
ABSTRACT

Title of Final Project:

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY:
GREAT FALLS PARK - NORTH,
MCLEAN, VIRGINIA

Kelsey Ann Farrish, Master of Historic
Preservation, 2023

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This project develops a preliminary Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) for the area around the National Park Service (NPS) Mission 66 visitor center at Great Falls Park in Virginia.

The project area includes the visitor center and courtyard, entrance station and road, parking area, overlook trails, remnants of the Patowmack Canal, picnic area, comfort station, Mather plaque, and surrounding woodlands. This CLI provides NPS with baseline data about park resources in an easily accessible and comprehensive document that can be used to make decisions regarding management, maintenance, and preservation of those resources. This report documents and evaluates the historic significance and integrity of landscape features through site maps, National Register information, chronology and physical history background, analysis and evaluation of integrity, and a condition assessment.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY: GREAT FALLS PARK - NORTH,
MCLEAN, VIRGINIA

by

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Master's Final Project submitted to the Faculty of the Historic Preservation Program of the
University of Maryland, College Park, in partial fulfillment

of the requirements for the degree of

Master of Historic Preservation

2023

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Introduction

Cultural Landscape General Information

Purpose and Goals of the CLI

A Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) provides baseline data about historic cultural resources in an easily accessible and comprehensive document that can be used to make decisions regarding management, maintenance, and preservation of those resources. It documents and assesses existing conditions and historic significance in order to evaluate the integrity of character-defining features. CLIs are recorded in the Cultural Resource Inventory System (CRIS), the National Park Service's database of cultural resources in its parks, and have a specific data structure to ensure uniformity across reports.

The following NPS guidance explains CLIs within the CRIS database and details the regulatory guidance for the CRIS program:

Each CRIS-CL record is certified complete when the landscape is determined to meet one of the following:

- Landscape individually meets the National Register of Historic Places criteria for evaluation; or,
- Landscape is a contributing element of a property that is eligible for the National Register; or,
- Landscape does not meet the National Register criteria, but is managed as cultural resources because law, policy or decisions reached through the park planning process.

The legislative, regulatory and policy directions for conducting and maintaining the CRIS are: Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act, NPS Management Policies (2006), Director's Order 28 (Cultural Resources) and Director's Order 28a (Archeology).

The legislative, regulatory and policy directions for conducting and maintaining the CLI within CRIS are: National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 USC 470h-2(a)(1)). Each Federal agency shall establish...a preservation program for the identification, evaluation, and nomination to the National Register of Historic Places...of properties...

Executive Order 13287: Preserve America, 2003. Sec. 3(a)...Each agency with real property management responsibilities shall prepare an assessment of the current status of its inventory of historic properties required by section 110(a)(2) of the NHPA...No later than September 30, 2004, each covered agency shall complete a report of the assessment and make it available to the Chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Secretary of the Interior...

Executive Order 13287: Preserve America, 2003. Sec. 3(c) each agency with real property management responsibilities shall, by September 30, 2005, and every third year thereafter, prepare a report on its progress in identifying...historic properties in its ownership and make the report available to the Council and the Secretary...

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Federal Agency Historic Preservation Programs Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act, 1998. Standard 2: An agency provides for the timely identification and evaluation of historic properties under agency jurisdiction or control and/or subject to effect by agency actions (Sec. 110 (a)(2)(A) Management Policies 2006. 5.1.3.1 Inventories: The Park Service will (1) maintain and expand the following inventories...about cultural resources in units of the national park system...Cultural Landscape Inventory of historic designed landscapes, historic vernacular landscapes,...and historic sites...

Cultural Resource Management Guideline, 1997, Release No. 5, page 22 issued pursuant to Director's Order #28. As cultural resources are identified and evaluated, they should also be listed in the appropriate Service-wide inventories of cultural resources.

Scope of the Great Falls Park – North CLI

The information contained within this CLI is gathered from existing primary and secondary sources, such as photographs, maps, newspapers, construction documents, planning documents, reports, and GIS data, found in the NPS eTIC system, George Washington Memorial Parkway's library and archives, the NPS-NCR Museum Resource Center (MRCE) collection in Landover, MD, the National Archives in College Park, the National Archives Washington National Records Center in Suitland, MD, the Virginia Room at Fairfax County Library, and during site visits to the park. Given time limitations, it was not possible to thoroughly examine all of the applicable resources at these locations, and additional research may be required.

This CLI uses documentation and analysis of existing features and historic components to determine historic and current land uses of a designated area in order to identify and date the current features as well as determine historic integrity. This report documents that information in the form of site maps, National Register information, chronology and physical history background, analysis and evaluation of integrity, and a condition assessment.

General Information

Cultural Landscape Inventory Name:	Great Falls Park – North
Property Level:	Landscape
Park Name:	Great Falls Park
Park Alpha Code:	GFRA
Park Org Code:	3334
Park Administrative Unit:	George Washington Memorial Parkway - GWMP

Landscape/Component Landscape Description

The 75-acre Great Falls Park – North project area is located in the larger 803-acre Great Falls Park in Virginia. The main components of the landscape include the Mission 66 visitor center and courtyard, entrance station and road, parking areas, overlook trails, remnants of the late 18th-century Patowmack Canal, picnic areas, comfort station, Mather Gorge plaque, and surrounding woods. Many of the components were built by the National Park Service, but several of the components existed prior to the Mission 66 era planning for the site and were incorporated into the design. The current site retains much of the layout in that plan.

Significance Summary

The visitor center and surrounding resources in Great Falls Park – North are examples of the distinct style and planning design of the Mission 66 Era. Mission 66 was a NPS program that invested over \$1 billion in infrastructure and programming activities to improve facilities in the agency’s parks. The “National Park Service Mission 66 Era Resources: National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form” defines the era as three

distinct time periods: Pre-Mission 66 era (1945-1955), Mission 66 program (1956-1966), and Parkscapes USA (1967-1972).¹ The period of significance for the Great Falls Park – North project area spans from 1960 to 1972, and therefore encompasses the latter two time periods of the Mission 66 planning era.

At many park units, Mission 66 aimed to accommodate increased day-use visitor traffic and cars through planned parking lots and circulation paths. It modernized the visitor experience with structured features such as dedicated visitor centers, picnic areas, and comfort stations. Another major goal was to expand interpretation and access to natural and historic park resources while increasing their conservation efforts throughout the park. This was achieved by creating dedicated paths and locating parking and visitor centers close to these resources.² The circulation and layout of these resources planned in the Great Falls Park – North’s Mission 66 era planning documents follow these principles.

Analysis and Evaluation Summary and Condition

The overall historic integrity of the Mission 66 era design and layout at Great Falls Park - North is good, but the condition is fair. The existing features were evaluated based on their contributing status to the historic significance, and their integrity based on the seven aspects as defined by the National Register of Historic Places: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Most of the condition issues are caused by poor drainage, natural deterioration, and routine human use impacts. Corrective action should be taken to repair existing damage and prevent future harm to the integrity.

Landscape Hierarchy Description

The Great Falls Park – North cultural landscape area is a component of the larger Great Falls Park which is within the George Washington Memorial Parkway system. Great Falls Park, which includes the Patowmack Canal, was managed by NPS starting in 1960 through a lease agreement, and then was officially purchased and placed under NPS ownership in 1966. It is part of the GWMP unit due to the fact that George Washington was influential in the canal’s development. The Great Falls Park – North component landscape encompasses the landscape features associated with the Mission 66 era planning effort from 1960 to 1972.

