

**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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.

**1. Name of Property**Historic name: Kalorama Park and Archaeological SiteOther names/site number: Kalorama Park Archaeological Site 51NW061; John Little House SiteName of related multiple property listing:  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

**2. Location**Street & number: 1875 Columbia Road NW

City or town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Not For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:\_\_\_\_\_ national \_\_\_\_\_ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A \_\_\_\_\_ B \_\_\_\_\_ C X D\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of certifying official/Title:****Date**\_\_\_\_\_  
**State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of commenting official:****Date**\_\_\_\_\_  
**Title :****State or Federal agency/bureau  
or Tribal Government**

Kalorama Park and Archaeological Site  
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.  
County and State

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#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register  
☐ determined eligible for the National Register  
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register  
☐ removed from the National Register  
☐ other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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#### 5. Classification

##### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private: ☐  
Public – Local ☒  
Public – State ☐  
Public – Federal ☐

##### Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s) ☐  
District ☐  
Site ☒  
Structure ☐  
Object ☐



Kalorama Park and Archaeological Site  
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.  
County and State

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

N/A

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: N/A

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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#### Summary Paragraph

The Kalorama Park and Archaeological Site consists of the 3.17-acre Kalorama Park in the Kalorama Triangle Historic District neighborhood of northwest Washington, D.C., and Archaeological Site 51NW0061, also known as the Kalorama Park Archaeological Site, which occupies a two-acre, below-surface portion of the park. Officially dedicated in 1949, Kalorama Park is a public park and playground bounded by Columbia Road on the east, Kalorama Road on the south, 19th Street on the west, and the rear property lines of houses and apartment buildings facing Mintwood Place on the north. The park is a popular community park in the Kalorama Triangle Historic District and larger neighborhood and includes sizeable mature trees shading open lawn areas and walking paths, a community garden, a basketball court, playground equipment spaces, and a field house.

Archaeological investigations in 2009 revealed that a two-acre portion of the park holds below-grade remains of structures and artifacts associated with the manor-house grounds of a large slave-holding farm owned by John Little. This domestic complex was part of the larger 56-acre Little farm property. The manor house stood on the site from approximately 1836 until 1937

Kalorama Park and Archaeological Site

Washington, D.C.

Name of Property

County and State

when it was demolished. In 2010, the site was listed in the D.C. Inventory of Historic Sites as the Kalorama Park Archaeological Site, 51NW061.

Following demolition of the manor house, the National Capital Park Commission purchased 3.17 acres of the former Little property, in two separate transactions in 1942 and 1946, for use as a park. In 1947, plans for the park were prepared and in 1949, the park was opened to the public. Although the park was not fully implemented according to the 1947 plans, the overall plan and essential elements of the landscape design were fulfilled and remain intact today.

The Kalorama Park and Archaeological Site includes two contributing sites—the Kalorama Park Archaeological Site and the Kalorama Park—and one non-contributing building. The non-contributing building is the field house within the Park proper.

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## **Narrative Description**

### Kalorama Park

Kalorama Park is a 3.17-acre pie-shaped site located in the Kalorama Triangle Historic District in the Kalorama Triangle neighborhood in northwest Washington, D.C. designed in 1947 and opened to the public in 1949. The park, bordered on the east by Columbia Road and on the west by 19th Street, occupies a very slight rise of land in the area, and represents the topographical highpoint of the area. The central-eastern and northeastern parts of the park are relatively level land that rises a few feet from Columbia Road. From this level area at the top of the park, the land slopes on its southern and western sides, from 182 feet above sea level at the top of the park, to about 172 feet at its southwest corner and 160 feet at its northwest corner.

In the larger context of the history of urban-park design, Kalorama Park is a hybrid of styles. Its meandering circulation paths and mature shade trees harken back to the 19th century pleasure garden, while its playgrounds and ball-courts are indicative of the Progressive era and mid-20th century emphasis on active recreation and supervised play areas for children. Some of the trees in the park are large specimens that rise up to 42 feet high. According to a recent assessment by a landscape architect, “some large Oaks and Beeches are old enough to be original to the forest cover as we know it in the 18th century.”

By combining quiet, naturalistic settings as well as areas for playgrounds and sports, Kalorama Park’s designers came up with a plan that provided ample opportunities for recreation for all ages. The 1947 park plan comprised several important features, including an entrance court leading into the park from Columbia Road, an open central lawn, a rectangular plaza area and distinct playground areas and ball courts reached by meandering paths. These intact features are integral to the character of the park and are described below.

The principal entrance to the park is reached from Columbia Road through a formal Entrance Court located near the mid-point of the length of the park as it extends along Columbia Road. The court is raised above sidewalk level and accessed by a set of stairs with six concrete steps extending 20-feet long. The stairs are enclosed at either end by 43-inch-high stone walls made

Kalorama Park and Archaeological Site

Washington, D.C.

Name of Property

County and State

of Kensington tonalite, capped with ashlar bluestone slabs that measure 32 inches. At park level, the entry walk is paved in ornamental red bricks engraved with names of donors. (Mara and Mary—do you know the date of this brick paving?)

The entrance walk opens perpendicular to and on-center with the open, central Lawn Area. The central lawn generally occupies the site of the former manor house. Nearly free of trees, it is approximately 100 feet long (north-south) and 70 feet deep (east-west) at its widest point. Framed by paths on its four sides, the central lawn is generally rectangular in plan but with a curved path on the west length of the lawn arching outwards.

The central lawn is designed with a north-south axis extending through its center. The southern end of this axis terminates at a secondary entrance into the park at its southern end at 19th Street and Columbia Road. The northern end of this axis cuts through a rectangular plaza area and terminates at the park's shelter house/field house.

The rectangular plaza between the shelter house and the central Lawn Area is identified in the 1947 park plan as a children's spray area. The spray area has been removed, but a surrounding seating area remains configured according to the 1947 plan. The plaza is partially surrounded by privet hedge, with plantings in each corner.

The shelter house/field house, completed in 1949, is a single-story brick building with a hipped roof covered in standing seam metal. The design for this field house followed one of two models for field houses established the year before by National Capital Parks for new city park shelters: a T-shaped, gable-roof design; and an L-shaped hipped roof design with an integrated corner porch. In 1993, the open porch of the L-shaped Kalorama Park field house was enclosed, giving the building its rectangular footprint. The fieldhouse was dedicated on August 12, 1949 at which time the Kalorama Citizens Association donated a flagpole. The aluminum flag pole has since been moved to the northern end of the Lawn Area. A narrow concrete service road provides vehicular access for service vehicles from Columbia Road to the shelter house. The shelter house/field house is considered a non-contributing resource due to its alterations.

Along Columbia Road, the park is defined by a series of three playground areas. According to a 1947 article in the Evening Star, "The theory of new playground design has been to place activities according to age groups. At Kalorama Park the three play areas were clearly separated from one another and for use for small children, older children, and adults.

The tots' playground at the northeastern corner of the park is located across from the field house and north of a service lane leading from Columbia Road to the field house. The tot lot measures approximately 30 x 40 feet and includes a swing set and other playground equipment. The space is separated from Columbia Road by a fence, hedges and a mature tree.

The playground for older children just south of the tots' lot is larger, measuring approximately 30 x 90 feet long. This playground is separated from the tots' lot by the service lane, and is enclosed by a fence and hedgerow which provides particular privacy and protection from Columbia Road.

Kalorama Park and Archaeological Site

Washington, D.C.

Name of Property

County and State

The third play area along Columbia Road that was historically for adults and contained shuffleboard and horseshoe courts, has been converted to a community garden. The community garden is located inside a locked gate, surrounded by a privet hedge, and located close to the park's southeast corner. The horseshoe and shuffleboard courts that were included in the 1947 plan existed until the early 1970s. At the garden's south end is an area paved in worn bluestone flagstones left from the original shuffleboard courts, according to long-time residents of the neighborhood. Temporary storage sheds are located within the garden area.

The pathways that curve gracefully throughout the park remain essentially the same as designed in 1947. Some of these paths follow the lines of historic paths and driveways that existed during the Little family occupation of the site. In particular, the walks that surround the central Lawn Area are in similar alignment to the driveway that once circled the manor house. These walks, at least portions of which were paved in bluestone until approximately the early 1970s, are now paved in concrete. The walkway surrounding the Lawn Area is about 11 feet wide except for where it adjoins the plaza when it widens in a way that makes the southern end of the plaza symmetrical to its northern end.

A 10-foot-wide concrete walkway connecting the shelter house to the basketball courts (replaced in the summer of 2015 to improve drainage) includes a series of stairs to descend the hillside does not seem to trace an earlier path. However, the walkway extending from the Lawn Area to the northwestern corner of the park and 19th Street follows the path of a drive- or walkway that once led to a stable on the manor-house grounds.

The basketball courts at the northwestern corner of the park were included in the 1947 park plan, although, in the plan, this play area also included volleyball, paddle tennis and badminton courts. A 4-to-5-foot-high Kensington tonalite retaining wall capped with ashlar bluestone slabs separates the basketball courts from the sidewalk along 19th Street. East of the ball court terracing is constructed of wood 4 x 4's in 2009-2010.

