

**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 Temperance Fountain
other names Cogswell Fountain

2. Location

street & number 7th Street and Indiana Avenue, N.W. not for publication
city or town Washington vicinity
state D.C. code DC county n/a code 001 zip 20005

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 _____

Temperance Fountain
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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)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	_____	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		_____	_____ Total

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)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
RECREATION and CULTURE: work of art	RECREATION and CULTURE: work of art
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
Victorian	foundation N/A
_____	walls _____
_____	_____
_____	roof _____
_____	other Granite, Zinc, Metal
_____	_____

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

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DESCRIPTION

The *Temperance Fountain* is located in the Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Park, near the southeast corner of the intersection of 7th Street and Indiana Avenue, N.W. The fountain employs the form of a diminutive temple. Four granite pedestals with Doric columns supporting a frieze, cornice, and stepped-pyramidal roof surmounted by a metal heron standing next to a flowering reed. The frieze on each face of the structure incorporates raised lettering with one of the following: TEMPERANCE (facing 7th Street), FAITH, HOPE, and CHARITY.

A cylindrical stone pedestal supporting two large bronze fish occupy the center of the temple. The pedestal features the following inscription:

PRESENTED BY
Dr. HENRY D. COGSWELL
OF SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

The entwined fish feature gapping mouths, pronounced scales and finlets, with tails stretching above. The mouths incorporate the water spouts, which did not operate during much of the mid-20th century. A tiny salamander, turtle, and frogs are also represented at the bronze base. Originally, a cup attached to a chain hung from the base. The overflow trough, designed for horses, was also removed.¹ A cast-iron grill was installed in its place sometime before August 1969. The fountain incorporated a cooling system designed by Cogswell.

When the Pennsylvania Avenue Redevelopment Company refurbished the monument in late 1987, the fountain was relocated approximately fifty-feet to the north (switching its location with the Grand Army of the Republic Memorial); the fountain operated for a time thereafter.

In April 2005, a group that associated itself with Cogswell conducted an unauthorized application of sizing and gold-leaf to the fish. The NPS determined that this was not an historic treatment and removed the sizing and gold-leaf.

¹ "A Toast to Temperance," *The Washington Post Magazine*, Dec. 13, 1987, J Street Column.

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

1884

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

Henry D. Cogswell

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, National Mall

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SUMMARY STATEMENT

The *Temperance Fountain* is significant as a rare extant (in Washington, D.C.) Victorian-era fountain. Dr. Henry D. Cogswell donated the monument to the city which was accepted by a joint resolution of Congress on July 6, 1882 (22 Stat. 386) and erected in 1884 at Cogswell's expense. The fountain is significant under Criterion C in the area of Art.

The Temperance Movement emerged throughout the nation as a moral issue at the beginning of the nineteenth century. It became one of the various reform movements, and was especially linked to Christian and suffrage efforts. The Woman's Crusade in New York and Ohio organized during the winter of 1873-1874, for example, led to the National Woman's Christian Temperance Union founded the following winter in Cleveland, Ohio. Temperance advocates did not always seek prohibiting the consumption of alcohol, especially during the Civil War. As the century neared its end, however, prohibition gained greater support.

Dr. Henry Daniel Cogswell (1820-1900) advocated temperance. He was born in Tolland (northeast of Hartford), Connecticut; the son of a builder. The young Henry had to begin work at a young age. While working in mills, he studied mathematics and practiced reading and ultimately obtained a teaching position, but shortly thereafter decided to become a dentist. After completing this training, he moved to San Francisco during the 1849 Gold Rush. Over time, Cogswell invested the profits from his dentistry practice and a mercantile business into San Francisco real estate. His fortune enabled him to retire in 1880 in order to spend the remainder of his life dispersing his wealth.² Cogswell's most important legacy began in 1887 when he gave an endowment and land in San Francisco's Mission District for the Cogswell Polytechnical College; it is believed to be the first manual-training school west of the Mississippi River. As late as 1943, the endowment was such that the school was able to not charge tuition.³