Landscape Type

Historic Designed Landscape

Site Plan

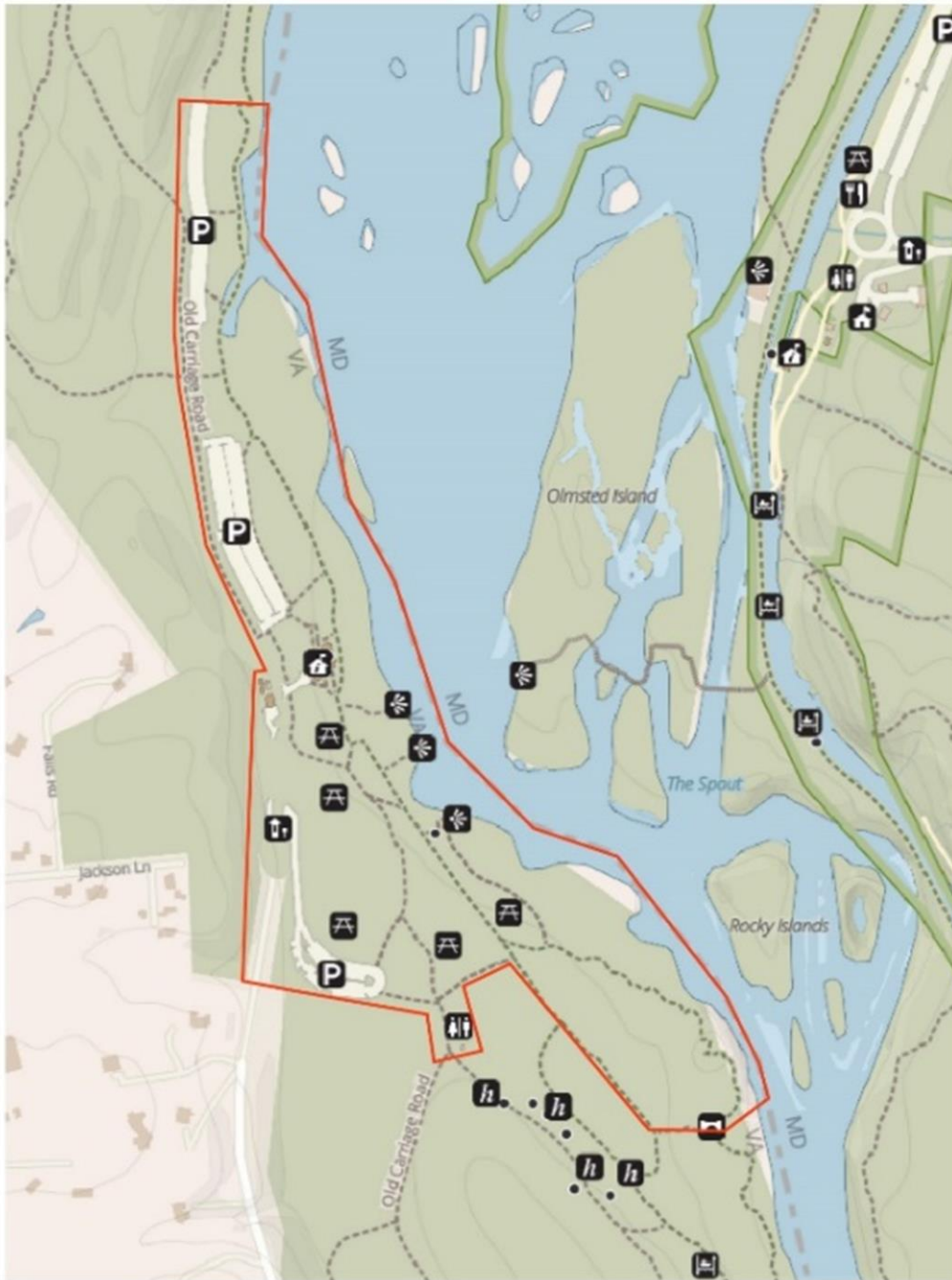


Figure 1. Site plan of Great Falls Park – North boundary (Base map from <https://www.nps.gov/grfa/planyourvisit/maps.htm>).

Geographic Information

Area (Acres)

Approximately 75 acres

Boundary Description

The boundary for this cultural landscape inventory project area encompasses the areas and features associated with the period of significance from 1960-1972. The majority of these features were part of the implementation of the Mission 66 era Master Plan for the park. Some of the features predate the park plan, such as the overlooks, but were integrated into the design, and others, such as the visitor center, were newly designed structures. Other features, such as the Mather Gorge plaque were not master planning features, but were incorporated during this time frame. The main components in this boundary include the Mission 66 visitor center and courtyard, entrance station and road, parking areas, overlooks and trails, remnants of the late 18th-century Patowmack Canal, picnic areas, comfort station, Mather Gorge plaque, and surrounding woods. The boundary follows the edges of these features, trails that lead to these features, or the park boundary. While this proposed boundary for Great Falls Park – North narrowly includes intentionally planned areas and built features of the Mission 66 era, the Master Plan encompassed the entire park. The park boundary, therefore, may be an alternative boundary to consider for this cultural landscape with further analysis of the site.

The boundary is an irregular shape that begins on the northwest corner of the Upper North Parking Lot. It continues south along the west edge of the parking lot and then the west edge of the road that services the parking lots. Once it reaches the maintenance area, it turns

west to incorporate that area, and then turns back south and continues along the edge of the road and past the entrance station. Reaching the park boundary, it turns east and continues along the south edge of the Lower Parking Lot. It continues until it reaches the culvert next to the comfort station where it turns south. Once it passes the maintenance shed, it turns back east until past the shed and then turns north and continues past the comfort station and east side of the culvert. Once it reaches the trail, it turns east and continues along the south edge of the trail. Once this trail hits the Patowmack Canal Trail, it turns south and follows the west edge of the trail. At the fork, it turns east and follows the south edge of the trail. It continues until it hits the park boundary where it turns north. It follows the park boundary which goes in a general northwest direction until it reaches the top edge of the Upper North Parking Lot where it turns back west and connects with the origin point.

Location Map Graphic Information

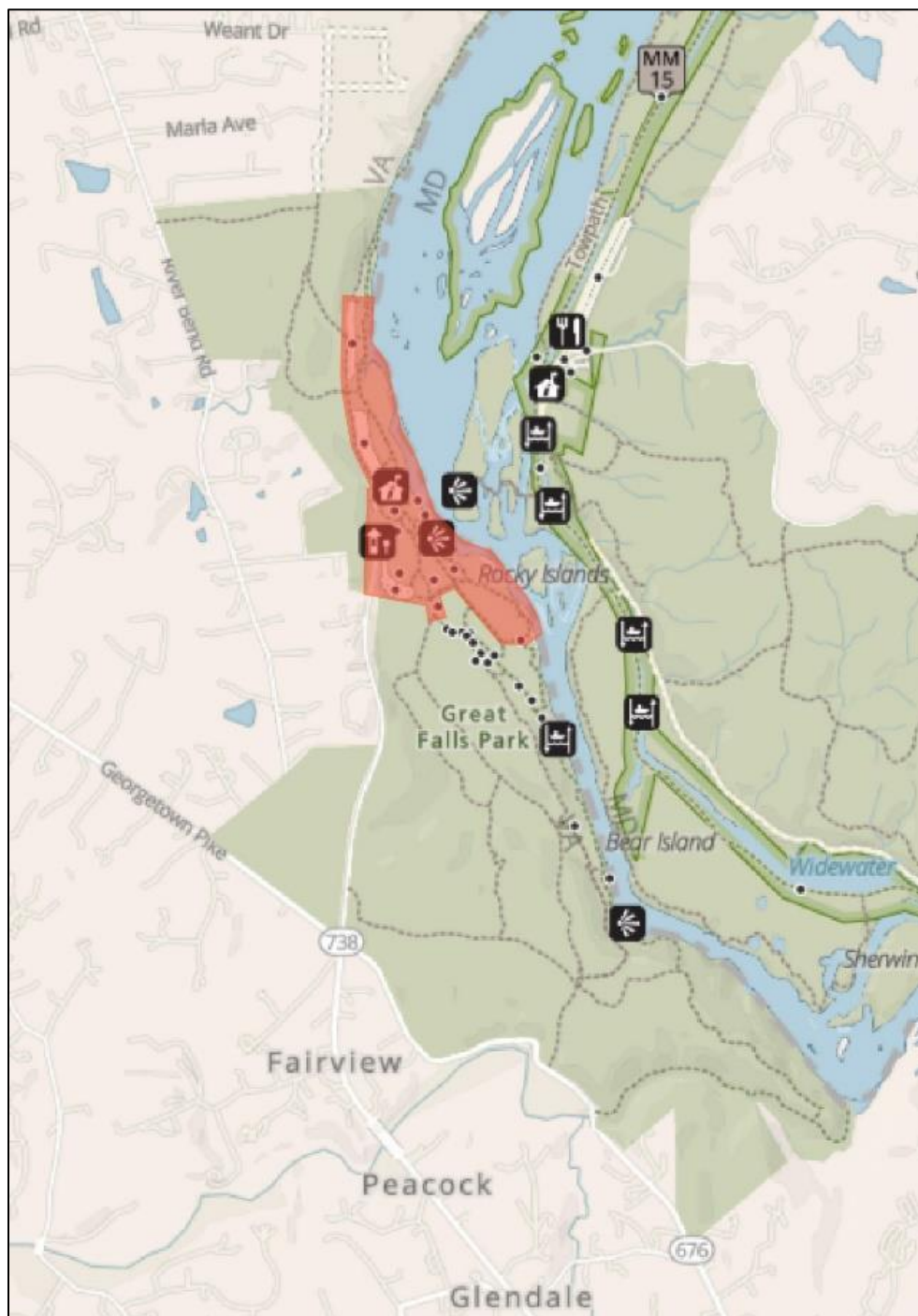


Figure 2. Cultural landscape area within the larger Great Falls Park boundary (Base map from <https://www.nps.gov/grfa/planyourvisit/maps.htm>).