A secondary entrance is located on the 19th Street side of the park. Here, an open stairway ascends from approximately eight feet wide at the bottom to about ten feet-wide at the top. The concrete steps are 36" to 40" deep; the risers are 5.5." The stair is enclosed at either end by a low Kensington tonalite wall capped with ashlar bluestone slabs 16 inches across. This bluestone wall matches the retaining wall at the 19th Street side of the ball court. At the top of the stairs, a 10-foot wide walkway edged with low retaining walls leads past the ball courts and up another set of steps without retaining walls to the field house.

The "Promenade" along the 19th Street side of the park is a walkway somewhat similar to one shown on the 1947 plan minus the benches and retaining wall. It is a continuation of the sidewalk along 19th Street but it then veers up the park's western hillside to skirt trees planted close to the street. It has a naturalistic feel in keeping with park design but does not match the 1947 plan.

A third entrance to the park is located towards the southern end at Kalorama Road and 19th Street where two concrete walkways lead from the sidewalk along Kalorama Road to the central Lawn Area. These walks were not included in the 1947 plan which instead envisioned a formal,

Kalorama Park and Archaeological Site

Washington, D.C.

Name of Property

County and State

built "Grass Terrace" for the southern end of the park that was never actualized. The sidewalk entrances are announced by a wooden sign with Kalorama Park written on it and provide a commonly used access to the park.

The park includes 25 lamp posts of the Washington Upright Pole style used extensively throughout the District of Columbia. The lamp posts are installed at intervals around the park. Various benches and two picnic tables in the park

Archaeological Site

As the highest point in the area, the park property once was the site of John Little's manor house, which commanded a view of his 56.5-acre cattle farm and Washington City. Little, a butcher, bought the property in 1836, built a large house, and purchased enslaved African Americans to work the farm. By 1860 he held 13 enslaved people there, including three generations of the Prout family.

An archaeological survey conducted in 1986 found parts of two walls from the Little manor house, and the remains of a smaller structure behind it. In 2009, a contractor accidentally uncovered the remnants of a third and possibly a fourth structure in the park, leading to the another archaeological survey. The findings of this survey, placed in the historical context of John Little's slaveholding farm, resulted in the designation of the Kalorama Park Archaeological Site, 51NW061, a District of Columbia Landmark.

As one of a very small number of documented slavery-related sites in the District of Columbia, Kalorama Park has merited two honors for its special history. "The Site of John Little's Manor House" was added to the National Park Service's National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom in 2008, and "Hortense Prout Freedom Seeker/John Little Farm Site/Kalorama Park National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Site" was added to the city's African American Heritage Trail, Washington, DC, in 2014.

Contributing/Non-Contributing Resources and Integrity

The Kalorama Park and Archaeological Site includes two sites and one building: 1) the Kalorama Park (John Little) Archaeological Site; 2) Kalorama Park; and 3) the Shelter House/Field House. This count is based upon National Register Bulletin 16A which guides the preparer to count a park as a single site and to not count landscape features such as fences and paths separately from the site unless they are particularly important or large in size. The shelter house is thus being counted as a resource since it is a sizeable building and an integral component of the landscape. However, although they are not being counted as independent resources, the park landscape includes many component parts and features. These component parts may be specific features, but may also include but not necessarily be limited to spatial relationships, topography, property boundaries, site furnishings, circulation systems, and the like. In the case of Kalorama Park, the following component features have been identified:

- Open central lawn on the site of the former manor house and shown in the 1947 park plan
- Shelter house/Field house
- Paved plaza between the lawn and the shelter house



Kalorama Park and Archaeological Site

Washington, D.C.

Name of Property

County and State

- Axial relationship between the open lawn, plaza and shelter house
- Circulation system, namely the gently curving pathways that encircle the central lawn and connect the parts of the park to each other according to the natural topography and as shown on the 1947 park plan
- Entrance court with stone retaining walls on Columbia Road
- 19th Street entrance and retaining wall
- Defined spaces aligning Columbia Road, including current Tot lot, playground, and community garden
- Open grounds with mature shade trees

Together these component features give the park its integrity. Not all of these features are necessarily required in their current or historic form in order that the park's integrity be maintained. However, the park may lose its integrity if changes to one or more than one of the component features are significant or substantial enough to compromise the character of the park. Therefore, in the case of future alterations to the park, consideration should be given to the identified component features and how any changes to those features may affect the park's overall integrity.

Kalorama Park and Archaeological Site  
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.  
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 patterns of our history.
- ☐ B. Property is 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 has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Kalorama Park and Archaeological Site  
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.  
County and State

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

SOCIAL HISTORY

ARCHAEOLOGY:HISTORIC

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1836-1937

1942-1949

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1836; 1862; 1903; 1937; 1942

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Kalorama Park and Archaeological Site  
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.  
County and State

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Kalorama Park, a triangular park on the west side of Columbia Road between 19<sup>th</sup> Street and Mintwood Place, is an approximately three-acre park that occupies the former domestic complex of a 56.5-acre plantation, owned and operated by John Little during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In 1836, John Little, a Washington-born butcher, bought the 56.5 acres to farm and raise cattle. He built his dwelling house on one of the highest points of his land—the future site of Kalorama Park—and began purchasing slaves to provide the labor for his farming operations. John Little's farm was clearly successful; sometime around 1850, Little constructed a new three-story, Italianate-style frame dwelling—known through photographs—which stood on the site until it was demolished in 1937. (The exact date of construction is unknown; however, the Italianate style of the house is consistent with a ca. 1850 date of construction.) According to the 1860 U.S. Census, Little owned 13 slaves, some of whom were born on his plantation and one of whom—Hortense Prout—made her mark in history in a “daring bid for freedom” at the start of the Civil War. In April 1862, ten months after her escape, President Lincoln abolished slavery in the District, making Hortense Prout one of the last known enslaved Washingtonians to attempt to escape slavery.

Following the end of the Civil War, John Little continued to live on the property with his family, and to farm his land with the help of hired farmhands. Upon his death in 1876, 11.62 acres surrounding the domestic complex was inherited by his five daughters. In 1880, these daughters subdivided their inherited land into nine sizeable lots (Lots 1-9). Of the nine lots, Lots 5 through 9 would be subdivided for residential development, while Lots 1-4 which contained the manor house would remain undeveloped, ultimately becoming Kalorama Park.<sup>1</sup> Several of the Little sisters and their families lived in the manor house until the turn-of-the-20<sup>th</sup> century. One sister, Margaret Little Sands and her developer husband, Lawrence Sands built their own house on an adjacent lot while planning the residential subdivision of Lots 5-9. The residential subdivision of those lots corresponds today with the northern boundary of Kalorama Park to the south side of Biltmore Street, including Mintwood Place.

In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, following the deaths of three of the Little sisters, the manor house was sold and then in 1937, it was razed and plans were set in motion to retain the surviving acreage as a neighborhood park. In 1947, the Planning Division of the National Capital Parks prepared a plan for the site's development, a plan that was largely implemented in 1948 with construction of a lawn and plaza areas, playground equipment, basketball courts and walkways. The plan was completed in 1949 with construction of the shelter house/field house. Established during a time of segregation, Kalorama Park was opened as, and remained a whites-only playground until 1954 despite an increasing percentage of African American residents in the neighborhood during the 1940s and early 1950s.

Kalorama Park and Archaeological Site meet National Register Criteria A and D at the local level of significance. The property meets National Register Criterion A with Community

Kalorama Park and Archaeological Site

Washington, D.C.

Name of Property

County and State

Planning and Development as its Area of Significance for its associations with events that contributed to the growth and development of the District of Columbia. In particular, the 3.18-acre Kalorama Park is the site of the domestic complex of the larger 56.5-acre slave-holding estate of John Little providing important history related to the ante-bellum cultural landscape and history of slavery in the city. Although the manor house and its associated outbuildings are no longer extant above ground, the preservation of open space on the site of the farm's domestic complex helps in the visualization of that cultural landscape.

In addition, the property is associated with the transformation of Washington County from a rural area to a residential one. During the 1880s, technological achievements (establishment of the electric streetcar) made the outskirts of the city, including the Little Farm, viable for development, at the same time that the city's growing population intensified the need for housing beyond the original city limits. The subdivision of the former Little property into "the Commissioners' Subdivision of Washington Heights" and "Mintwood Subdivision" into urban-sized rowhouse lots, illustrates the nature of this residential development to accommodate a growing middle class. Because the Little House and its immediately surrounding land continued to be owned by the Little family until 1903, and occupied as a duplex residence until ca. 1925, it managed to escape the subdivision process to a point in time when open space was highly valuable and sought after for neighborhood recreational purposes.

The property is also significant under Criterion A with Social History as the Area of Significance for its association with the establishment of parks and places of recreation in the city during the early-to-mid 20<sup>th</sup> century. In 1942, at a time when Congress and city officials realized that wartime pressures and an increase in population necessitated more and better recreational facilities, the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) began purchasing the acreage that would become Kalorama Park. In 1947, designs for the park were completed and largely implemented over the course of the next two years. Like other city playgrounds of the period, Kalorama Park reflected the era's focus on outdoor recreation and education. In addition to offering play equipment, sports courts, walkways, and open spaces for outdoor activity, the city's playgrounds also included field houses or shelter houses, such as that at Kalorama Park.

