

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 Additional Documentation to Union Station nomination listed 4/9/80

other names Union Station Plaza, Columbus Plaza, and Columbus Fountain

2. Location

street & number Massachusetts, Louisiana, and Delaware Avenues and 1st St., NE (Res. 334) ☐ not for publication

city or town Washington ☐ vicinity

state D.C. Code DC county n/a code 001 zip 20002

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

Union Station Plaza and Columbus Fountain
(Additional Documentation)

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

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 |
| 1 | | sites |
| | | structures |
| 5 | 1 | objects |
| 6 | 1 | 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 resources previously
listed in the National Register**

1

6. Function of Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

LANDSCAPE: plaza

RECREATION and CULTURE: work of art

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

LANDSCAPE: plaza

RECREATION and CULTURE: work of art

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

20TH CENTURY REVIVAL: Beaux Arts

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation

walls

roof

other

Georgia white marble, Maine green granite,
granite Belgian blocks, brick, metal.

Narrative Description

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

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Union Station Plaza / Columbus Fountain
Additional Documentation

Name of Property

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DESCRIPTION

Union Station Plaza, also known as Columbus Plaza (Reservation 334), is located in front of the monumental entrance to Union Station. The semi-circular plaza, situated at the juncture between Massachusetts, Delaware, and Louisiana Avenues, and 1st Street, N.E., was designed by architects Daniel H. Burnham and Pierce Anderson of D.H. Burnham & Company and built 1903-1908, in conjunction with the train station. The plaza reflects the principles of Beaux-Arts planning. The focal point of the plaza is *Columbus Fountain* (architect D.H. Burnham & Co., 1908; sculptor Lorado Taft, 1912). The marble memorial fountain is also representative of the Beaux-Arts tradition in sculpture popular during the City Beautiful movement.

Columbus Plaza is semicircular in plan and was conceived as the forecourt for Union Station, the principal gateway to the city. The plaza established an urban context and set up a relationship between the station and the dominant U.S. Capitol, located one-quarter of a mile away at the end of Delaware Avenue. Burnham's original design incorporated the pair of granite balustrades and circular fountains erected near the east and west ends of the plaza as well as a larger, tiered circular fountain that featured a tall water jet. The *Columbus Fountain* was constructed instead of Burnham's principal fountain; the latter would have allowed for a less obstructed view of the U.S. Capitol from the central axis of station's arcade.¹

Near the northwest and northeast ends of the plaza, aligning with the façade of the train station, stand an iron pair of ornate triumphal columns, surmounted by a gilded eagle standing on a globe, flanked by smaller iron lamppost and linked by granite balustrades; these elements frame the porte-cochère located at either end of the station's arcaded entrance. The triumphal columns are part of the original design, but different traffic patterns over the years altered the plaza edges and the elements presently stand on separate traffic islands.

The original Belgian block pavers have been replaced in various areas by concrete, brick, or parterres, nevertheless, the plaza retains integrity. The brick (probably installed in conjunction with the 1970s-1980s station renovation) is set in a herring bone pattern; roses are planted in the principal parterres.

The original curved granite plaza steps extend outward from both sides of *Columbus Fountain* and terminate at the classically-detailed, granite balustrades. Both balustrades surround granite steps supporting single-jet, circular fountains; water has stained the granite surfaces. Approximately 80-feet north of *Columbus Fountain*, stand three identical flagpoles. They incorporate octagonal granite steps surmounted by ornate bronze bases that feature eagles, festoons, wreaths, and classical moldings—Greek key and egg-and-dart patterns. The tops of the white metal poles are crowned by bronze Corinthian capitals, surmounted by gilded eagles with outstretched wings standing on orbs. In 1981, the American Legion Freedom Bell, commemorating the Bicentennial, was installed between the flagpoles and *Columbus Fountain*.

¹ For an early perspective rendering of the plaza see: Kristen Schaffer, *Daniel H. Burnham: Visionary Architect and Planner* (New York: Rizzoli, 2003) 107.