Figure 3. Great Falls Park location within the larger George Washington Memorial Parkway unit (GWMP website, NPS).

State and County

State

Virginia

County

Fairfax

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute?

Yes

Narrative

The Potomac River and the Great Falls are fundamental to the setting of the park and its features, but they are actually outside the park boundary and are therefore considered adjacent lands. That said, their proximity is the primary reason for the location of the features in the park.

The Great Falls are the geological area where the fall line between the Piedmont and Coast Plain occurs. This feature makes the Potomac River unnavigable by boat to any point further west. The Patowmack Canal was built ca. 1785 in order to circumvent the falls and provide a transportation route for boats to continue west. The falls became the main attraction for the Great Falls Amusement Park at the turn of the 20th century. The amusement park had various structures and overlooks situated on the cliff edges specifically to view the falls. The Great Falls & Old Dominion railway terminated at the falls and was built specifically to bring people from Washington DC to the amusement park. When the National

Park Service began managing the park in 1960, the falls and river continued to be a main focus and influenced the planning and location of the new visitor center and amenities.



Figure 4. Great Falls, view from Overlook #2 looking north, 2022 (photo by author).

National Register Information

Documentation Status

Entered – Inadequately Documented

Documentation Narrative Description

The National Register nomination for the Great Falls Park Historic District (NRHP# 14001079), listed December 22, 2014, covers the entire park boundary (approximately 803 acres). It encompasses the periods of significance in relation to prehistoric archeology of native people from 6000 BC to 900 AD and the colonial to modern development from 1750 AD to 1968 AD. This later period covers the areas of significance in historic-non-aboriginal archeology, architecture, commerce, engineering, exploration/settlement, industry, politics/government, and transportation. The National Register form documented the existing sites and resources and determined contributing and non-contributing status in relation to the periods of significance which includes the use of the site for the Patowmack Canal and Matildaville, the construction of the Great Falls & Old Dominion Railroad and Great Falls Amusement Park, and the Mission 66 Visitor Center.

The current National Register documentation adequately documented the park history and resources prior to NPS ownership and includes the area covered by this cultural landscape inventory. However, the form either does not recognize or does not appropriately date park features that are contributing resources to the Mission 66 era planning efforts, with the exception of identifying the visitor center as significant as an example of Mission 66 architecture.

National Register Significance Level

National

National Register Significance -- Contributing/Individual

Contributing

National Register Classification

District

Statement of Significance

The Great Falls Park – North cultural landscape is significant under the following criteria defined by the “National Park Service Mission 66 Era Resources” National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form:

CRITERION A. To be considered eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, Mission 66 property types should be considered under Criterion A as potentially significant examples of the changing visions for national park planning and development during the period of significance.

CRITERION C. These property types should also be considered under Criterion C, as potentially significant for their association with the design precepts and construction techniques of the Modern Movement style. The style became known as “Park Service Modern” and was practiced by National Park Service architects, landscape architects, planners, and historians during the Mission 66 era.³

The visitor center and surrounding resources at Great Falls Park are examples of NPS planning efforts to increase and enhance the visitor experience of national parks that is distinct to Mission 66 era. The Mission 66 program was a coordinated NPS wide planning

effort to “modernize, enlarge, and even reinvent the park system”⁴. Its name derived from the goal to have these improvements to the parks completed by the fiftieth anniversary of the agency in 1966. The era associated with Mission 66, however, had three distinct time periods: Pre-Mission 66 era (1945-1955), Mission 66 program (1956-1966), and Parkscapes USA (1967-1972). The pre-Mission 66 era is associated with design experimentation, initial planning efforts, and program development. The Mission 66 program was the major funding, planning, and implementation period of the era. The Parkscapes USA program was an extension of the Mission 66 program to complete the construction and planning projects started during Mission 66.⁵ The period of significance for the Great Falls Park – North cultural landscape (1960-1972) spans the timeframes of the Mission 66 program and the subsequent Parkscapes USA program.

One of the major factors that prompted the creation of Mission 66 was the increase of visitors following World War II. The increase of people and automobiles caused rapid deterioration of park sites and facilities and compounded the issues of deferred maintenance and budget and staffing decreases from 1940 to 1955. Instead of asking for funding on a yearly basis, as had been practice, NPS Director Conrad Wirth “concluded that NPS should develop a long-range plan, with a specific duration and budget, to address current and future needs. This approach would give Congress a definitive program to respond to, stated goals to strive for, and measurable accomplishments.” The plan was approved by President Eisenhower and Congress in early 1956.⁶

A prospectus was often the first step for NPS regions to determine their needs, and master plans were used as the main tool for planning and implementing these improvements during

Mission 66.⁷ As Great Falls Park was not part of the park system during the early years of Mission 66, no specific plans for it appear in the “National Capital Parks Preliminary Prospectus” (1955-1960). However, a Great Falls Park Master Plan was prepared in 1967 and superseded in 1969 by a more robust draft.

Before this point, most western NPS parks and facilities were focused on visitors who stayed overnight. After WWII, not only was there an increase in visitors, but many of them were only there for a day trip by car, the preferred mode of transportation for families by mid-century. Car registration went from 25.8 million in 1945 to 52.1 million in 1955 and then 75.3 million in 1965.⁸ The Mission 66 program therefore pivoted the park’s planning efforts to focus on accommodating this new type of visitor and mode of transportation. The philosophy was to create efficient circulation by grouping transportation infrastructure, facilities, and resources close together. This would help move visitors through the park in a controlled manner and reduce deterioration of natural park resources. The design principles of Modernism, which focused on efficiency and economical construction, were utilized by NPS to achieve these planning goals.⁹

“One of the central tenets of Mission 66 was to bring visitors efficiently to a park’s main attractions and interpret their experience.” This was achieved by deliberately laying out the park facilities in an organized, sequential flow. Often, this involved locating large parking lots next to visitor centers which were in turn located by the main park attractions. Since they were located near the resources, the visitor centers were meant to be low profile, unobtrusive, and integrate indoor and outdoor spaces.¹⁰ This holds true for the design at Great Falls Park where the visitor center, which has a low linear profile and is located close to the falls

without being overbearing. The tangential facilities also follow the Mission 66 design guidelines: two large parking lots are immediately adjacent to the visitor center, the visitor center has a designed courtyard that integrates the indoor and outdoor space, short paths take visitors through wooded areas to overlooks for the falls, a large picnic area accommodates day-use activities next to the visitor center, another parking lot on the other side of the picnic area provides additional parking, and a comfort station by the second parking lot provides additional bathroom facilities.