The Kalorama Park Archaeological site, listed in the D.C. Inventory of Historic Sites, meets National Register Criterion D with Historic Archaeology as the Area of Significance. The Kalorama Park Archaeological Site holds archaeological importance for having yielded and still having the potential to yield the structural remains of John Little's plantation house, outbuildings and household artifacts. Archaeological surveys in 1986 and 2009 identified the structural remains of John Little's manor house, three outbuildings, and 19<sup>th</sup> century household artifacts. Archaeologists found intact historical ground surfaces at varying depths below topsoil throughout the park, noting the potential for future discoveries which could provide greater insight into one of Washington's major slave-holding farms. For these reasons, the Kalorama Park Archaeological site was listed in the D.C. Inventory of Historic Sites in 2010.

There is great public interest in the archaeological study of slavery related sites throughout the United States and elsewhere. Recent discoveries on the lives and habits of enslaved individuals have caused archaeologists to re-evaluate past finds in a new light. They have resulted in more

Kalorama Park and Archaeological Site

Washington, D.C.

Name of Property

County and State

informed approaches to the study of slave-holding estates such as John Little's. As one of only a handful of known slavery-related sites in the District of Columbia that have not been paved over or destroyed, Kalorama Park has unique potential to help us comprehend the broader patterns of slavery in Washington, D.C.

#### Period of Significance:

The Kalorama Park and Archaeological Site has two Periods of Significance. The first is associated with the Archaeological Site under National Register Criteria A and D and extends from 1836 when John Little purchased the 56.5-acre property until 1937 when the Little House was demolished. The Second Period of Significance is associated with Kalorama Park under National Register Criterion A, and extends from 1942 when NCPC purchased the property as a park and playground until 1949 when the implementation of the park plan was completed with construction of the shelter house.

In 1989, the Kalorama Triangle Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places. At that time, the park was not evaluated as a contributing or non-contributing resource within the historic district, but because the period of significance ends in 1941, the park had been considered a non-contributing site. This nomination establishes the significance of the park as a public park with a period of significance of 1942 when the land was first purchased for use as a park and 1949 upon completion of the park according to its 1947 design scheme.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

#### *Area of Significance: Community Planning and Development*

##### Early History of the Land: William Thornton and his Thoroughbreds, 1817-1828

Kalorama Park sits on what once was a portion of much larger land patents in the Maryland colony dating from 1664. In 1727, the property that later became the park was added to the extensive Holmead family property holdings, known as "Pleasant Plains." In 1817, Superintendent of Patents William Thornton bought 33.75 acres from John Holmead, one of the original proprietors of the District of Columbia, to add to the 22.75 acres of the "Mount Pleasant" tract Thornton had bought two years earlier from Thomas Peter. The two parcels were adjacent; they were bisected by Tayloe's Lane Road (also known as Taylor's Lane Road, today Columbia Road), with the Holmead land lying on the north side and the Peter land on the south.

Tayloe's Lane Road led to Col. John Tayloe III's estate Petworth, northeast of today's Georgia Avenue/Rock Creek Church Road intersection. In between, and just a short distance from Thornton's property, lay the National Racetrack, centered approximately at today's 14th Street and Park Road intersection. Most likely it was the property's proximity to the racetrack that attracted Thornton. Horseracing was an enormously popular pastime among all walks of people, and Thornton, an avid fan, owned and raced thoroughbreds. In addition, Thornton had laid out the one-mile, circular track for the Washington Jockey Club which, under the leadership of Tayloe, Thomas Peter, and other prominent Washingtonians, had leased land for it from John

Kalorama Park and Archaeological Site

Washington, D.C.

Name of Property

County and State

Holmead in 1802. To the east of Thornton's property was the large Meridian Hill estate, and to the west was the Kalorama estate.

Born in the West Indies to British parents, Thornton (1759-1828) trained as a physician in Aberdeen, Scotland, before immigrating to Philadelphia in 1887 and becoming a U.S. citizen a year later. He and his wife, Anna Maria Brodeau Thornton, moved to Washington in 1792, and the next year Thornton won a design competition for the new country's capitol building, thus becoming the first Architect of the Capitol. President

George Washington appointed him city commissioner in 1794, six years before the federal government began arriving in Washington from Philadelphia. Thornton and his two fellow commissioners faced an enormous task: paying for and completing public buildings to house Congress and the federal government, thereby encouraging private investment in the new capital city.

When Thornton's tenure as city commissioner ended in 1802, President Thomas Jefferson appointed him head of the U.S. Patent Office, a position he held until his death in 1828. Notably, as the British rampaged through Washington in August 1814, burning public buildings, Thornton managed to talk the British out of burning the Patent Office. The models inside were private property, he argued. Thornton was an inventor himself, applying over the years for patents on a rifle, a boiler, a still, and a steam paddle wheel.

Thornton also received important architectural commissions. He helped design and oversaw the construction of two houses privately built by George Washington on Capitol Hill, and he designed Tudor Place for Thomas and Martha Custis Peter and Octagon House for Col. John Tayloe III. George Washington's Capitol Hill houses no longer exist; however, both Tudor Place and Octagon House stand today as historic landmarks.

Important figures in the city's political and social aristocracy, William and Anna Maria Thornton counted George and Martha Washington, as well as James and Dolley Madison, among their close friends. As an early District commissioner, Thornton provided guidance on the creation of city green spaces and the establishment of city institutions. In 1823 he defended John Quincy Adams in a letter published by a Fredericktown newspaper. Thornton criticized the bad press that Adams had received and then described how George Washington held Adams in high esteem and in fact believed that Adams was the most promising young man in America. Thornton also noted that he had been Adams's next-door neighbor for many years, and described him in the most excellent terms.

The Thorntons owned a house in the 1400 block of F Street, a farm in Montgomery County, Maryland, the Tayloe's Road property, a gold mine in North Carolina, numerous thoroughbred horses, Merino sheep, and much more. After his death, Anna Maria Thornton found herself responsible for his many debts, so she began selling off her husband's property.

Kalorama Park and Archaeological Site  
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.  
County and State

### Christian and Matthew Hines's Silkworm Venture, 1828-1836

The Thornton family's 56.5 acres near the racetrack went for \$5,650 to Christian and Matthew Hines, who ran a grocery store at 20th and I Streets NW. According to the terms they set, the initial payment comprised \$500 in cash and \$1000 in "interest bearing Notes," with the remainder due in annual payments over the next several years. The brothers had big plans. With the idea of starting a silkworm operation, they began planting the land with mulberry trees—whose berries are food for silkworms. The Hineses built a 1.5-story bungalow, about 25 feet square, facing west onto Tayloe's Lane Road, across from today's park. (Some of the mulberry trees remained in 1918, but the house had burned down in the 1880s, according to historian John Clagett Proctor. )

Unfortunately, the silkworm venture proved unsuccessful, and the Hineses were not able to keep up their payments to Anna Maria Thornton so they lost the land.

As one of the original inhabitants of the District of Columbia, Christian Hines became one of its most significant first-hand historians. Later in life he wrote a memoir called *Early Recollections of Washington City*, which covered the period starting with his arrival in Washington as a boy, in 1790, through 1866.

### John Little's Slaveholding Estate, 1836-1862

In December 1836 John Little (1805-1876), a Washington-born butcher, bought Thornton's 56.5 acres for \$4,800 to farm and raise cattle.<sup>ii</sup> He built a three-story house at one of the highest points of his land<sup>iii</sup> and began acquiring slaves. One of the first enslaved people Little brought to the farm was Moses Bell, whom he purchased from slave trader Lawrence Hoff in Alexandria in 1837. He sold Bell in less than a year to another butcher, who then sold Bell to a third.<sup>iv</sup>

In 1839, Little purchased from downtown D.C. slave traders B.O. Shekell and William H. Williams an African-American family who would remain on his property for three generations: the Prout family. He bought Delilah Prout, who was about 40 and possibly pregnant; her husband, whose name and age is unknown; the couple's five-year-old son Leander; and two-year-old daughter Tabitha. After coming to live on Little's farm, Delilah gave birth to three daughters: Celeste, born ca. 1839; Hortense, born ca. 1841; and Kalisti, born ca. 1842. Tabitha and Kalisti would have four more children, who also became John Little's property because a child's status as free or enslaved was inherited from his or her mother.

When Little purchased the Prout family, at least one other son was held in Prince George's by Anthony C. Page. In 1844, the following ad appeared in the *Baltimore Sun*:

*FIFTY DOLLARS REWARD—Ranaway from the subscriber, living near Good Luck, Prince George's county, Md., on Monday, the 26<sup>th</sup> ult., my negro man Abraham, who calls himself ABRAHAM PROUT. The said negro is about 5 feet 6 inches high, 22 years of age, stout made, very black, and very pleasant when spoken to; no marks recollected. Had on when he left home, white summer roundabout, grey summer cloth pantaloons, and black fur hat. He has a father and mother living with a Mr. Little, adjoining the*



Kalorama Park and Archaeological Site

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

*National Race Course, near the District of Columbia, where he may probably be lucking.  
I will give the above reward if taken and secured in jail in the State of Maryland or  
District of Columbia, or \$100 if taken elsewhere.<sup>v</sup>*

Little purchased more slaves as his cattle farm and butchery prospered. In 1844 he bought 8-year-old Benjamin Purnell from a Mr. Darnell. In 1847, he bought Geoffrey McKenzie from Kalorama, the large estate just west of the Little farm. Also working on the farm was William Crown, whom John Little and his brother Samuel had purchased jointly at a Prince George's County, Md., auction in 1834, when Crown was seven years old.