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The semicircular, double-tier *Columbus Fountain* echoes the footprint of the plaza with its curved front facing Delaware Avenue and the Capitol. A seated lion commands either end of the fountain; both are flanked by four water jets. The center of the fountain features a 45-foot tall pier with classical moldings embellished by distinctly different components. Into the upper-basin of the fountain projects the prow of a ship. Its winged female figurehead represents Discovery. A 15-foot tall Christopher Columbus stands on the prow. Columbus, wearing a mantle, peers calmly toward the horizon (and Capitol) with arms crossed over his chest. At the sides of the pedestal, two male figures crouch below Columbus. A bearded figure (east side) represents the Old World. A young Native American figure (west side) symbolizes the New World. The pier is crowned by four eagles that bear a globe; the eagles are also linked by festoons. The globe's delineated continents place the Atlantic Ocean along the primary axis at the front.

On the rear (north) face of the pier, near the top, a festoon drapes around a medallion depicting Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand, the Spanish monarchs who financed Columbus's expeditions. Below the medallion, is the following gilded inscription:

To
The Memory Of
Christopher Columbus
Whose High Faith
And
Indomitable Courage
Gave To Mankind
A New World

Born MCDXXXVI
Died MDIV

Underneath, a stone seat functions as a visual anchor for the pier.

To honor the bicentennial Congress passed Public Law 94-320 on June 25, 1976, which authorized the Secretary of the Interior to erect flagpoles for all the States and territories on the U.S. Capitol Grounds adjacent to the sidewalks circumventing Union Station Plaza; an identification plaque was to accompany each of the fifty-five poles. A flagpole for the District of Columbia was authorized and erected in 2002. Although the flagpoles are consistent in keeping with the Senate Park Commission's notion of a grand gateway, they do not stand within the boundaries of the original plaza and fall outside of the period of significance.

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CONTRIBUTING LIST

Union Station Plaza (site)

Columbus Fountain (object)

Two pairs of triumphal columns, including stone balustrades and lampposts (object)

Two circular granite fountains (object)

Curved granite steps and balustrades (object)

Three Flagpoles, including their metal and stone bases (object)

NONCONTRIBUTING LIST

American Legion Freedom Bell (object)

Union Station Plaza / Columbus Fountain
(Additional Documentation)

Name of Property

Washington, DC

County and State

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

Community Planning and Development

Period of Significance

1903-1912

Significant Dates

1908

1912

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

Daniel H. Burnham

Pierce Anderson

Lorado Z. Taft (sculptor)

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, NCR, NAMA

Commission of Fine Arts

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SIGNIFICANCE

The principal feature of Columbus Plaza, located in front of Union Station and constructed between 1903 and 1908, is *Columbus Fountain*, erected in 1912. The plaza, conceptualized by Daniel H. Burnham and advocated by the Senate Park Commission, is representative of Beaux-Arts Design and the City Beautiful era. The concept of a memorial was approved by an Act of Congress on March 4, 1907 (34 Stat. 1413) that appropriated \$100,000 for the project.² The *Columbus Fountain*, designed by sculptor Lorado Z. Taft and architect Daniel H. Burnham, was dedicated on June 8, 1912. The plaza is significant under Criterion C in the area of Community Planning and Development. The fountain is significant under Criterion C in the area of Art.

Although the Senate Park Commission, which sought to enhance the physical appearance of the nation's capital, is often credited with the plaza design at Union Station, Daniel H. Burnham conceived the idea. At the end of the nineteenth century, Burnham had a standing contract with the Pennsylvania Railroad Company due to his responsibility for designing and administering the construction of Penn Station, 1898-1901, in Pittsburgh. Burnham's drawings for the Washington plaza were completed prior to the publication of the Senate Park Commission's report.³ Pennsylvania Railroad Company President Alexander Cassatt had been to Frankfurt, Germany to investigate what he considered the best railroad station in the world. In his relaying of the story, Charles Moore noted, "the Washington depot was to be still finer.... Facing one of the great avenues of the capital, it was to have as landscape setting a plaza capable of a development that should rival the Piazza di Termini in Rome."⁴

Union Station became the keystone of the 1901 Plan for the City of Washington, produced by the Senate Park Commission, and the first part of the plan to be realized. The commission recognized that the station would be the "grand gateway to the capitol."⁵ The dignified edifice, designed by Burnham and Pierce Anderson, who had recently returned from the *École des Beaux Arts* in Paris, required an imposing forecourt. The Senate Park Commission's report called for a public plaza in front of the station "ornamented with fitting terrace, basins, and fountains."⁶ The remark was consistent with the commission's predisposition toward fountains. It believed that fountains functioned as key elements that would assist in increasing Washington's status to the level of the important European cities. The commission attempted to add further weight to their conclusion by invoking the authority of the city's eighteenth-century urban designer. The report stated, "The original plans of Washington show the high appreciation L'Enfant had for all forms of water decoration...."⁷

² The value of \$100,000 in 1912 is equivalent to \$1,996,581 in 2005 dollars. This amount was derived from www.ch.net.