National Register Significance Criteria

Criterion A: Event

Criterion C: Design/Construction

National Register Criteria Considerations

N/A

National Register Periods of Significance (with Historic Context Themes)

Table of National Register Periods of Significance

Start Year/Era and End Year/Era	Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet
1960-1972 AD	Expressing Cultural Values	Architecture Landscape Architecture	NPS Mission 66

National Register Areas of Significance

Architecture

Landscape Architecture

National Historic Landmark

Status

Yes – Potomac (Potomack) Canal Historic District

Theme

Engineering and politics/government

Contributing

Contributing – Member

Date

12/17/1982

State Register Documentation

Identification Number

029-5639

Name

Great Falls Historic District

Listed Date

12/16/2010

Chronology & Physical History

Chronology

Table of Major Chronology

Start Year	Start Era	End Year	End Era	Major Event	Major Event Description
Ca. 1500	CE	Ca. 1700	CE	Inhabited	This area was thick woodland that had seasonal hunting and fishing camps of the Algonquian, Iroquoian/Susquehannock, and Tauxenents people. ¹¹
1649	CE			Colonized	King Charles II gave a royal land grant to Lord Culpeper and six other supporters. Native residents began to be pushed out of the area or die from European diseases. ¹²
1785	CE	1827	CE	Built	The Patowmack Canal was constructed from 1785 to 1802 as the first series of canals on the Potomac to make it navigable to the west. George Washington was president of the Patowmack Navigation Company. The workers consisted of white laborers and African Americans, a mix of free and enslaved. The town of Matildaville was established in 1790, and was mostly developed by the Pawtomack Company. Commercial developments such as the Potts & Wilson Forge/Foundry and the Briggs Gristmill were also built. ¹³

Start Year	Start Era	End Year	End Era	Major Event	Major Event Description
1854	CE	1895	CE	Purchased	The Great Falls Manufacturing Company bought the property, but it was not developed for industrial use. ¹⁴
1895	CE	1947	CE	Purchased	The Great Falls Power Company (GFPC) buys the property, but did not construct anything. ¹⁵
1900	CE	1906	CE	Built	John McLean, owner of the <i>Washington Post</i> , and West Virginia Senator Stephen B. Elkins leased property from the GFPC. They constructed a trolley line, Great Fall & Old Dominion (GF&OD) Railway, from Georgetown to Great Falls, and established the Great Falls Amusement Park. The amusement park had a carousel, Great Falls Inn restaurant, dance pavilion, lover's lane walk, and an observation tower to view the falls. ¹⁶
1906	CE	1935	CE	Purchased	The right-of-way area was bought by the GF&OD, approximately 18 acres, and the Great Falls Amusement Park opens. ¹⁷
1935	CE	1952	CE	Land Transfer	The trolley line ceased operation in 1934 due to financial problems arising from the Great Depression and the rise of the automobile. Fairfax County seized the property in 1935 due to unpaid taxes, and built a road in the

Start Year	Start Era	End Year	End Era	Major Event	Major Event Description
					trolley right-of-way. The park continued to operate. ¹⁸
1947	CE	1966	CE	Purchased	The Potomac Electric Power Company (PEPCO) buys the 750-acre tract. In 1951, PEPCO was already leaning towards preservation and transfer to the US government of the property. ¹⁹
1952	CE	1966	CE	Purchased	Fairfax County Park Authority bought the 16 acres amusement park tract from the county. ²⁰
1960	CE	1966	CE	Land Transfer	PEPCO leases the remaining park area to NPS. Fairfax and NPS jointly run the park. ²¹
1966	CE	present		Purchased	NPS acquires both areas of land from Fairfax County and PEPCO, and Great Falls Park officially becomes a unit of the George Washington Memorial Parkway. ²²

Physical History

Pre-NPS Management

The land now known as Great Falls Park has been utilized by humans for centuries. It was originally used by indigenous people as evidenced by petroglyphs on the cliff walls that are estimated to date sometime prior to 500 A.D. By the 1500s, Algonquian and Iroquoian-speaking Susquehannocks were the major tribes in the area and used it for hunting and fishing. The Tauxenent people were believed to have lived the closest to the Great Falls in

the 17th century. In 1649, King Charles II gave royal lands grants to Lord Culpeper and six other supporters. During this time, native residents began to be pushed out of the area.²³

The Patowmack Navigation Company was established in 1785 with a mission to build skirting canals along unnavigable sections of the Potomac, such as Great Falls, to expand commerce further west. George Washington was president of the company's Board of Directors. Construction began on the canal at Great Falls in 1786, and the workers consisted of white laborers and a mix of free and enslaved African Americans. After several financial and design setbacks, the Great Falls canal opened in February 1802. The speculative town of Matildaville was established in 1790 along the canal, but it was mostly developed by the Pawtomack Company. Commercial developments such as the Potts & Wilson Forge/Foundry and the Briggs Gristmill were also built.²⁴

The Patowmack Canal became financially unviable and ended operations in 1827. Its assets were absorbed by the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal Company, which abandoned the Great Falls canal in 1830 and opened the C&O Canal on the Maryland side later in the 1830s. With the closing of the canal, the adjacent businesses of the gristmill and foundry also closed, and Matildaville failed to flourish. According to 1822 tax assessment records, only five residences were built.²⁵

The Great Falls Manufacturing Company bought the property in 1854, but no manufacturing operations ever materialized. During this time, the few residences in Matildaville continued to be occupied. One of the buildings began to operate as Dickey's Inn

as early as 1873. The property was sold to the Great Falls Power Company (GFPC) in 1895, but again, a major industrialization of the property failed to materialize.²⁶

At the turn of the century, John McLean, owner of the *Washington Post*, and West Virginia Senator Stephen B. Elkins constructed a trolley line, the Great Fall & Old Dominion Railway, from Georgetown to Great Falls, and built the Great Falls Amusement Park at the terminus. They bought the right-of-way, approximately 18 acres, outright in 1906, and opened the amusement park the same year. The falls were the main attraction of the amusement park, with an observation tower built for optimal views. The amusement park also had a carousel, Great Falls Inn restaurant, dance pavilion, and lover's lane walk. The park became a popular spot for people of all ages who wanted to escape the city and enjoy nature.²⁷

The Great Fall & Old Dominion Railway became part of the Washington & Old Dominion (W&OD) Railroad after 1911, which eventually ceased operation in 1934 because of the Great Depression and the rise of the automobile. Fairfax County seized the land due to unpaid taxes in 1935. They removed the tracks, installed Old Dominion Drive, and the park continued to operate. The amusement park land was sold to the Fairfax County Park Authority in 1952 after final bankruptcy of the W&OD. The surrounding 750 acres was sold by GFPC to the Potomac Electric Power Company (PEPCO) in 1947. In 1951, PEPCO was already leaning towards preservation and transfer of the property to the US government. They began leasing their 750 acres to the National Park Service in 1960.²⁸

NPS Mission 66: 1960-1972

The National Park Service co-managed Great Falls Park with Fairfax County Park Authority from 1960 to 1966. Even though NPS was leasing the property, it was always the intention that they would eventually buy it outright. Therefore, they began planning and building during this time. By February 1965, an “Interpretive Prospectus” was developed for the park, which included the framework for a visitor center with exhibits and ideas for trails. An undated “Study Drawing” plan, believed to have been from this time frame, found at the George Washington Memorial Parkway Archives showed the proposed north parking lots and visitor center locations. In 1965, NPS built those two parking lots along with a comfort station. Plans for the visitor center were also in motion. The architecture firm of Kent Cooper and Associates submitted preliminary drawings in July 1965.²⁹

In 1966, NPS finally acquired the property. For the PEPCO parcel, they did a land swap in addition to paying \$975,000, and Fairfax County agreed to donate their 16 acres if they could continue to collect parking fees at the park.³⁰ The first Master Plan was completed in September 1967, but a revised version was drafted in 1969. NPS continued to work on Great Falls Park as they were completing that Master Plan. They began construction for the visitor center in 1967, and it opened quietly the week of July 7, 1969, according to the Director’s weekly report.³¹ The park was interested in preserving the historic features, like the canal, gristmill, and foundry, but they wanted to demolish all other structures, including the Great Falls Inn and several cabins. These structures can be seen in the Existing Condition Plan from the 1969 Master Plan (Figure 5). The Great Falls Inn, which had continued to serve as the concession facility for the park until the visitor center, was demolished in June 1969.³²

NPS chose this course of action because the building was falling apart, and it was also partially built in the historic canal basin.³³ The last feature built during this time was the south parking lot, west of the entrance station, in 1972.

Figure 5. Existing Conditions Map, Great Fall Park Master Plan 1969 (NARA Suitland).

Analysis & Evaluation

Analysis and Evaluation Summary

Pre-Mission 66 Features

Elements from previous land uses are still present today and are incorporated into the use and planning of the park. The canal, while no longer functional, is still a visible surface feature. Some areas still have the full wall and locks visible, but the canal is dry. Within the Great Falls Park – North inventory unit area, either a grassy swale exists where the canal path ran or the canal basin has water in it. All of the locks are outside of the inventory unit area. There are still Matildaville ruins present and visible from trails, but those are also outside of the inventory unit area. The prehistoric petroglyphs are also outside of the Great Falls Park North area. The archeological sites of the foundry and grist mill are within the inventory unit boundaries. While none of these structures or sites are “functional” features, they were interpretive features highlighted in the NPS planning for Great Falls Park.