Leander Prout, Benjamin Purnell, William Crown, and Geoffrey McKenzie worked as butchers and farmhands. The Prout women worked in Little's household as domestic servants.

By 1850, John Little had 13 free people living in his home, including two free African Americans, Ben Linton and Daniel Robertson, listed as laborers, according to the Census of Free Inhabitants. The 1850 Slave Inhabitants Census—which listed the genders and ages but not the names of enslaved individuals—shows that John Little owned 12 men, women and children.

In the 1860 Free Inhabitants Census, John Little's household had 12 members. The 1860 Slave Inhabitants Census shows John Little owning 13 slaves, including two as guardian of his orphaned niece and nephew. The 1860 Free Census lists the worth of John Little's real estate holdings as \$40,000, and his personal estate as \$47,000. The 1860 Free Census also shows that a free African American woman and her three young free children lived in a separate household next to John Little's. She was Sophia Prout, who later records reveal was married to the enslaved Leander Prout.<sup>vi</sup> Leander possibly lived with his free family in the small household next to the Little manor house, but his name would not have been listed in the Free Census.

By 1860, nearly four out of five African Americans living in the District of Columbia were free. The 1860 Census counted 11,131 free African Americans and 3,185 enslaved. While slavery had declined sharply in households within the city limits, it persisted on the large farms in the surrounding rural areas of the District of Columbia.<sup>vii</sup>

Enslaved people in Washington could win their freedom by petitioning the court; by striking a deal with their owners to buy their freedom, sometimes with money earned from outside jobs; or by the voluntary act of the slave owner. There is no evidence in the public record that John Little ever allowed enslaved people to buy their freedom or that he ever freed anyone.

As a highly dangerous last resort, an enslaved person could attain freedom by running away. Some ran north to large cities and assumed new identities as free people. Others escaped to Canada, safe from interstate slave-catchers. Men and boys were far more likely than women and girls to run away, according to scholars.<sup>viii</sup> William Still, the Philadelphia-based Underground Railroad conductor, noted that "females in attempting to escape from a life of bondage undertook three times the risk of failure that males were liable to, not to mention the additional trials and struggles they had to contend with. In justice, therefore, to the heroic female who was willing to endure the most extreme suffering and hardship for freedom, doubled honors were due."<sup>ix</sup>

Kalorama Park and Archaeological Site

Washington, D.C.

Name of Property

County and State

In the spring of 1861, at the start of the Civil War, 20-year-old Hortense Prout made a daring bid for freedom from John Little's farm. She fled during a time of excitement and confusion in the District of Columbia, as thousands of newly organized Union troops poured into the city to quell the rebel uprising. Soldiers from Massachusetts, New York, Vermont, Pennsylvania and elsewhere encamped on the nearby estates of Kalorama, Meridian Hill, and Clifffburne. On May 27, 1861, some 1,750 young troops from Ohio staked their tents at a farm known as Bloomingdale, about two miles east of John Little's farm.<sup>x</sup>

It is probable that Hortense Prout was assisted by Washington's Underground Railroad network of black and white operatives. Elements of her story echo those of others who escaped with such assistance. The Ohio encampment was near two main roads that led north and northeast out of the city. She might have been waiting at the encampment to flee the District after news of her escape had faded, as had many others. She might have been waiting for other runaways to join her to travel north as a group, a common practice. She disguised herself as a man, another tactic used in Underground Railroad escapes.

We know of Hortense Prout's escape only because her capture was reported in the *Evening Star* on June 17, 1861:

*A FUGITIVE – A slave woman belonging to Mr. John Little having eloped, Mr. Little made diligent search and ascertained that she was in one of the Ohio camps. He made visit to the camp and told the colonel commanding what he wanted, and the reply was, 'You shall have her, if she is here.' Search was made and the fugitive was found, completely rigged out in male attire. She was immediately turned over to the custody of Mr. Little, and was taken to jail. Every opportunity is afforded loyal citizens of loyal States to recover their fugitive slaves.*<sup>xi</sup>

District of Columbia jail records for June 15, 1861, show that John Little committed a woman named "Hortense" to the Washington City Jail for "safekeeping." This was a practice used by D.C. slaveholders to detain and punish enslaved people in the absence of criminal charges. She was released to John Little 10 days later, on June 25.<sup>xii</sup>

In January 1862, six months after Hortense Prout was jailed, President Lincoln signed an executive order banning the practice of "safekeeping."<sup>xiii</sup> In April 1862, just ten months after her daring escape attempt, the president ended slavery in the District, making Hortense one of the last enslaved Washingtonians to run away.

The "Act for the Release of Certain Person Held to Service or Labor in the District of Columbia," signed into law on April 16, 1862, reflected a compromise between members of Congress who wanted an unconditional end to slavery in the nation's capital, and President Lincoln, who believed slaveholders should be compensated for their loss. The language of the law was simple, stating that people held enslaved in the District "by reason of African descent are hereby discharged and freed ..." But because slaveholders were to be compensated, the law was complicated in its execution. The president appointed a three-member commission to review the monetary claims of District slaveholders. The slaveholders were required to list their now-

Kalorama Park and Archaeological Site

Washington, D.C.

Name of Property

County and State

emancipated slaves, to describe them, and to sign an oath of loyalty to the United States in order to receive compensation. A slave trader was hired to assist the Emancipation Commission because of his expertise at evaluating the worth of the enslaved.<sup>xiv</sup>

As the Emancipation Commission reviewed claims into the summer, John Little on July 16, 1862, took his 12 formerly enslaved workers downtown to City Hall, where they were evaluated by Baltimore slave trader B.M. Campbell. Accompanying John Little as a witness was Benjamin O. Shekell, the slave trader who had sold the Prout family to Little in 1839. The Emancipation Commission recorded the names and descriptions of Little's enslaved workforce:

- **Delilah Prout**, 63, black, well-built, over 180 pounds. She is an old woman of good appearance and a first-rate cook.
- **Leander Prout**, 28, child of Delilah, black. He is a butcher by trade and a first-rate hand. He could easily bring \$25 or \$30 a month.
- **Tabitha (Prout) Rigney**, 25, child of Delilah, copper colored. She has a good appearance but complains considerably. She is a first-rate house servant.
- **Celeste Prout**, 23, child of Delilah, black. She is a healthy and industrious house servant.
- **Hortense Prout**, 21, child of Delilah, black. She is a healthy and industrious house servant.
- **Kalisti Prout**, 20, child of Delilah, black. She is a healthy and industrious house servant.
- **Narcissa Rigney**, 7, daughter of Tabitha, mulatto. She is healthy and promising.
- **Fermore Worthington**, 5, child of Tabitha, mulatto. He is healthy and promising.
- **Matilda Rigney**, 6 months, child of Tabitha, mulatto. She is healthy and promising.
- **Elsie Grey**, 5, daughter of Kalisti, black. She is healthy and promising.
- **Benjamin Purnell**, 26, black. He is a butcher by trade and a first-rate hand and could easily bring \$25 or \$30 a month.
- **Geoffrey McKenzie**, 50, black. He is a very good farm hand.

On behalf of his orphaned niece and nephew, Little also filed claims for the loss of:

- **William Crown**, 33, mulatto, very strong, honest, good-tempered and an experienced butcher who hires out for \$25 a month.
- **Lucie Simms**, 25, a bright, good-looking mulatto woman and industrious house servant.
- **Willie**, Lucie's 3-year-old son.
- **Lillie**, Lucie's 5-month-old daughter.
- **John Hamilton**, 22, black, very strong and hired out as a farm hand for \$25 a month.<sup>xv</sup>

John Little sought \$18,050 in compensation; he was paid \$5,343.60.<sup>xvi</sup>

Following Emancipation, Hortense Prout and the other younger women that had been held enslaved by John Little disappeared from the public record. Their mother Delilah Prout, however, was listed in the 1870 Federal Census as living in a household next door to John Little's manor house. The smaller household included five African Americans: Thomas Evens,

Kalorama Park and Archaeological Site

Washington, D.C.