³ The drawings are located at the Art Institute of Chicago. See Schaffer, p. 213, n. 12; p. 214, n. 16.

⁴ Charles Moore, *Daniel H. Burnham: Architect Planner of Cities*, Vol. 2. (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1921) p. 173.

⁵ Charles Moore, ed., *The Park System of the District of Columbia* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1902) p. 30.

⁶ Moore, ed., p. 30.

⁷ Moore, ed., p. 28.

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In February 1903, as the legislation for the plaza was being debated, Moore recalled, "Representative Cannon made a gallant fight on the floor of the House for the elimination of the plaza."⁸ On the other hand, the Knights of Columbus lobbied hard for their patron saint. The Knights of Columbus, founded in 1882, believed in the inherent compatibility of Roman Catholicism and American fraternalism. Like all Americans, the Knights held that Columbus's discovery was linked to the evolution of liberty and progress, but the Knights also viewed it as a Roman Catholic event.⁹ This broadened concept of Columbus became known as Columbianism and it served as one of the many efforts to legitimize the Roman Catholic presence in America and end Protestant hegemony. The Knights wanted complete civil and religious rights for all. The passing of the legislation for the memorial, March 4, 1907 (34 Stat. 1413), marked the culmination of the years of concerted effort by the Knights to counter nativism and anti-Catholic sentiment. The act also established a memorial commission charged with selecting a site and design for the monument.

The commission was comprised of the chairman of the Senate Committee on the Library, the chairman of the Committee on the Library of the House of Representatives, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of War, and the supreme knight of the Order of the Knights of Columbus; the commission elected the Secretary of War as the chairman. On February 4, 1908, the commission selected the plaza in front of Union Station as the site.¹⁰ The following month, the commission accepted a design for the architectural treatment of the memorial by D.H. Burnham & Company. Thereafter, the commission ran a competition for the sculptural component of the memorial. Twenty-one submissions were submitted by twenty competitors by the end of the year. In February 1909, the commission selected the model presented by Lorado Taft. Coincidentally, the two Chicagoans also worked on the post-World's Fair redevelopment of the Midway Plaisance during the same period. Burnham's conception of the sculptural aspects for the Columbus Fountain can be gleaned from comments he made about Taft's sculpture proposals for the Midway. The architect noted, "the beauty of the whole is far more important than the beauty of the parts; it should be first."¹¹

For the *Columbus Fountain*, Taft drew inspiration from Frederick MacMonnies's *Columbian Fountain* designed for the 1893 Columbian Exposition. *Columbian* featured muses rowing a large vessel led by Fame at the prow, with Columbia seated at the center, and guided by Father Time at the rudder.

⁸ Moore, p. 197. Joseph G. Cannon (R-IL) was a member of the House of Representatives from 1873 to 1922. He served as Speaker of the House from November 1903 to 1910.

⁹ Columbus's journals and letters reveal a devoutly pious man who believed that Providence led him to perform "great" works.

¹⁰ Trains had been operating from the station since October 27, 1907, although the building was not complete until 1908.

¹¹ Quoted in Susan Martis, *Famous and Forgotten: Rodin and Three American Contemporaries* (Ph.D. Diss. Case Western Reserve University, 2005) p. 168.

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Despite the significant amount of architectural sculpture and sculpture at the Columbian Exposition, "Taft argued that the *Columbian Fountain* "was intended to be, and was, the finest sculpture on the grounds."¹²

The three identical flagpoles in Columbus Plaza recall the three flagpoles located on the famous *piazza* in front of St. Mark's Cathedral in Venice. A winged-lion, the symbol of St. Mark, was featured on the Venetian flagpole base, while a lion holding a globe crowned the top.¹³ At Columbus Plaza, the motif was translated for America. Thus, the winged-lion was replaced by an eagle.

Columbus Plaza and *Columbus Fountain* reflect excellent examples of City Beautiful ideas. The planning movement sought to induce civic pride and its attendant moral reforms through design. To ensure that the intent was not misunderstood a commemorative inscription was added to the rear of the fountain's central pier for the benefit of the viewer. In keeping with the goals of Columbianism, the first attribute of Columbus mentioned is faith.