All of the structures from the amusement park era are gone. However, some were still extant when the NPS bought the park and some of the circulation from that era was incorporated and still remains. Most notably, the locations of the overlooks are from the amusement park period. They are viewing areas to see the Great Falls, the main attraction and namesake of the park. A viewing tower allowed visitors to get amazing views of the falls, but it appears to have been destroyed by the time NPS began managing the park. It is hard to see if it is still extant in the 1960 aerial photo, but appears to be gone in the 1972 aerial (Appendix A). The overlook areas have been modified at least twice over the years since NPS took ownership, with the most recent change being updating concrete slabs and

metal railings to stone walls, wood railings, and wooden decking in the early 2000s. The locations of the overlooks, however, are believed to have remained the same.

Mission 66 Features

The Mission 66 era planning for Great Falls Park incorporated and was influenced by many of the exiting features mentioned. While Great Falls Park does not appear in detail in the “National Capital Parks Preliminary Prospectus” (1955-1960) because it was not managed by NPS until 1960, it did have a Master Plan prepared in 1967 and superseded with a more robust plan in 1969. Generally, a master plan is completed before design and construction, however, many of the NPS constructed features, such as the comfort station, north parking lots, and visitor center, were developed at the same time as the master plan.

The visitor center and courtyard, designed by architect Kent Cooper in a modernist style typical of Mission 66, are situated by the existing overlooks. The visitor center is already recognized for being an excellent example of Mission 66 architecture in the NRHP nomination for Great Falls Park Historic District, but the other features are not. The location of resources built by NPS led visitors on a particular circulation path. This was typical of Mission 66 planning goals to have a structured visitor experience. NPS also incorporated large parking lots, a comfort station, picnic areas, and trails as part of this planning around visitor experience. The Mission 66 plan for Great Falls Park incorporated these aspects and most are still extant.

Landscape Characteristics and Features

Figure 6. General Use and Development Plan, Great Fall Park Master Plan 1969 (NARA Suitland).

Natural Systems and Features

Natural systems and features that have significantly influenced the development of the Great Falls Park – North cultural landscape include geology, geomorphology, hydrology, and native vegetation.

The geology and geomorphology the Potomac River and Great Falls are directly responsible for the types of development that occurred. This area is the Fall Line between the Piedmont and Coastal Plain geological areas. As the falls made the river unnavigable, the canal was located here to allow boats to go around the falls and continue up the Potomac River. The potential of this new transportation route was the reason Matildaville and

businesses like the Potts & Wilson Forge/Foundry and the Briggs Gristmill were built. The potential power of the falls and river were also why companies like the Great Falls Manufacturing Company, Great Falls Power Company, and the Potomac Electric Power Company were interested in developing the site. The view of the falls was also the determining factor in the location of the Great Falls Amusement Park and the Great Falls & Old Dominion Railway.

Due to the proximity to the river, the area is prone to flooding during major storm events, like hurricanes. A “High Water Marks” pole by Overlook #3 indicates the flood water level during storms in 1936, 1937, 1942, 1972, 1985, and 1996.



Figure 7. High Water marks sign by Overlook #3, 2023 (photo by author).

Prior to colonization, the area was naturally wooded.³⁴ Some of the vegetation in the cultural landscape area was likely cleared for the multiple industrial and recreational activities including the canal in the late 18th century and the amusement park in the early 1900s. Since NPS has been managing the park, the focus has been on maintaining the natural resources and environment as well as preservation of the remaining historic resources.³⁵ The natural systems and features remain the same today as the historic condition.

Spatial Organization

Great Falls Park – North was organized in a very specific way for vehicular and pedestrian traffic. The parking lots were placed near the entrance to create minimal vehicular movement within the park. The parking lots were placed next to the visitor center to encourage visitors to proceed there first. The visitor center was intentionally a low-profile building near the falls, but far enough away that existing trees blocked the view to the river. Once visitors made their way through the visitor center, they dispersed out into the park to enjoy the trails, overlooks, picnic areas, and the historic canal and Matildaville features. This organization and layout remain the same today.

Land Use

The prehistoric land uses prior to colonization were hunting and fishing camps. During the time of the Patowmack Canal, the main function was as a transportation route. Tertiary uses included residential, such as Matildaville, and industrial, such as the grist mill and forge. The area transitioned to recreational use with the building of the Great Falls Amusement Park. Transportation was also a major land use at this time as the Great Falls & Old Dominion Railway was built to bring people from Washington DC to the park. When Fairfax

County, and later the National Park Service, managed the park, recreation along with preservation of historic and natural areas was the main use and management style. This has remained as the current use today.

Topography

Figure 8. Topographic map for Great Falls Manufacturing Company by John De la Camp, 1866 (Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division).

The existing topography of the cultural landscape area prior to the NPS management was and continues to be mostly flat. This helped inform the location of the parking lots, visitor center, trails, and picnic areas in the original design. It made it easy to both construct the features and for visitors to access and navigate the space. Minor grading was likely done for construction of the parking lots and visitor center for accessibility and drainage purposes. The topography at the edge of the cultural landscape is a drastic drop at the falls along the river and Mather Gorge. This creates a natural boundary to the space and provides the opportunity for the dramatic views of the falls and river.

Vegetation

Before colonization, the area was predominately woodlands. In the 1866 Topographic Map (see Figure 8) for the Great Falls Manufacturing Company, a mix of hardwood forest, meadows, and cultivated land existed in the cultural landscape area. In an aerial photograph from 1960, just prior to NPS development activities, the site appears to have been mostly wooded again, with a few small areas cleared for parking and roads (Appendix A).

Most of the vegetation on the site is in naturalized areas, with the exception of the area around the visitor center and courtyard and the north parking lots. The parking lots currently have species of trees, mostly oaks, that are considered canopy trees. Most of them are on the small side and not likely from the 1960s. It is unknown what the original planting scheme was for the parking lots. Even if the historic Mission 66 condition did not contain trees, the presence of trees in this area is compatible and not detrimental to the historic character. Currently in Fairfax County, and many jurisdictions nationwide, trees are actually required to be planted in parking areas to combat the heat island effect caused by large areas of dark pavement and to slow stormwater runoff. As for the visitor center and courtyard, based on historic photos from 1969, there was no vegetation in the courtyard in the original design. Today, there are two large maple trees and several smaller multi-stemmed trees. The current vegetation is incompatible with the historic design and distracts from the straight lines that dominate the design features of the building and courtyard. Additionally, the two large maples in the courtyard are intrusive and could be potential hazards to the building given their proximity.

Figure 9. Visitor center and courtyard looking north, September 1969 showing no vegetation in the courtyard (Museum Resource Center, NPS).



Figure 10. Visitor center and courtyard looking north, 2022, with large maple tree in middle of the space (photo by author).

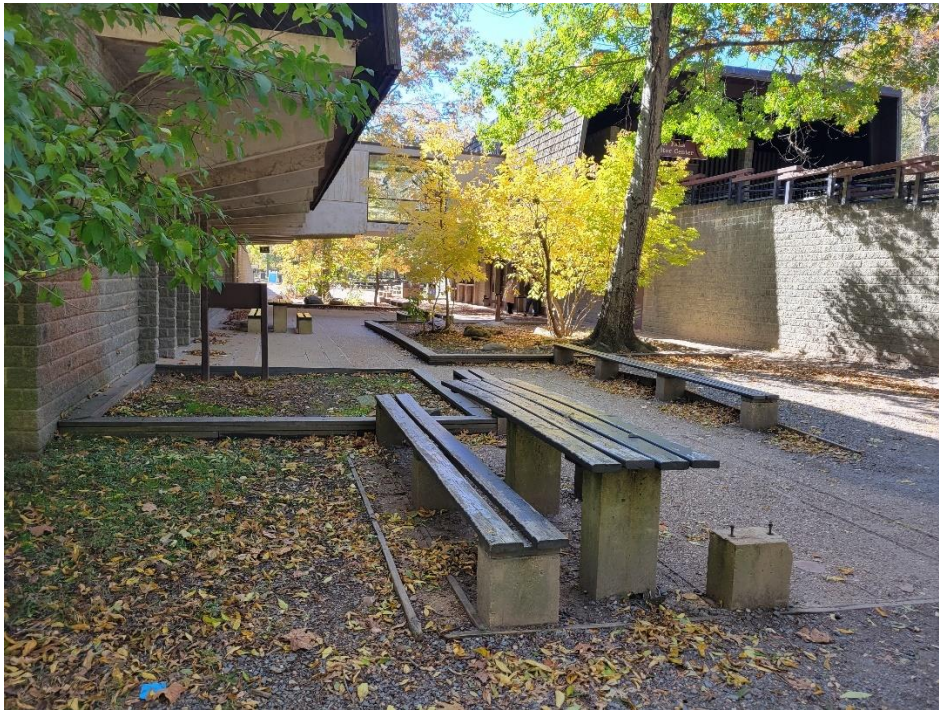


Figure 11. Courtyard looking south, 2022, with second large maple tree and smaller trees in middle of the space (photo by author).