Name of Property

County and State

30, a farmhand born in Georgia; Mary Evens, 29, born in Maryland; Maria Evens, 2, born in the District; Amelia Chase, 13, born in Maryland; and Delila [sic] Prout, 70, born in Maryland.<sup>xvii</sup>

According to the 1870 U.S. Census, Leander Prout and his wife Sophia were living in Philadelphia's 8<sup>th</sup> Ward, where he worked as a "drug packer." Benjamin Purnell continued to work as a butcher after emancipation.<sup>xviii</sup> Jefferson McKenzie in 1870 was living in the District of Columbia's 5<sup>th</sup> Ward (the area around the Capitol and south to the Anacostia River approximately between South Capitol Street and the Navy Yard) and was listed in the Census as a "man of all work;" owning \$300 in real estate and \$100 in personal goods. McKenzie's household included his wife and three young daughters.<sup>xix</sup> William Crown, 45, had also moved to the District's 5<sup>th</sup> Ward. He worked as a butcher and had a wife and six children, three of whom were attending school.<sup>xx</sup>

The 1870 Census listed John Little as a farmer, owning \$100,000 in real estate and \$50,000 in personal property. Twelve others shared the household: wife Margaret; single daughters Sophia, Margaret (Maggie) and Ida; married daughters Sarah Baldwin and Finella Alexander and members of their families; and three African Americans, including a cook and two farmhands.<sup>xxi</sup>

John Little Offers His Land to the Federal Government, 1866

As the District of Columbia grew rapidly after the Civil War, the Little farm was one of many suburban estates ripe for development. In 1866, Congress directed Nathaniel Michler, chief of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer, to scout possible locations for an executive mansion in the higher, healthier ground outside the city proper. The Meridian Hill estate, east of the Little property, was of particular interest to the authorities, inspiring Michler to map Meridian Hill, the Rock Creek valley and its nearby estates. He reported to Congress in 1867 that if the 120-acre Meridian Hill property needed to be expanded, John Little was willing to sell his adjoining land to the federal government for \$2,613 per acre. "On both these estates are eligible building sites; the view towards the south, overlooking the city and the valley of the Potomac, being particularly fine," Michler wrote. "At one time some large forest trees added beauty to the scene, but most of them were destroyed during the war."

But Michler also noted that the Meridian Hill and Little farm sites, lying just above the plateau of the city with only sparse timber, were "exposed to the miasmatic influences rising from the marshes of the Potomac." In addition, the rural nature of the area was changing. "Again, it is too near the city to afford any retirement and repose for the Chief Magistrate," Michler reported. "Already the street railroads approach, and numerous houses are being built on all sides of this site."

Subdivision of the Little Estate, 1876-1903

John Little died at his manor house on August 30, 1876, at age 71.<sup>xxii</sup> Upon his death, a 38.5-acre portion of his land east of Columbia Road went into Equity, while 11.62 acres surrounding the domestic complex was inherited by his five daughters. As a result of the Equity Case, the 38.5 acres was ultimately platted in 1888 as the "Commissioners' Subdivision of Washington Heights," forming a large portion of the Washington Heights Historic District today. His five daughters, Sarah F. Little Baldwin, Finella M. Little Alexander, Sophia Louise Little, Ida Little

Kalorama Park and Archaeological Site

Washington, D.C.

Name of Property

County and State

Stevens, and Margaret Little Sands, owned continued to live on their inherited 11.62 acres. In 1880, the 16-member household was headed by Margaret's husband Lawrence Sands, a real-estate developer.<sup>xxiii</sup>

In 1880, the five Little daughters subdivided their inherited land into nine sizeable lots (Lots 1-9). Of the nine lots, Lots 5 through 9 would be subdivided for residential development, while Lots 1-4 would remain undeveloped, ultimately becoming Kalorama Park. The Little manor house stood on Lot 2. In 1883 Ida, Sophia, and Finella subdivided the lot on which the manor house stood (Lot 2) into Lots 10 and 11, with the property line cutting straight through the house. While several of the Little sisters and their families lived in the manor house until the turn-of-the-20<sup>th</sup> century, Margaret Little Sands and her developer husband, Lawrence Sands built their own house on an adjacent lot, while planning the residential subdivision of Lots 5-7. The residential subdivision of those lots corresponds today with the northern boundary of Kalorama Park to the south side of Biltmore Street, including Mintwood Place. The remaining triangular property, appears to have been divided among the sisters into a northern parcel, eventually owned by Finella, and a southern parcel, owned by Ida.

In 1883, Lawrence and Margaret Sands had built and moved into a large cottage-style villa called "Mintwood," just northwest of the Little manor house on Woodley Lane (now Belmont Road) near the corner of today's 19<sup>th</sup> Street and Mintwood Place). Lawrence and Margaret Sands hosted Protestant Episcopal church services in the basement of their mansion, while helping to marshal resources to build St. Margaret's Episcopal Church on Connecticut Avenue near its intersection with Columbia Road.<sup>xxiv</sup>

Lawrence Sands became an important player in developing the land surrounding the manor house, selling lots on Mintwood Place, 19<sup>th</sup> Street, Biltmore Street, Woodley Lane, and Columbia Road. In 1888, Sands and his wealthy neighbors George Truesdell and Leroy Tuttle formed a company to bring city water to the Washington Heights neighborhood.<sup>xxv</sup> By mid-1891 a 2.5-inch water main had been extended from Florida Avenue north along Columbia Road and then along Mintwood Place, where it ended at the point where 19<sup>th</sup> Street would later cross.<sup>xxvi</sup>

Also by 1891, an electric streetcar ran north on Boundary Street (today's Florida Avenue) from its intersection with Connecticut Avenue, north on 18<sup>th</sup> Street across Columbia Road to Calvert Street across Rock Creek Valley on a bridge, and then north along Connecticut Avenue – and back downtown via the same route.<sup>xxvii</sup>

The U.S. Census for 1900 shows a single, 15-member household on the block: 55-year-old head of household Sophia Louise Little, occupation "capitalist"; her nine-month-younger sister Finella, who was widowed and had no occupation listed; 45-year-old sister Ida, no occupation; Ida's husband Albert C. Stevens, a 65-year-old capitalist; their daughters Ida, 19, and Isabell, 12, and their 16-year-old son George Woodbury Stevens; another Little sister, 63-year-old Sarah, also widowed with no occupation; and her children Margaret L., 30, John L., 26, and William O., 24. The household also included four African American servants: 21-year-old Lucy Clement, cook; 45-year-old widow Malvina King, cook, and her 11-year-old daughter Rosie; and 22-year-old maid Ella Smith. The address on the Census was listed as 1859 Columbia Road.

Kalorama Park and Archaeological Site  
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.  
County and State

The 1900 Census shows, at 1901 Woodley Lane, John Little's daughter, Margaret Sands, 40, living with her 47-year-old husband, Lawrence Sands, occupation capitalist; their 16-year-old daughter Margaret C. Sands; 38-year-old Scottish-born maid Mary Campbell, and her three children, 8-year-old Margaret and 6-year-old twins Joseph and Mary; and two African American servants, 55-year-old William King and 38-year-old Mary Massie, the household's cook.

By 1902, a building boom had begun in the neighborhood around the Little manor-house grounds, especially on Mintwood Place. The Woodley apartment house, designed by prominent Washington architect T. Franklin Schneider at 1851 Columbia Road, was completed in 1903. Other prominent architects, including Waddy Wood, Frederick B. Pyle, and George T. Santmyers designed luxurious single-family homes and apartment buildings.<sup>xxviii</sup>

#### The 1903 Sale of the Little Manor House Site

Three of the five Little daughters died in quick succession, of varying natural causes. Sophia died on September 19, 1901,<sup>xxix</sup> Ida died January 2, 1903,<sup>xxx</sup> and Finella on April 22, 1904.<sup>xxxi</sup>

Shortly before her death Finella arranged for the auction house Sloan & Co. to sell the northern portion of the manor-house property. It was advertised in October through December 1903.<sup>xxxii</sup> In mid-December she sold it to Thomas W. Smith, a prominent lumber dealer and former president of the Board of Trade.<sup>xxxiii</sup> According to the *Washington Star*, Smith bought the 91,000-square-foot property (approximately 2 acres) for \$1 per square foot.<sup>xxxiv</sup>

About the same time, the executor of Ida's estate, the National Safe Deposit Savings and Trust Company, sold the southern portion of the manor-house property on December 15, 1903, to prominent brewer Christian Heurich.<sup>xxxv</sup>

Notably, the line between Smith's and Heurich's properties ran through the center of the manor house, making it a duplex. Smith's half of the house became 1867 Columbia Road and Heurich's became 1869 Columbia Road.

Christian Heurich (1842-1945), one of Washington's wealthiest residents, was born in the Duchy of Saxe-Meiningen and immigrated to the United States in 1866 already trained as a brewer. Six years later he and a partner established their first brewery in Washington, this city chosen for its well-established German community. But Heurich quickly bought out the partner and successfully ran the Christian Heurich Lager Beer Brewery, later the Christian Heurich Brewing Company, on his own.<sup>xxxvi</sup> He later wrote in his memoir that he and his wife and their baby traveled to Germany in 1902. Then, "returning to America, I went back to my business with satisfactory results. I invested the profit in real estate in [the] Little Subdivision, on Columbia Road and 19<sup>th</sup> Street."<sup>xxxvii</sup>

Despite the fact that Congress planned to cut Kalorama Road through his side of the property,<sup>xxxviii</sup> Heurich announced his intentions to build an "immense" apartment building on the site.<sup>xxxix</sup> The entire southern portion of Heurich's property was taken for the cut-through, and in 1905 a jury awarded him \$30,666 to compensate for his loss.<sup>xl</sup> In addition, both Heurich's and

Kalorama Park and Archaeological Site

Washington, D.C.

