N.W., facing east and looking at Scott Circle. This bronze, over life-size portrait statue was completed in 1900 by Gaetano Trentanove. Its details reflect Neoclassical influences.

Standing erect and looking ahead, Webster is shown wearing a full cape with epaulets. His face portrays an intensity and sternness, indicative of his litigious and oratory skills. His lowered left hand grasps the edge of the cape, while his right hand holds a book that rests, with another, on a pedestal. The angular elements of the pedestal mirror the angular aspects of the epaulets.

The bronze portrait rests on top of a large granite pedestal. Its base incorporates rough-hewn rustication, above which is "Daniel Webster" in bronze letters. A dado sets apart two high-relief bronze panels depicting seminal events in Webster's career. The one on the front portrays Webster delivering a speech in the famous Hayne-Webster Debate (1830) before a full Senate and a packed balcony with John C. Calhoun presiding. Inscribed in the shaft above are the famous closing remarks of his second speech, "Liberty and Union, Now and Forever, One and Inseparable." The rear relief depicts Webster giving the address at the laying of the cornerstone of the Bunker Hill Monument (1825). It shows Webster on a platform with bunting and flags speaking before a large and animated crowd. To ensure comprehension, the Bunker Hill Monument is depicted in low relief at the rear of the panel. The inscription in the granite shaft above incorporates closing remarks from his speech, "Our country, our whole country and nothing but our country." Inscribed below the bronze panel are the following three lines: "Given by Stilson Hutchins / A Native of N.H. / Dedicated Jan. 18, 1900." The ceremony marked the 118th anniversary of Webster's birth. The north and south faces of the dado feature the inscriptions "Expounder and Defender of the Constitution" and "Born at Salisbury, N.H. / Jan. 18, 1782 / Died at / Marshfield, Mass. / Oct. 24, 1852," respectively. Trentanove's name is inscribed at the bottom of the base.

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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 as 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)

Art

Period of Significance

1900

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation
n/a

Architect/Builder

Gaetano Trentanove

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:
NPS, National Capital Region Headquarters

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SIGNIFICANCE

The *Daniel Webster Memorial*, dedicated January 18, 1900, is significant as one of only a few statesmen represented in sculpture in Washington. The *Webster* was the second gift of sculpture from Stilson Hutchins, the founder of *The Washington Post*, to the city. It was accepted by an Act of Congress July 1, 1898 (30 Stat. 625). Gaetano Trentanove created the sculpture, which is significant under Criterion C in the area of Art.

Daniel Webster (1782-1852) was born in Salisbury, New Hampshire, the son of a farmer. He became a lawyer, statesman, and orator, as well as his era's foremost advocate of American nationalism. He attended Phillips Exeter Academy and graduated from Dartmouth College in 1801. After a legal apprenticeship, he opened a practice in Boscawen, N.H. in 1805 and two years later moved his practice to Portsmouth. He emerged as a leader of the Federalist Party and got elected to the U.S. House of Representatives because of his opposition to the War of 1812, which had crippled New England's shipping trade. After two terms in congress, he returned to private practice and moved to Boston in 1816. During the following years, he won landmark cases before the Supreme Court (led by Chief Justice John Marshall), establishing himself as the nation's leading lawyer. His cases included: *Dartmouth v. Woodward* (1819), *McCullough v. Maryland* (1819), and *Gibbons v. Ogden* (1824). In 1822, Massachusetts returned him to the U.S. House of Representatives and five years later he became a senator and served several terms. He is most famous for the Hayne-Webster debates of 1830. Before the senate, he argued against South Carolinian Robert Hayne's promotion of the doctrine of nullification, whereby a state could choose to nullify a federal law within its borders. On July 4, 1851, Webster gave the oration at the laying of the cornerstone ceremony for the extension of the U.S. Capitol, designed by Thomas U. Walter.

Stilson Hutchins (1839-1912) was born in New Hampshire. He attended Kents Hill School in Maine and then Harvard College. Hutchins founded the *Dubuque Herald* and the *St. Louis Times* before establishing, in 1877, the "Democratic daily journal" that he named *The Washington Post*. By 1880, the *Post* had become Washington's first paper to publish seven times per week. In 1888, the *Post* absorbed its second rival (*National Republic*) and Hutchins acquired one of the first models of the Mergenthaler linotype. The new machine set type, as opposed to the arduous hand-set typesetting process that had been in use since Guttenberg invented the process in 1440. Hutchins's purchase was initially seen as a curiosity by the typographical union, but then they doubted its practicability and became hostile toward the invention. Thus, the machine was placed in the attic of the company's building. Nevertheless, Hutchins's interest in the Mergenthaler linotype increased steadily and he sold the *Post* the following year in order to devote his full attention to promoting linotype across the nation. Hutchins remained an active businessman throughout the remainder of his life, especially as a proponent of electric companies.

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Hutchins gave the City of Washington two statues, *Benjamin Franklin* (1888, Jacques Jouvenal after Ernst Plassman) and *Daniel Webster* (1900, Gaetano Trentanove). The choice of Franklin clearly reflected Hutchins affinity for the country's first leading publisher and philanthropist. Hutchins was also a fan of Webster, another native of New Hampshire, because of his significant political influence in the national arena.

Gaetano Trentanove (1858-1937) was born in Florence, Italy, the son of a goldsmith. He studied in Florence and Rome and became a member of the fine arts academies in Florence and Parma. Through a friendship he had made in Paris, Trentanove came to the United States and opened a studio in Milwaukee. He became an American citizen in 1892, but maintained his Florentine studio. In 1897, he was knighted by Umberto I, the King of Italy. Trentanove retired in Italy. In addition to *Daniel Webster*, Washington is home to Trentanove's *Jacques Marquette* (1896, Statuary Hall) and *Albert Pike* (1901, 3rd and D Streets, N.W.).

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Goode, James. *The Outdoor Sculpture of Washington, D.C.* Washington: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1974.

www.marshfield.net/History/webster.htm

Daniel Webster Memorial
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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property _____

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	1 8 Zone	3 2 3 3 3 1 Easting	4 3 0 8 4 5 9 Northing	3															
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 Eve L. Barsoum, Historian
organization National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers date December 2006
street & number 444 North Capitol Street, N.W. telephone 202.354.1822
city or town Washington state D.C. zip code 20001

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

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

Additional Items

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

Property Owner

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

name U.S. Government, administered by the NPS, NCR, National Mall & Memorial Parks
street & number 900 Ohio Drive, S.W. telephone 202.485.9686
city or town Washington state D.C. zip code 20242

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 *Daniel Webster Memorial* is located in Reservation 62, at the intersection of Massachusetts and Rhode Island Avenues and N Street, N.W., on the western side of Scott Circle. The boundary of the object includes the land occupied by the granite memorial.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the *Daniel Webster Memorial* has been historically associated with the object.