Circulation

Parking Lots – Contributing

There are three parking lots at Great Falls Park, the Upper North Parking Lot, Lower North Parking Lot, and the South Parking Lot. It is believed that all of these were built by the National Park Service during the period of significance. The two North Parking Lots appear to have been built in 1966 and can be seen in the aerial photo from 1972 (Appendix A). A NPS report from May 1966 lists “parking areas and access road” as constructed in fiscal year 1966 at a cost of \$190,500.³⁶ A construction document from 1972 shows the proposed plans for the South Parking Lot³⁷, and it is assumed it was built soon after. Both appear to retain the same layout as shown in the documents from that era.

The North Parking Lots follow the Mission 66 design philosophy of having a large parking area adjacent to the visitor experience features. This allowed motor vehicles to be consolidated in one spot that could reduce wear and tear and be separate from pedestrian traffic. The circulation then immediately transitioned into the pedestrian space of the visitor center. The South Parking Lot was originally an unpaved parking area close to features from the amusement park. Installing the paved, formal parking lot helped to organize visitors and protect the surrounding natural area from wear and tear.



Figure 12. Top of Upper North Parking Lot looking south, 2023 (photo by author).



Figure 13. Top of Lower North Parking Lot looking south, 2023 (photo by author).

Figure 14. Plan for South Parking Lot, 1972 (eTIC, NPS).



Figure 15. South Parking Lot looking southeast, 2023 (photo by author).

Courtyard - Contributing

The designed courtyard area follows the same modern design and feel as the surrounding visitor center. It is situated between the two buildings and is a great example of the Modernism design feature of integrating indoor and outdoor spaces. It functions as an outdoor room for the visitor center. This area is where visitors access bathrooms and concessions. The layout and features present today mostly follow the original design. The pavement is concrete with wood spacers. There are areas that appear to have been crushed stone (see Figure 17), but have since become planting beds (see Figure 18). It is unknown when this change occurred. The planting beds today have a 6-inch wood border. It is assumed this is to keep people from walking through them. While this addition is compatible visually, it appears to have caused drainage issues and should be addressed. The tables and

benches in the courtyard appear to remain the same as in the original design. They have square concrete pillars as the support with long slatted wood tops. It is unlikely the wood is original, but it has been replaced in-kind over the years. The concrete water fountains shown in Figure 17 are no longer extant. A metal water fountain has replaced it. On the north end of the courtyard where the ramp to the visitor center entrance begins, modern stairs and a ramp have been added to meet accessibility requirements.



Figure 16. Modern stairs and ramp leading from the parking lot to the visitor center courtyard, looking north, 2023 (Angelina Jones, NPS).

Figure 17. Visitor center and courtyard close up, September 1969 (Museum Resource Center, NPS).



Figure 18. Visitor center and courtyard close up, 2023. Layout and material in the courtyard remain the same with the exception of the missing water fountain and the addition of the large tree (photo by author).

Overlooks #1, #2, and #3 - Contributing

The location of the trails to the overlooks and their connection to the visitor center is a historic contributing feature. The locations date back to the amusement park era and were utilized by NPS when they began to manage the park. The circulation, location, feeling, and association are intact and contributing, but the small-scale features of the overlooks, such as the stone walls, wood railings, and wood decking, date to the early 2000s³⁸ and are non-contributing.



Figure 19. Aerial map, 2022, showing current overlook locations (Fairfax County Historical Imagery Viewer).

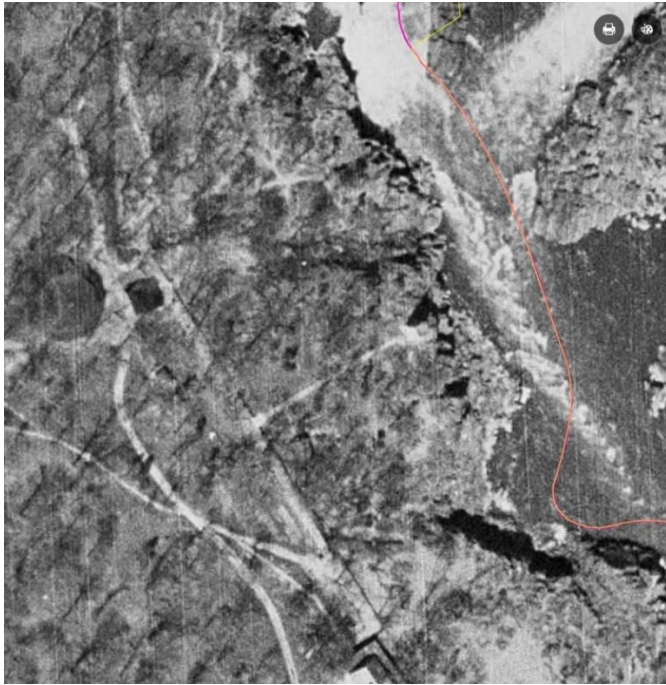


Figure 20. Aerial map, 1937, showing trails to historic overlook locations (Fairfax County Historical Imagery Viewer).

Picnic Area – Contributing

The picnic area is an informal space of tables and grills scattered in a flat area of widely spaced trees. For Mission 66 planning, having designated picnic areas generally helped preserve resources by keeping crowds in one area. When the Park Service took over Great Falls, the picnic area was located by Overlooks #2 and #3, near the Great Falls Inn. To better protect park resources and improve circulation, the Park Service intentionally relocated the picnic areas away from the sensitive natural area of the overlooks and put it closer to the parking lots and visitor center which had the concessions. The exact date of this transition is not known. It is believed that most if not all of the current small-scale features, such as picnic tables and trash cans, are not original as outdoor items like these have a limited lifespan.

However, the general locations of those items and the overall layout and feeling of the space remains intact.



Figure 21. Picnic area looking northwest, 2023 (photo by author).

Buildings and Structures

Visitor Center – Contributing

Completed in 1969 and designed by Kent Cooper, the visitor center is an excellent example of Mission 66 architecture. It is already recognized for this on the NRHP listing for Great Falls Park Historic District, NR #1. NPS has also recently completed a Historic Structure Report in 2023 that goes into great detail about the historic condition and current integrity of the structure.

The building’s innovative design represents two canal boats passing each other. It incorporates several features distinctive to Mission 66 “Park Service Modern” design,

including a low profile and massing, modern materials, and integration of indoor and outdoor spaces where the courtyard serves as a room. The visitor center serves as the point of entry for visitors. It is the transition from car to pedestrian circulation. People go into the visitor center to learn about the park and interpretation and then proceed outside to the overlooks, picnic areas, canal, and trails to experience the park. While there is a picture window on the second floor facing the river, it intentionally does not have any views of the falls from the building because they are best seen from the overlooks.

In a letter dated April 21, 1967, from Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall to Senator Harry Byrd, Udall addressed concerns the Fairfax Historical Landmarks Preservation Commission had about the new visitor center. Regarding the design, he said “the choice of the modernistic design was with purpose and not accidental.” He went on to also elaborate why the visitor center would only house exhibits and not views of the falls:

Through each media and exhibit we will seek to make the area come alive in interest that beckons one out into the open, to the nature trails, the study of centuries past as told in geologic formations, and to the many prepared overlooks where one can see and experience the grandeur of the Potomac gorge and its vertical granite walls, hear the roar of the rushing waters over the majestic falls, feel the mist rise up from the river, and glimpse a rainbow when conditions are just right. All this is why the building provides no window and why we would never want to deprive a visitor of this unforgettable experience through man’s attempt to excel nature by any such deceptive feature at the visitor center as ‘an observation type upper porch or an enclosed lobby.’ ... To be satisfactory, the observation porch or deck idea would truly render it necessary to clear all trees between the visitor center and the falls. While at present we have a reasonable screen of natural growth to reduce the awareness of the presence of the building.