At the 1912 dedication ceremony, Monsignor Thomas Shahan, Rector of the Catholic University of America, led the invocation and Victor J. Dowling, a former National Director of the Knights of Columbus and a Justice of the New York Supreme Court, gave a speech on the founder's historical significance. Dowling stated, "Here was not Alexander, sighing for new worlds to conquer, but here was the apostolic spirit for one who sighed for quicker ways to make known to distant lands the sweetness of Faith and the light of Hope. Here was one who, like Napoleon, believed in his star; but the star of Columbus was the star of Bethlehem."¹⁴ After President William H. Taft gave his speech, a parade began in which 2,500 soldiers and sailors passed the viewing stand, followed by more than 15,000 Knights of Columbus.

Lorado Zadoch Taft (1860-1936) designed the *Columbus Fountain*. Born in Elmwood, Illinois, Taft entered the University of Illinois at Champaign at age fifteen. Upon obtaining his Master's degree in 1880, he immediately left for Paris to attend the *École Nationale et Spéciale des Beaux Arts* (the descendent of the *Académie Royale de Peinture et de la Sculpture*) and was accepted in the atelier of Augustin Dumont. Upon his return to America six years later, Taft established his studio in Chicago in with hopes of raising the level of art appreciation in the Midwest. He, consequently, also began to teach studio and lecture at the Art Institute. Initially, he was only retained to create architectural sculpture for buildings under construction in Chicago. Prominent local architect William Le Baron Jenney,

¹² Taft, p. 342.

¹³ For images of the flagpole see, Frederick MacMonnies, "Typical Memorials," *The American Magazine of Art* vol. 10, no. 7 (May 1919) pp. 254-255.

¹⁴ Christopher J. Kauffman, *Faith & Fraternalism: The History of the Knights of Columbus 1882-1982* (New York: Harper & Row, 1982) pp. 162-163.

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subsequently, chose Taft to execute the architectural sculpture for his Horticulture Building at the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition. Taft also served on the jury for American Sculpture at the fair.

Like many American sculptors, Taft's career took off as a result of the exposition. Over the next four decades, he created portrait sculpture and military monuments, for example, *Grant Monument* (1889, Leavenworth, KS), *Soldier's Memorial* (1916, Oregon, IL), and *Lincoln* (1927, Urbana, IL). He, ultimately, became best known for his fountains including, *Nymph Fountain* (1898), *Paducah Fountain* (ca. 1909, Paducah, KY), *Trotter Memorial Fountain* (1911, Bloomington, IL), *Columbus Fountain* (1912, Washington, DC), *Fountain of the Great Lakes* (1913, Chicago, IL), *Thatcher Memorial Fountain* (1918, Denver, CO), *Fountain of Time* (1922, Chicago, IL).

Despite a highly productive career, today (outside of Chicago), Taft is most remembered for his book *The History of American Sculpture* first published in 1903, as the initial volume of the History of American Art series produced by the MacMillan Company.¹⁵ It was the first book to discuss sculptors and nineteenth-century sculpture in America. The book was well-received by his peers, for example, when William M.R. French, the director of the Art Institute of Chicago, wrote to Taft in 1907, he mentioned that his brother (the highly acclaimed sculptor Daniel Chester French) considered Taft "the best sculptor critic in America. The person most competent both to form an opinion and express it."¹⁶

¹⁵ Taft revised the book and added a chapter in 1924.

¹⁶ Quoted in Martis, p. 176.

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Union Station Plaza / Columbus Fountain

(Additional Documentation)

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 3.6 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

| | | | | | | | |
|---|------|-------------|---------------|---|------|-------------|---------------|
| 1 | 1 8 | 3 2 5 9 0 1 | 4 3 0 7 0 3 1 | 3 | 1 8 | 3 2 5 9 5 7 | 4 3 0 6 9 5 1 |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| 2 | 1 8 | 3 2 6 0 5 2 | 4 3 0 6 9 8 5 | 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 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, National Capital Region, 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 Reduction Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Verbal Boundary Description

Union Station Plaza, also known as Columbus Plaza and Reservation 334, is located at the intersection of Massachusetts, Louisiana, and Delaware Avenues and First Street, N.E. The boundary of the nomination includes the land occupied by the semi-circular Reservation and the traffic islands that incorporate the triumphal columns; *Columbus Fountain* sits within the boundary of Columbus Plaza.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the Columbus Plaza has been historically associated with the plaza for Union Station. As designed, it functions as a forecourt for the station and as a conspicuous place to display sculpture and architectural sculptural.