Name of Property

County and State

Smith's deeds noted that the city would be widening Columbia Road, causing them to lose a 16.5-foot swath along the eastern side of their properties. Heurich never built anything but a storage shed on the site; he also never lived in his half of the manor house, renting it out instead. He retained the property until 1926, when he sold it to Alonzo O. Bliss Properties.<sup>xli</sup>

Thomas W. Smith (1846-1919) was a prominent Washington businessman. He founded the Thomas W. Smith Lumber Company at First Street and Indiana Avenue, NW, in 1874—just after Alexander R. “Boss” Shepherd completed the many infrastructure improvements to the city that cemented its status as the nation’s capital and fostered private investment. Smith was active with many organizations, including the Board of Trade for 25 years, serving as its president in 1902-1903; the Chamber of Commerce and, at one time, a member of its board of directors; and as director of Eastern Dispensary and Casualty Hospital. According to his obituary, “he acquired large property holdings in the city and had faith in the growth of the Capital.”

Smith and his family moved into their half of the manor house, at 1867 Columbia Road. According to the 1910 Census, they were a household of ten: Smith, age 64; his wife Caroline, 55; daughter Maude, 22; daughter Esther, 21; daughter Caroline Abbott, 28, her husband Edward Abbott, 33, and their daughter Frances, 13; daughter Mabel Sanderson, and her 10-month-old daughter Caroline; and African American servant Joseph Gross, 25.

The Smith's neighbors, in the other half of the house at 1869 Columbia Road, were renters Margaret Brown and four family members. Later, Samuel J. Graham, a judge for the U.S. Court of Claims, and his family rented 1869 Columbia Road until 1924.<sup>xlii</sup>

When Thomas Smith died in March 1919, he left a \$1 million estate, including the Columbia Road property and several others.<sup>xliii</sup> His will provided for a life estate in the house to his wife, Caroline, and otherwise left the various properties in trust for 15 years after his death, with the Washington Loan and Trust Company as trustee.<sup>xliv</sup> Caroline Smith remained in the house until her death in August 1925. Her one improvement to the property, apparently was the 1922 addition of a 25'-wide by 40'-deep by 25'-high garage, built 150 feet from the manor house and connected to it by an existing driveway.<sup>xlv</sup>

The house was empty in 1928 when the *Washington Post* reported that a marble statue of Mercury, found standing mysteriously in the intersection of 36th Street and Reservoir Road, NW, had been burglarized from 1867 Columbia Road (the Smith home), its loss discovered by an agent of American Security & Trust. In 1937, the former Little manor house was sold, and the bricks, wood, and other materials salvaged for scrap.<sup>xlvi</sup>

*Area of Significance: Social History:*

A Park for the Neighborhood

As early as 1931 the National Capital Park and Planning Commission went on record as favoring the acquisition of the “Heurich-Smith tract at Columbia road and Nineteenth street for park purposes.” In 1939 it asked the District Commissioners for \$300,000 to purchase a “partly wooded” tract of land to construct the “Columbia Road Playground,” soon to be renamed

Kalorama Park and Archaeological Site

Washington, D.C.

Name of Property

County and State

Kalorama Park. NCPPC noted that the neighborhood lacked play facilities, and that the property was likely to be developed soon with apartment buildings. The Kalorama Citizens Association had been advocating for recreation space for years, and in 1940 the organization topped its wish list with the construction of a community recreation center, public park, and branch library on the high triangular site between Columbia Road, Kalorama Road, and 19th Street.

In May 1942 the National Capital Park and Planning Commission acquired lots 3, 4, and 11—2.07 acres—from the Thomas Wilson Smith Estate for \$127,500. NCPPC referred to the parcel as “Columbia Road Playground, U.S. Reservation No. 655” but the agency changed the name to Kalorama Park and Playground in August 1942. Two months later it transferred control of the park to the newly formed D.C. Recreation Board. In 1946, Bliss Properties sold 1.07 acre (lots 1 and 10, today known as lot 816) to NCPPC for \$233, 672.09. With the acquisition of the triangular site finally complete, the Planning Division of National Capital Parks, an agency of the U.S. Department of the Interior, in 1947 prepared a plan for the site’s development, for the D.C. Recreation Board.

In the larger context of the history of urban-park design, Kalorama Park is a hybrid of styles. Its curved paths harken back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century pleasure garden, as described by Galen Cranz, Professor of Architecture at the University of California at Berkeley: “Circulation paths were probably one of the most distinctive elements of the pleasure garden. Because city streets were straight and laid at right angles, park carriage ways and footpaths were curved.”<sup>xlvi</sup> The 1947 park design also incorporated existing trees on the site, including some up to 42 feet high, showing a more naturalistic approach to landscape design common to the pleasure-garden aesthetic.

At the same time, Kalorama Park’s playgrounds and ball courts line up with the mid-20th century emphasis on active recreation, as well as the continued focus since the Progressive era (1880s-ca. 1930) on supervised play for children. According to Cranz, the urban playground is a legacy of the “reform park” movement, aimed at improving the lives of economically disadvantaged children through fresh air and thoughtful play. By combining quiet, naturalistic settings as well as areas for playgrounds and sports, Kalorama Park’s designers came up with a plan that provided ample opportunities for recreation for all ages.

In the post-World War II period, the District of Columbia built a number of recreation centers and playgrounds to fill the demand of a population that had grown from 500,000 in 1930 to 800,000 in 1950, and to catch up as construction materials again became available. In 1948, National Capital Parks sought bids for a “shelter building” at Kalorama Playground. The agency’s architects had designed two models for city park shelters: a T-shaped, gable-roof design; and an L-shaped brick building topped by a hipped roof, with numerous windows and a corner porch.<sup>xlvi</sup> The L-shaped plan was chosen for Kalorama Park.

The “splendidly designed and constructed field house,” as the *D.C. Citizen* newspaper described it, was dedicated on August 12, 1949, along with a flagpole donated by the Kalorama Citizens Association. Among the 100 or so guests at the ceremony were Mrs. Ida Stevens Malcolm and Miss Margaret Sands, granddaughters of John Little who were born in the manor house.<sup>xlvi</sup>



Kalorama Park and Archaeological Site  
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.  
County and State

Mrs. Stevens and Miss Sands must have been happy to recognize some of the park's walkways, as well as many of the trees that had sheltered their childhood home. According to a recent assessment by a landscape architect, "some large Oaks and Beeches are old enough to be original to the forest cover as we know it in the 18th century."<sup>i</sup>

### Segregated Recreation Facilities

Until 1954, with a handful of exceptions, the District segregated its recreation facilities by race, and Kalorama Park was reserved for white residents. Most of the surrounding households were white, breadwinners for the most part a mix of white-collar government clerks, military men, sales clerks, tradesmen, doctors, lawyers, and the like. Prominent neighborhood residents during the early 1900s included physician Anita Newcomb McGee, founder of the Army Nursing Corps, and her husband W.J. McGee, head of the Bureau of American Ethnology, who lived at 1901 Biltmore Street; Sen. George W. Norris of Nebraska, at 1831 Mintwood Place; and Harry M. Clabaugh, chief justice of the D.C. Supreme Court (U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia), at 1842 Mintwood. Congresswoman Jeannette Rankin of Montana lived at 1945 Calvert Street during World War I. Prominent residents in the 1920s and 1930s included Sen. William Borah of Idaho, first at 2139 Columbia Road and then at 2101 Connecticut Avenue; Sen. Walter F. George of Georgia, at the Wyoming, 2022 Columbia Road; Maj. Gen. Dwight D. and Mamie Eisenhower, also at the Wyoming; Sen. Thomas P. Gore of Oklahoma, at 1863 Mintwood Place; and Congressman Sol Bloom of New York, at 1930 Columbia Road, a mansion later replaced by the Gelmarc apartments. Sen. Jeannette Rankin of Montana lived at 2220 20<sup>th</sup> Street in the early 1940s; and Vice President (under President Harry S. Truman) Alben Barkley lived at 2101 Connecticut Avenue in the late 1940s.<sup>ii</sup>

In 1945 the U.S. Department of the Interior, which controlled some of the parks and recreation facilities located within the District, adopted a policy of non-segregation, and the D.C. Recreation Board held hearings on whether to follow suit. It decided against the idea, though, and wrote into its bylaws, rules, and regulations a provision requiring separate playgrounds and programs for white and Negro residents.<sup>iii</sup> The debate consequently ratcheted up. Board chairman Harry Wender was bombarded with letters from citizens who adamantly opposed desegregation, who favored a gradual approach to desegregation, or who wanted it ended immediately.

For example, a Mrs. Selma C. Ganz, of 2630 Adams Mill Road, NW, wrote Wender on May 31, 1948:

*I am speaking for several mothers whose children use the playground and its facilities on Columbia Road [i.e. Kalorama Park]. For the past year now, the children have used the playground interracial. As a mother, I have been particularly interested in my child's relationship with other children. Therefore, I have observed his play with children of other races very carefully. I can truthfully say that he is unaware of color differentiations. The children play harmoniously and without friction regardless of race or color. We are particularly interested in the Recreation Board's policy on segregation in the District playgrounds.<sup>liii</sup>*

Kalorama Park and Archaeological Site

Washington, D.C.