In the 1870s, Cogswell began to donate—to any city that wanted one—a unique fountain cast by the Monumental Bronze Company worth approximately \$4000. Cities that accepted the gift include: San Jose, CA (erected in front of city hall, melted for scrap metal during WWII); Pawtucket, RI (located at Main Street and East Avenue); Rockville, CT (located in Central Park); Fall River, MA; New York City (located in Tompkins Square Park—this fountain is similar to the one given to Washington, D.C.); and San Francisco. The latter fountain incorporated a bronze image of Cogswell offering the passerby a glass of water; the monument was torn down. In 1879, the benefactor also gave San Francisco a bronze life-size statue of Ben Franklin that was erected at Kearny and Market Streets. It was moved to Washington Square in 1904, and today represents the earliest extant monument in the city. In Washington, D.C., the *Temperance Fountain*, erected at Pennsylvania Avenue and 7th Street, N.W., in

² www.cogswell.edu/historicalOverview.html

³ The 1906 earthquake destroyed much of the original campus. In 1994, the college moved to its fifth campus.

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1884, became the city's third fountain; the Truxton and Bartholdi Fountains were installed in 1877 and 1878, respectively.

The Monumental Bronze Company foundry had its origins in Wilson, Parsons and Company of Bridgeport, Connecticut that began operating in early 1874. Five years later the company reorganized and went public as the Monumental Bronze Company. Thereafter, the business began to expand rapidly. In 1881, the company established its first subsidiary, Detroit Bronze, then the American White Bronze Company in Chicago, the Western White Bronze Company in Des Moines, the St. Thomas White Bronze Monument Company in St. Thomas, Canada, and finally the New Orleans White Bronze Works.⁴ Due to an inability to meet its taxes and increased government restrictions, the Monumental Bronze Company shut down in March 1939.

Sheridan Downey who was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1939 as a democrat from California began gathering information about Henry Cogswell and his fountain in Washington as early as June 1943.⁵ Despite the lack of an official victory in either the European or Pacific Theaters of World War II, Downey proposed to the Senate that the *Temperance Fountain* be taken down and a new memorial from California be submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts for its approval and erected instead. Downey also went to the press in an attempt to gain support. He called the fountain a "monstrosity of art" and an "art travesty."⁶ Despite this critique, he was most troubled by the inscription on the pedestal, "presented by Dr. Henry D. Cogswell, of San Francisco, Cal."⁷ The legislation died.

⁴ White Bronze was a pseudonym for zinc.

⁵ Copies of these letters are located in the files on the Temperance Fountain maintained by the Cultural Resource Specialist at National Mall & Memorial Park.

⁶ See: "Temperance Statue All Wet," *Washington Daily News* Apr. 11, 1945, p. 5; "Downey Moves to Rid Capital of California's 'Monstrosity'," *Washington Post*, Apr. 12, 1945; "Temperance Drinking Fountain Removal Asked by Senator," *Washington Star*, Apr. 12, 1945.

⁷ "Oppose Razing of Monument," *Washington Times-Herald*. A copy of the article is located in the files on the Temperance Fountain maintained by the Cultural Resource Specialist at National Mall & Memorial Parks.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

“Downey Moves to Rid Capital of California’s ‘Monstrosity’,” *Washington Post*, Apr. 12, 1945.

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

MacKaye, William R. “A Toast to Temperance,” *Washington Post*, Dec. 13, 1987, Magazine.

“Temperance Drinking Fountain Removal Asked by Senator,” *Washington Star*, Apr. 12, 1945.

“Temperance Statue All Wet,” *Washington Daily News* Apr. 11, 1945, p. 5.

Temperance Fountain
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10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than one acre.

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	1 8	3 2 4 6 3 3	4 3 0 6 7 0 0	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 Eve L. Barsoum, Architectural Historian
organization National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers date October 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 *Temperance Fountain* is located near the southeast corner of the intersection of 7th Street and Indiana Avenue, N.W., within the Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Park. The boundary of the object includes the land occupied by the granite structure.

Boundary Justification

When erected in 1884, the *Temperance Fountain* was located in Reservation 36A near the northeast corner of 7th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. The present boundary, approximately fifty-feet to the north and outside the boundary of the reservation, has been associated with the object since 1987. The boundary is justifiable as the object remained visible in a public space.