Public Law 94-320
94th Congress, S. 3161
June 25, 1976

An Act

To authorize certain flagpoles to be located on the Capitol Grounds, and to improve the flow of traffic to and from the United States Capitol Grounds and the National Visitor Center.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, subject to the approval of the Architect of the Capitol and to such conditions as he may prescribe, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to make such use of that portion of the United States Capitol Grounds adjacent or in close proximity to the sidewalks abutting the circular perimeter of the Union Station Plaza in front of Columbus Plaza and the National Visitor Center as may be necessary to enable the Secretary of the Interior to erect and maintain flagpoles to fly the flags of each of the States of the United States and its territories and possessions, generally as shown on NCPG Map File Numbered 1.11 (38.00)-27861.

Sec. 2. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Architect of the Capitol is authorized, subject to the provisions of this Act and to such conditions as the Architect of the Capitol may prescribe, to enter into an agreement with the appropriate officials of the government of the District of Columbia pursuant to which the Architect of the Capitol is authorized to permit the government of the District of Columbia to utilize certain areas of the United States Capitol Grounds for the purpose of making certain street changes in order to coordinate and improve the flow of traffic to and from the United States Capitol Grounds and the National Visitor Center (formerly Union Station), and the flow of traffic within Union Station Plaza.

(b) Pursuant to such agreement, the Architect of the Capitol is authorized to make available to the government of the District of Columbia, for the purposes referred to in subsection (a), certain portions of the United States Capitol Grounds as follows:

(1) approximately two thousand one hundred square feet of land in Square 680, at the east end thereof, located within the United States Capitol Grounds adjacent to the Union Station Plaza, Massachusetts Avenue, and E Street Northeast, in order to enable the government of the District of Columbia to carry out the purposes referred to in subsection (a) of this section, and to change the curbline, and relocate existing sidewalks and curbs, to conform to such street change;

(2) approximately three thousand five hundred square feet of land in Square 723, at the northwest end thereof, located within the United States Capitol Grounds adjacent to the Union Station Plaza, First Street, and Massachusetts Avenue Northeast, in order to enable the government of the District of Columbia to carry out the purposes referred to in subsection (a) of this section, and to change the curbline, and relocate existing sidewalks and curbs, to conform to such street change; and

(3) approximately four hundred square feet of land in Square 721, at the southwest end thereof, located within the United States Capitol Grounds adjacent to the Union Station Plaza and Massachusetts Avenue Northeast, in order to enable the government

U. S. Capitol
Grounds.
U. S. State
Flags, place-
ment; flow of
traffic, im-
provement.
40 USC 801
note.

of the District of Columbia to carry out the purposes referred to in subsection (a) of this section, and to change the curbline, and relocate existing sidewalks and curbs, to conform to such street change.

Sec. 3. Nothing in this Act shall be construed to grant to the Secretary of the Interior or to the government of the District of Columbia any right, title, or interest in or to any part of the United States Capitol Grounds and such area affected by this Act or any agreement pursuant thereto shall continue to be a part of the United States Capitol Grounds. All areas of the United States Capitol Grounds, including sidewalks, lawns and other growth, streets, and curb lines, disturbed by reason of operations pursuant to this Act shall be promptly relocated or restored by the Secretary of the Interior or the government of the District of Columbia, as the case may be, in a manner approved by, and satisfactory to the Architect of the Capitol.

Sec. 4. The Congress shall not incur any expense, liability, obligation, or other responsibility (operational or otherwise), under or by reason of this Act, or any agreement pursuant to this Act, or be liable under any claim of any nature or kind that may arise from either the construction, operation, or maintenance of the flagpoles authorized by this Act, or from carrying out any agreement pursuant to this Act.

Approved June 25, 1976.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

HOUSE REPORT No. 94-1078 (Comm. on Public Works and Transportation).

SENATE REPORT No. 94-699 (Comm. on Public Works).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 122 (1976):

Mar. 18, considered and passed Senate.

May 17, considered and passed House, amended.

June 15, Senate concurred in House amendment.