

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 Cuban Friendship Urn
other names _____

2. Location

street & number Reservation 332, Ohio Drive at 14th St. Bridge, S.W. not for publication
city or town Washington vicinity
state D.C. code DC county n/a code 001 zip 20242

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 _____

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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)

OTHER: Academic Abstraction

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation _____
walls _____
roof _____
other Marble

Narrative Description

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

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DESCRIPTION

The *Cuban Friendship Urn* is located in West Potomac Park along Ohio Drive in between the Rochambeau Memorial Bridge and the Arlan D. Williams, Jr. Memorial Bridge (commonly referred to as the 14th Street Bridge) that cross nearby. This white marble urn, completed in 1928, is representative of the Academic Abstraction style of sculpture prominent in the early twentieth century.

The relief on the *Cuban Friendship Urn* is derived from the *Maine Monument* (Felix Cabarrocas, 1924-25, rebuilt 1927) in Havana, Cuba. The urn was carved from a fragment of the original monument that was toppled in a hurricane.

The marble base incorporates a stylized buttress on each of the four sides; it is a scaled version of the *Maine Monument* terminuses. A Greek Key molding runs around the top of the pedestal. A small marble block sits on top of the base. It provides a surface for a bronze plaque that notes the urn was carved from the monument to the U.S.S. *Maine* located in Havana, destroyed on 20 October 1926, and that the urn was a gift from citizens of Havana. The concave base of the urn features a band of alternating oak leaves (with acorns) and laurel leaves (with berries), Greek and Roman symbols of honor. The front of the cylindrical portion of the urn features two stylized Ionic capitals supporting a small lintel with a bronze descriptive plaque surmounted by a stylized eagle with spread wings. (The eagle has been used in funerary art since at least Roman times.) The composition of these elements also derived from the *Maine Monument*. Extending around both sides of the urn are stylized female representational figures, one of which holds a key, a symbol of fidelity. The two figures hold hands, marking the center of the back. Below their hands is a square panel with an image of Havana's harbor, depicting the sinking U.S.S. *Maine*. The front and rear centerlines are terminated along the convex rim by different crests.

Concrete has been used to repair the urn, especially at the rear.

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

1928

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

unknown

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 *Cuban Friendship Urn* is significant as the second gift of sculpture presented to the city by a foreign nation. The urn was a gift from citizens of Cuba to the people of the United States. It was presented to President Coolidge in Havana, while he attended the Pan American Congress in 1928. Congress authorized its acceptance on May 22, 1928 (45 Stat. 713). The relief on the urn derived from the *Maine Monument* (1924-25, rebuilt 1927) in Havana by Felix Cabarrocas, but the urn's sculptor is unknown. The urn is significant under Criterion C in the area of Art.

During the 1890s, Cubans began to agitate for freedom from Spanish rule. The U.S.S. *Maine*, a 6,682-ton second class battleship built between 1888 and 1895, was sent to Havana in January 1898 to protect American interests (mostly associated with sugar). During the evening of February 15, 1898, the *Maine* sank after her forward gunpowder magazines exploded. Nearly three-quarters of the crew (267 soldiers) died because of the explosion. Although its cause was unsettled, the contemporary American popular opinion blamed it on a Spanish mine. The wreck was raised in 1912 to clear the harbor and facilitate investigation of the cause, but a definitive conclusion was not obtained. The sinking of the *Maine* precipitated the Spanish-American War that began with President McKinley's Declaration of War on April 25, 1898. The war ended that December, when Spain and the United States signed a peace treaty in Paris. The treaty established independence for Cuba and, after more than three centuries, expelled Spain from the New World.

The idea to erect a monument to the victims of the *Maine* emerged when the wreckage was removed from the harbor. In 1913, the president of the Cuban Republic appointed a committee for the effort. Felix Cabarrocas, an engineer, won the design competition. After various delays, work began on the monument located near the former Santa Clara Battery on Avenida Antonio Maceo in 1924. Cuban President Zayas, General John Pershing, Admiral Dayton, and the Minister of Spain attended the inaugural ceremony on March 8, 1925.

The tall and broad monument consisted of a rectilinear pool framed by steps that led to a platform with another series of steps. Flanking knee walls supported two of the *Maine's* large ten-inch guns that faced outward. At the center, two bronze representational figures stood in front of two enormous Corinthian columns surmounted by a lintel supporting a large eagle with spread wings. In 1926, a hurricane toppled the monument, but it was replaced two years later. A fragment of one of the fallen columns was used for the *Cuban Friendship Urn*.

The *Cuban Friendship Urn* was installed in 1928 in the Rose Garden at the western end of West Potomac Park. Its removal was authorized in 1946 to make way for the recently authorized Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Bridge. The urn remained in storage until November 1997, just before Veterans Day, when it was installed along Ohio Drive, at the southern end of West Potomac Park, in preparation

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for the one-hundredth anniversary of the loss of the *Maine*. The urn is symbolic of the good relationship that existed between the two countries prior to the adversarial positions that emerged in the mid-twentieth century.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

www.history.navy.mil

www.spanamwar.com/mainemonumenthavana.html

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property _____

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	1 8	3 2 3 2 0 7	4 3 0 5 2 6 6	3							
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing				
2				4							
					Zone	Easting	Northing				

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 May 2003
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

In 1997, the *Cuban Friendship Urn* was removed from storage and located in West Potomac Park (Reservation 332) along Ohio Drive in between the Rochambeau Memorial Bridge and Arlan D. Williams, Jr. Memorial Bridge, both of which extend overhead nearby. The boundary of the object includes the land occupied by the granite slab that supports the marble monument.

Boundary Justification

The present boundary of the *Cuban Friendship Urn* is justifiable as the object remains visible in an appropriate public space.