Name of Property

County and State

Happy Hollow Playground, between 18<sup>th</sup> and Champlain Streets and Kalorama Road, served white children, despite its location next to Morgan School, which served African American children. In an April 1948 letter to Milo Christensen, Superintendent, D.C. Recreation Department, NCPPC noted that Morgan's enrollment was over capacity and that African American children lacked adequate playground space. The proposed solution demonstrated the difficulty of satisfying the demands of segregation:

*The entire area at Happy Hollow Playground should be transferred to Negro use, as soon as reasonably possible, but not until toilet and other facilities are available at Kalorama Park. As these facilities will not be available for some time and the need for facilities for the Negro children is pressing, it is suggested that the area on the lower level, along Champlain Street, be immediately turned over to Negro use and the area on the upper level along 18<sup>th</sup> Street be retained for white use until the Kalorama Park area is ready.*

Happy Hollow's upper level held the shelter building, wading pool, and "apparatus." The lower level connected by stairs to the Morgan School area.<sup>liv</sup>

The issue of segregation haunted the D.C. Recreation Board, which resisted federal desegregation efforts. The U.S. Department of the Interior, in fact, threatened to take control of city parks. On June 14, 1949, the Rec Board adopted the following statement of policy:

*The Board will make every possible and realistic effort toward the removal of racial segregation in public recreation in such sequence and at such rate of progression as may be consistent with the public interest, public order, and effective administration.*

Effectively, the Board's newly articulated policy left segregation in place.

Several weeks earlier, the Kalorama Citizens Association had decided where it stood on the issue. On May 9, 1949, KCA President Fletcher Tilton cast the deciding vote that killed a proposed resolution that would have put KCA in favor of the immediate abolition of segregation. Segregation should be ended gradually, Tilton said.

In response to the Rec Board's policy decision, prominent civil rights attorney Charles Hamilton Houston wrote Harry Wender:

*What bothers me about the position of the Recreation Board is that it does not reflect the actual facts. The children climb the playgrounds fences after the playgrounds close and play together without regard to race, creed or national origin. It is a tragedy that democracy does not arise on the playgrounds until the flag goes down. Likewise, I am bothered about the fact that white and colored athletes can play together on public athletic field and in areas controlled by the Department of the Interior without incident. Nevertheless, the Board of Recreation still feels it has to insist upon strict segregation in the same activities. Frankly it does not make sense.*

Kalorama Park and Archaeological Site  
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.  
County and State

In 1951 the D.C. Recreation Board adopted a gradual approach to playground segregation. It would open playgrounds to mixed use where white citizens were unlikely to object—because the playgrounds already served mostly or completely black neighborhoods. Three formerly white playgrounds desegregated that year. The neighborhood surrounding Kalorama Park was 25 percent African American, and so the park remained for whites only.

In 1952 the Recreation Board approved four playgrounds for use by all, for a total of eight open playgrounds. About 70 playgrounds, including Kalorama, remained segregated. Finally, on May 18, 1954, two days after the Supreme Court decision that legally desegregated public schools, the D.C. Recreation Board desegregated all D.C. recreation facilities.

*Area of Significance: Archaeology: Historic*

The 1986 and 2009 Archaeological Surveys of Kalorama Park

In 1986 and 2009, subsurface structural remains of John Little's manor house and at least three outbuildings, as well as 19<sup>th</sup> century artifacts, were discovered in archaeological investigations of Kalorama Park.<sup>lv</sup> The 1986 archaeological survey was conducted by Engineering-Sciences Inc. of Washington, D.C., as one of a series of archaeological surveys in a number of city-owned parks.<sup>lvi</sup> The 2009 archaeological survey was conducted by the Louis Berger Group Inc. of Washington, D.C., after structural ruins were inadvertently exposed during a park construction project. The Berger Group archaeologists had the benefit of historical information about John Little's farm and slavery at the site, which had been developed by independent historians in 2008 for the park's nomination to the National Park Service's National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom.<sup>lvii</sup>

The 1986 survey focused on the east-central portion of the site in the vicinity the John Little manor house. The survey consisted of 41 shovel tests and 21 test units whereby 294 artifacts dating to the occupation of John Little were unearthed. The artifacts included domestic goods such as whiteware (*circa* 1825-present), porcelain, unglazed redware, Albany-slipped stoneware (*circa* 1800-1940), and ironstone (*circa* 1840-1900). In addition, remnants of John Little's manor house were discovered, including a brick wall running north-south and a corner turning west, which were found about 0.2 meter below the surface of the park. The archaeologists also discovered subsurface demolition debris. About one meter below the surface, they found a "flat concrete floor" that they believed to be a cellar "which was filled with architectural debris at the time of demolition" of the manor house. In the vicinity of the manor house, they also found numerous ceramic sherds, window glass, bottle glass, a buckle, bricks, nails, coal, unglazed redware, unidentified ferrous metal objects, and other 19<sup>th</sup> century artifacts.

Behind the manor house, in the area of the small out-building, the archaeologists in 1986 found at 0.14 meter deep "a flat stone surface" and five additional flat flagstones, which they concluded were either part of a floor or a walkway. According to the D.C. Historic Preservation Office, the artifacts unearthed in 1986 were given to the D.C. Department of Parks and Recreation and are now missing.<sup>lviii</sup> In test pits throughout the park, the archaeologists in 1986 found intact historic

Kalorama Park and Archaeological Site

Washington, D.C.

Name of Property

County and State

ground surfaces and advised that future construction activities in the park should be conducted with caution.

In 2009, while soil-erosion-mitigation work was underway on the north side of Kalorama Park, the brick foundations of one or two out-buildings from the Little farm were discovered accidentally just beyond the northeast corner of the basketball court, in the northwest/north-central portion of the park. Consequently, the Louis Berger Group was contracted to conduct an archaeological investigation. The survey revealed portions of a brick wall which the archaeologists concluded, might have been the remains of a stable or carriage house that was built following John Little's death in 1876. They also found several brick pillars or posts that might have supported another structure in the north-central section of the park; this second structure did not appear to relate to any buildings that had been documented on old maps of the property.

As in 1986, the 2009 archaeological investigation found an intact 19<sup>th</sup> century ground surface during its limited survey. The Berger Group reported in May 2010 that the discovery "indicates that there is still potential for intact historic archaeological deposits pre-dating 1892 along much of [the] north half of Kalorama Park. Those deposits may contain intact archaeological remains associated with historic occupation by the Little family and their enslaved African-Americans."<sup>lix</sup>

Kalorama Park and Archaeological Site  
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.  
County and State

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### **Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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Kalorama Park and Archaeological Site

Washington, D.C.

Name of Property

County and State

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\$2,000,000 Is Asked to Extend Parks," The Washington Post, December 13, 1938.

Wender, Harry S. Papers, Historical Society of Washington, D.C., MS 0379.

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Kalorama Park and Archaeological Site  
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.  
County and State

**Previous documentation on file (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 # \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office  
☐ Other State agency  
☐ Federal agency  
☐ Local government  
☐ University  
☐ Other  
Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 3.17 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 38.92041 | Longitude: -77.0448 |
| 2. Latitude:          | Longitude:          |
| 3. Latitude:          | Longitude:          |
| 4. Latitude:          | Longitude:          |

Kalorama Park and Archaeological Site  
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.  
County and State

Or

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

1. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
2. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
3. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
4. Zone:	Easting :	Northing:

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The Kalorama Park and Archaeological Site conforms to the boundaries of Kalorama Park. The 3.17-acre park is bounded by Columbia Road, 19<sup>th</sup> Street, Kalorama Road and the rear lot lines of the properties fronting Mintwood Place NW.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries of the property correspond with the boundaries of the park as it was established in 1942. The boundaries represent a 3.17-acre portion of the larger 56.5-acre farm owned and operated by John Little during the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Mara Cherkasky, historian, Prologue DC for Kalorama Citizens Association  
organization: Prologue DC, LLC  
street & number: 603 Rock Creek Church Road, NW  
city or town: Washington, D.C. state: DC zip code: 2010  
e-mail mara@prologuedc.com  
telephone: 202 997-1542  
date: September 2015; revised February 2016

name/title: Mary J. Belcher, independent historian, for Kalorama Citizens Association  
organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number: 1869 Mintwood Place, NW, Apt. 44  
city or town: Washington state: DC zip code: 20009



Kalorama Park and Archaeological Site

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

e-mail maryjbelcher@comcast.net

telephone: 202-462-9069

date: September 18, 2015

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

Name of Property: Kalorama Park and Archaeological Site

City or Vicinity: Washington, D.C.

County:

State:

Photographer: Mary Belcher

Date Photographed: 2015

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

View of central lawn area looking west from Columbia Road entrance.

1 of 18

Kalorama Park and Archaeological Site

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

View of central lawn looking southwest from northeast

2 of 18

View from central lawn looking north toward plaza and fieldhouse

3 of 18

View of central lawn looking south from plaza

4 of 18

View looking south from fieldhouse through plaza and central lawn

5 of 18

View looking north from plaza showing Fieldhouse

6 of 18

View looking northwest along Columbia Road showing park entrance

7 of 18

View looking west from Columbia Road sidewalk at entrance to park showing stairs

8 of 18

View looking west from across Columbia Road showing service road and walkway

9 of 18

View from central lawn looking northwest toward basketball courts

10 of 18

Site of 2009 archaeological investigation at northeastern edge of basketball court, looking north toward rear of houses and apartment building along Mintwood Place

11 of 18

View looking east-southeast showing Basketball courts and central lawn beyond

12 of 18

View looking northeast from 19<sup>th</sup> street, showing 19th Street entrance with stairs

13 of 18

View looking south (uphill) along 19th Street Promenade

14 of 18

View looking northeast from corner of 19th Street and Kalorama Road showing southern area of park

15 of 18

Kalorama Park and Archaeological Site

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

View looking north showing community garden

16 of 18

View looking north showing Older Children's playground, looking north

17 of 18

View looking west from Columbia Road showing Tot lot

18 of 18

**Paperwork Reduction Act 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. 460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

<sup>i</sup> An eastern swath of Lots 2-4 was taken by the government for the widening of Columbia Road, while the southern part of Lot 1 was similarly taken for the cutting through of Kalorama Road. The total acreage of Lots 1-4 was 3.61. The total acreage of Kalorama Park is approximately 3.18 acres.