Secretary Udall also provided insight as to why the visitor center location was chosen:

A great deal of study went into the selection of a site for the visitor center. Full consideration was given to the protection of the natural as

well as historic scene to assure the maximum conservation of the woodland setting and to provide for the normal flow of visitors from the permanently established parking lots to and through the center and on to the overlooks at the falls. Before the design was confirmed, cross trenches were first prepared to insure that no historic structure once stood on the site selected. Other factors which had to be weighed included the trace of the old Patowmack Canal on one side, and the Dulles International Interceptor Sewer (underground) and the main entrance road to the park on the other, as well as the proximity to the parking lots. All these factors are amicably served by the site selected. Neither the canal nor the view of the falls will be adversely affected by the presence of the visitor center on the site selected.

Today, the visitor center remains in the same location, still surrounded by woodlands and the other features mentioned in Secretary Udall's letter. While the building is in need of some repair, it retains all seven aspects of historic integrity to the Mission 66 design: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.



Figure 22. Visitor center building in park setting, looking northeast, 2023 (Angelina Jones, NPS).

Visitor Entrance Building – Non-contributing

The entrance ticket building is located where the Great Falls & Old Dominion trolley line station previously sat (Appendix A). The building, however, dates to 2003. It is listed on the National Register form for Great Falls Historic District as NR #2 and a non-contributing building.³⁹ It is a small 1-story wooden building with a wooden shingle roof. While not original, the appearance and form are compatible with the historic character.



Figure 23. Visitor entrance building looking northwest, 2023 (Angelina Jones, NPS).

Park Maintenance Buildings – Undetermined

The primary maintenance building dates to 1969 according to the National Register form for Great Falls Historic District and is listed as resource NR #3 as a non-contributing building.⁴⁰ The exact date of construction was unable to be verified with any NPS documentation. A Weekly Report by the GWMP Superintendent from June 23, 1969 mentions an existing “modest cinderblock structure used to house maintenance facilities.”⁴¹ that was inherited from Fairfax County. It is likely this is the same building, however, if it was built during the Mission 66 era, it could be considered contributing for this cultural landscape.

Prior to Mission 66, maintenance was centralized for parks, but incorporating maintenance yards near the park visitor facilities allowed for better maintenance and therefore, better visitor experience.⁴² The building is made of efficient and economical concrete blocks, which was typical for the era. Its current appearance is similar to its historical condition with the exception that it is painted dark brown. The entire area is enclosed by a tall wooden fence which is consistent with the historic condition. The area also has five smaller prefabricated sheds and a brown metal prefabricated trailer. It is unknown if these other structures are historic, but it is unlikely.

Figure 24. Maintenance Building, looking west, 1969 (Museum Resource Center, NPS).



Figure 25. Maintenance Building, looking west, 2023 (Photo by Angelina Jones, NPS).

Comfort Station – Contributing

The Comfort Station was built in 1965. While the exact construction date is unknown, construction documents from May 1964 show the proposed building and utilities⁴³, and a report from May 1966 lists the comfort station as constructed in fiscal year 1965 at a cost of \$54,600⁴⁴. The comfort station is identified in the 2019 “Design and Maintenance Guidelines: Mission 66 Comfort Stations, National Capital Region” as a contributing resource. It is identified as Type D in the report with “rectangular massing, a low-pitched gable roof with overhang eaves, stacked CMU construction, horizontal ribbon windows with cast concrete sills, and CMU wing walls that serve as privacy screens.”⁴⁵ The building still looks like the proposed plans from 1964, and the historic integrity of the exterior appears to be intact. The interior conditions and features are unknown as it was closed at the time of inspection.



Figure 26. Comfort Station, 2023 (photo by author).

Figure 27. Comfort Station construction drawings, 1964 (GWMP Archives, NPS).

Views and Vistas

Overlook #1, #2, and #3 – Contributing

The locations of these overlooks date to the amusement park use. They provide the best vantage point to see the Great Falls, and these views are one of the main reasons visitors come to the park. The views of the falls from these locations has not changed and retains its historical integrity.



Figure 28. View from Overlook #1 looking north, 2023 (Angelina Jones, NPS).

Figure 29. View from Olmstead Island of amusement park overlooks, ca. 1930: dance pavilion (left) and viewing tower (right) (Virginia Room, Fairfax County Library).



Figure 30. View from Olmstead Island today, 2023. Overlook #3 (left) and Overlook #2 (right) are located where the amusement park ones were (photo by author).

Figure 31. Concrete overlook platform and metal railing looking north, ca 1970s, assumed to be Overlook #3 (Virginia Room, Fairfax County Library).



Figure 32. Overlook #3 looking north showing stone wall and wooden railing, 2023 (photo by author).

Constructed Water Features

Patowmack Canal – Contributing

The canal predates the NPS ownership, but was a main interpretive element in the Mission 66 era Master Plan which makes it a contributing resource to this cultural landscape. Part of the canal in this inventory unit, from where it meets the Potomac River north of the Great Falls to the visitor center, is filled with water. The basin of other sections remains, but is a vegetated grass swale. The Patowmack Canal Trail runs next to both of these canal sections. Extensive restoration work was done by NPS Historic Preservation Training Center in the early 2000s. All of the canal locks are outside of this cultural landscape area. The exact condition of the canal when the park began managing the park is unknown, but it has always been intended to be a historic interpretive feature and preserved for that use.



Figure 33. Canal section by top end of Lower North Parking Lot filled with water looking southwest, 2023 (photo by author).



Figure 34. Patowmack Canal Trail in the center, canal basin on the right is now a vegetated swale, looking south, 2023 (Angelina Jones, NPS).

Small-Scale Features

Park Police Station foundation – Non-contributing

A small concrete slab between the picnic area and the canal was previously the foundation of a small Park Police Station. It is not known when this was built, but it is believed to have been from Fairfax County and was slated to be removed in 1969 according to the GWMP Superintendent's Weekly Report from June 23, 1969.⁴⁶

Figure 35. Park Police building on the left, Great Falls Inn in background, looking south, ca. 1968 (Virginia Room, Fairfax County Library).



Figure 36. Park Police building foundation, looking east, 2023 (Angelina Jones, NPS).

Overlook #1, #2, and #3 walls, railings, benches, paving - Non-Contributing

While the circulation and location of the overlooks is contributing, the current materials and small-scale features, such as the stone walls, railings, benches, and stone edges are not historic and were added in 2005. The exact evolution of small-scale features at the overlooks is unknown. During the amusement park era, a tower actually stood at Overlook #2. In a 1972 aerial photo from Fairfax County, there appeared to only be small concrete slabs at Overlooks #2 and #3 (Appendix A). This matches up with the ca. 1970s photo from Fairfax County Library (see Figure 31) that shows a concrete pad and metal railing at an unspecified overlook that is assumed to be Overlook #3 based on the angle of the falls in the background.

While the current features are non-contributing, they are compatible. The stone wall and wooden railing provide increased safety for visitors. They have a low profile and blend into the natural surroundings.



Figure 37. Overlook #2 showing wood railings, stone walls, and wood decking, looking north, 2023 (photo by author).

Mather Gorge Dedication Plaque - Contributing

This plaque commemorates the naming of the gorge as Mather Gorge in memory of Stephen Mather, the first director of the National Park Service. This is not to be confused with the Mather Memorial Plaques that are found in national parks across the country. It was dedicated April 17, 1969.



Figure 38. Mather Gorge plaque, 2023 (photo by author).

Archeological Sites

Forge Site - Contributing

The Potts & Wilson Forge/Foundry Site (NR #36) is listed as contributing to the Great Falls Historic District. It is also contributing to this Mission 66 cultural landscape as it was incorporated as an interpretive element in the planning.

Mill Site - Contributing

The Samuel Briggs Gristmill site (NR#35) is listed as contributing to the Great Falls Historic District. It is also contributing to this Mission 66 cultural landscape as it was incorporated as an interpretive element in the planning.

Condition Assessment

Conditions

Condition

Fair to Good

Narrative

The overall condition of the cultural landscape is fair to good. The deterioration appears to be caused by everyday natural and human forces. Erosion from stormwater is a main issue in the parking lots and courtyard.

Impacts

Table of Impacts

Type	Narrative	Date Identified
Deferred Maintenance	Several features in the courtyard require maintenance. Several benches are missing the wood seat. The concrete slab needs repair in several places.	01/2023
Erosion	Bare soil in the medians of the North Parking Lots is being eroded. This area should be seeded to fix the current issue and prevent further erosion and damage.	01/2023
Improper Drainage	Evidence of sedimentation around the courtyard indicates improper drainage. The courtyard should be evaluated to make sure all water is draining to an inlet and not impeded by grading or structures. Stormwater pipes should also be examined to make sure they are not clogged.	01/2023

Type	Narrative	Date Identified
Vegetation/Invasive Plants	The large trees in the courtyard are not only incompatible features to the historic design, but pose a potential hazard to the building given their close proximity.	01/2023

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- ³ "Mission 66" MDPF Section F, p. 59
- ⁴ Carr, *Mission 66* p. 3
- ⁵ "Mission 66" MDPF Section E, p. 1. The 3 phases of Mission 66.
- ⁶ "Mission 66-Era Visitor Centers, Administration Buildings, and Public Use Areas in the National Capital Region of the National Park Service." National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form (draft). 2021 Section E, p. 2-4. Paragraph is summary of history, quote is from p.3.
- ⁷ "Mission 66, National Capital Region" MDPF, Section E, p. 4
- ⁸ Walsh, Margaret. "Gender and the Automobile in the United States."
- ⁹ "Mission 66, National Capital Region" MDPF, Section E, p. 6, Paragraph is summary of history.
- ¹⁰ Ibid. Section E, p. 7-8, Paragraph is summary of history, quote is from p.7.
- ¹¹ Paula S. Reed & Associates, Inc. "National Register of Historic Places Form: Greats Falls Park Historic District." 2014. Section 8, p. 25-26
- ¹² Ibid. Section 8, p. 26
- ¹³ Ibid. Section 8, p. 29-31, 35-38, Paragraph is summary of history.
- ¹⁴ "Visitor Center Historic Structure Report" p 33, "Great Falls Park Historic District" NRHP Section 8, p. 43
- ¹⁵ "Great Falls Park Historic District" NRHP Section 8, p. 46-47
- ¹⁶ Ibid. Section 8, p. 47, Paragraph is summary of history.
- ¹⁷ Ibid.
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- ²⁹ Ibid. Section 8, p. 45
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- ³¹ "Weekly Report to the Director, July 7-11, 1969"
- ³² "Visitor Center Historic Structure Report" p 51
- ³³ Floyd Taylor letter to President of National Park Association, Feb 14, 1967
- ³⁴ "Great Falls Park Historic District" NRHP Section 8, p. 24
- ³⁵ "Great Falls Master Plan", 1969, p. 42
- ³⁶ "Report: George Washington Canal", p.10
- ³⁷ "Proposed Parking Plan", 1972
- ³⁸ "Overlooks: Great Falls Park Construction Drawings", 2003
- ³⁹ "Great Falls Historic District" NRHP Section 7, p. 4
- ⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ "Weekly Report" June 23, 1969

⁴² "Mission 66" MDPF Section F, p.71

⁴³ "Utility System & Comfort Station." Construction drawings. May 7, 1964

⁴⁴ "Report: George Washington Canal", p.10

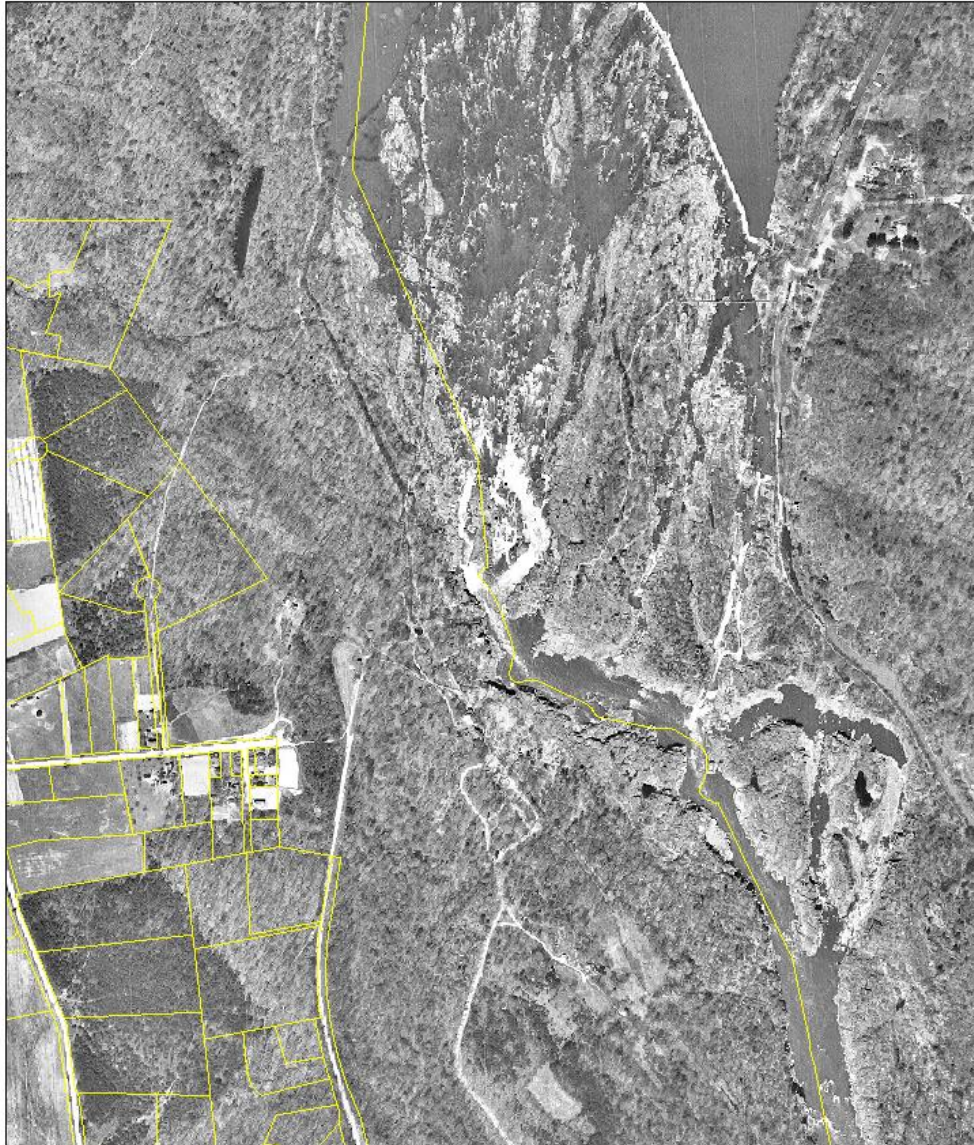
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Appendix A – Aerial Photographs

1937 – Fairfax County Historical Imagery Viewer

Fairfax County Imagery



5/21/2023, 2:29:18 PM

 Parcels

1:9,028
0 0.05 0.1 0.2 mi
0 0.07 0.15 0.3 km

Fairfax County, VA, MNCPPC, VITA, Esri, HERE, Garmin, INCREMENT P, Intermap, USGS, METI/NASA, EPA, USDA

Fairfax County Historical Imagery Viewer
Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA, NPS | The shared efforts of the USGS, NGS and Fairfax County DPW&ES/Surveys branch for verification and upkeep of the actual ground

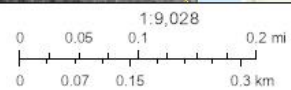
1960 – Fairfax County Historical Imagery Viewer

Fairfax County Imagery



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 Parcels



Fairfax County, VA, MNCPPC, VITA, Esri, HERE, Garmin, INCREMENT P, Intermap, USGS, MET/NASA, EPA, USDA

Fairfax County Historical Imagery Viewer
Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA, NPS | The shared efforts of the USGS, NGS and Fairfax County DPW&ES/Surveys branch for verification and upkeep of the actual ground

1972 – Fairfax County Historical Imagery Viewer

Fairfax County Imagery



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 Parcels

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Fairfax County, VA, MNCPPC, VITA, Esri, HERE, Garmin, INCREMENT P, Intermap, USGS, METI/NASA, EPA, USDA

Fairfax County Historical Imagery Viewer
Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA, NPS | The shared efforts of the USGS, NGS and Fairfax County DPW&ES/Surveys branch for verification and upkeep of the actual ground

2022 – Fairfax County Historical Imagery Viewer

Fairfax County Imagery



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 Parcels

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Fairfax County, VA, MNCPPC, VITA, Esri, HERE, Garmin, INCREMENT P, Intermap, USGS, METI/NASA, EPA, USDA

Fairfax County Historical Imagery Viewer
Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA, NPS | The shared efforts of the USGS, NGS and Fairfax County DPW&ES/Surveys branch for verification and upkeep of the actual ground