<sup>ii</sup> District of Columbia Land Records, Liber 65, pp. 76-81, Deed of Trust from John Little to J.B.H. Smith for \$4,800 borrowed from Smith to buy the land Nathan Towson, executor of the estate of Joseph Lovell. (National Archives record group 69.)

<sup>iii</sup> The precise construction date of the manor house is unknown. The house appears on maps dating back to the mid-1850s; it was demolished in 1937.

<sup>iv</sup> Moses Bell sued for and won his freedom five years after John Little bought him in Alexandria and re-sold him to John Reiling, a butcher near the Navy Yard, who then re-sold him to a third butcher, James Rhodes. An all-white jury in 1841 voted to grant Moses Bell's petition for freedom because it was illegal for Little to have brought Bell into the District to re-sell him. Little was not charged with a crime. After Rhodes appealed, the U.S. Supreme Court in a landmark decision upheld the lower court's verdict and Bell's freedom was secure. (*Bell v. Rhodes*, Washington, D.C. Circuit Court, March Term 1842, Civil Trials #332, National Archives Record Group 21, and *Rhodes v. Bell*, U.S. Supreme Court, January term, 1844).

<sup>v</sup> *The Baltimore Sun*, September 12, 1844.

<sup>vi</sup> The 1870 Census shows Leander Prout and his wife Sophia living in Philadelphia's 8<sup>th</sup> Ward, where he worked as a drug packer. They shared their household with another couple and a teenager, none of whom had the last name Prout.

<sup>vii</sup> By 1862, the District of Columbia's largest slaveholder, George Washington Young, owned nearly 70 people; eight other farmers and mill owners each held 20 to 30 enslaved people. In this context, John Little's slave estate—17 people by 1862—made him a significant slaveholder. (Dorothy S. Provine, *Compensated Emancipation in the District of Columbia, Petitions Under the Act of April 16, 1862* (Westminster, Maryland: Willow Bend Books, 2005) introduction.

<sup>viii</sup> John Hope Franklin and Loren Schweninger, *Runaway Slaves: Rebels on the Plantation*, (New York: Oxford University Press USA, 2000) pp. 211-213.

<sup>ix</sup> Still, William, *The Underground Railroad*, Revised Edition, 1878, Philadelphia, Pa., p. 68. Still made this observation in recounting the 1856 escape of Maria Dorsey from Washington, D.C.

<sup>x</sup> *The Evening Star*, May 24, 1861, "MORE TROOPS.—Arrival of the First and Second Ohio Regiments." On May 27, 1861, the *National Intelligencer* reported that the Ohio Regiments have "gone into camp north of the city." On June 5, 1861, the *Intelligencer* reported on a Strawberry Festival "held in the grove on the Bloomingdale Farm, the residence of Mrs. Emily Beale, near the encampment of the Rhode Island and Ohio regiments ..."

<sup>xi</sup> *Washington Evening Star*, June 17, 1861, p. 3.

Kalorama Park and Archaeological Site

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

- <sup>xii</sup> Jerry M. Hynson, *District of Columbia Runaway and Fugitive Slave Cases, 1848-1863* (Westminster, Maryland: Heritage Books Inc., 1999), p. 95.
- <sup>xiii</sup> Walter C. Clephane, "The Local Aspect of Slavery in the District of Columbia," *Records of the Columbia Historical Society*, Vol. 3, Washington, D.C., 1900. Clephane reported that on January 6, 1862, Republican Sen. James W. Grimes of Iowa introduced a bill to end the abuse of "safe keeping" of enslaved people in the City Jail. Lincoln on January 25, 1862, ordered the Marshall of the jail "not to receive into custody any persons claimed to be held in service or labor within the District or elsewhere, not charged with any crime or misdemeanor ..."
- <sup>xiv</sup> House of Representatives, 38<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session, Executive Document No. 42, "*Emancipation in the District of Columbia, Letter from the Secretary of the Treasury*," February 17, 1864. The Emancipation Commission compensated 909 District slaveholders for the loss of nearly 3,000 formerly enslaved people.
- <sup>xv</sup> Dorothy S Provine, *Compensated Emancipation*, Petitions No. 744, 745 and 746, pp. 183-184.
- <sup>xvi</sup> Dorothy S Provine, *Compensated Emancipation*, Petitions No. 744, 745 and 746, pp. 183-184.
- <sup>xvii</sup> U.S. Census for 1870.
- <sup>xviii</sup> Ancestry.com U.S. Civil War Draft Registration Records, 1863-65, show Benjamin Purnell, Leander Prout and William Crown all working as butchers in 1864.
- <sup>xix</sup> U.S. Census for 1870.
- <sup>xx</sup> U.S. Census for 1870
- <sup>xxi</sup> U.S. Census for 1870.
- <sup>xxii</sup> John Little Death Certificate, No. 8888, Board of Health District of Columbia, D.C. Archives.
- <sup>xxiii</sup> U.S. Census for 1880.
- <sup>xxiv</sup> *The Evening Star*, February 9, 1895, classified ad for Protestant Episcopal services;  
<http://www.stmargaretsD.C..org/about/church>
- <sup>xxv</sup> *The Evening Star*, November 20, 1888, classified ad for "A Special meeting ..."
- <sup>xxvi</sup> Statistical Map No. 6 Showing the System of Water Supply & Distribution. City of Washington. To accompany the annual report of the Commissioners for the year ending June 30, 1891 (Library of Congress, at <http://www.loc.gov/resource/g3851fm.gct00191/?sp=6>).
- <sup>xxvii</sup> Statistical Map No. 10 Showing the Location of Street Railways. City of Washington. To accompany the annual report of the Commissioners for the year ending June 30, 1891 (Library of Congress, at <http://www.loc.gov/resource/g3851fm.gct00191/?sp=10>).
- <sup>xxviii</sup> *Roads to Diversity: Adams Morgan Heritage Trail*, Cultural Tourism DC, 2005; Emily Hotaling Eig, "Kalorama," in *Washington at Home*, ed. Kathryn S. Smith (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2010); D.C. Building Permit database, Brian Kraft for the D.C. Historic Preservation Office.
- <sup>xxix</sup> *The Evening Star*, September 20, 1901, p. 5.
- <sup>xxx</sup> *The Evening Star*, January 7, 1903.
- <sup>xxxi</sup> Finella M. Alexander on [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com).
- <sup>xxxii</sup> *The Evening Star*, October 28, 1903, p. 20.
- <sup>xxxiii</sup> Deed dated December 2, 1903, recorded December 23, 1903 in Liber 2793, Folio 124 at the D.C. Archives; *The Washington Post*, December 13, 1903 p. T3; *The Washington Post*, March 8, 1919, p.3.
- <sup>xxxiv</sup> *The Evening Star*, December 26, 1903, "Sales of Realty," p. 17.
- <sup>xxxv</sup> *The Washington Post*, December 16, 1903, p. 14. The February 5, 1904, deed was recorded February 8, 1904, in Liber 2764, Folio 342 at the D.C. Archives.
- <sup>xxxvi</sup> Mark Benbow, Marymount University, "Christian Heurich," *Immigrant Entrepreneurship, German-American Business Biographies*, <http://immigrantentrepreneurship.org/entry.php?rec=38>, 2014.
- <sup>xxxvii</sup> Christian Heurich, *From My Life 1842-1934/From Haina in Thuringia to Washington in the United States of American/Life Story and Recollections of Christian Heurich* (Washington, D.C., 1934) p. 26.
- <sup>xxxviii</sup> An Act Authorizing the joining of Kalorama avenue, ch. 1763, 33 Stat. 514 (April 28, 1904).
- <sup>xxxix</sup> *The Washington Post*, April 9, 1904, p. 13. Note that this article notes the square footage of the southern portion of the property of 43,439 sq. ft, or approximately 1 acre, and refers to 283 feet of frontage on Columbia Road, but the 1903 article, supra note 17, indicates that he purchased only 60 feet of frontage.
- <sup>xl</sup> "Experts Vary a Dollar a Foot in Appraising Condemned Ground," *The Washington Post*, November 1, 1905; *The Washington Post*, December 13, 1905, p. 16. The Congressional act provided for a jury to determine the amount of damages.

Kalorama Park and Archaeological Site

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

<sup>xlii</sup> Permit no. 4720, April 22, 1911, for shed at 1869 Columbia Road (lot 800), on microfilm in Washingtoniana Division, D.C. Public Library; Instrument no. 101, recorded April 6, 1926, Liber 5735, Folio 30, at the D.C. Archives.

<sup>xliii</sup> *The Evening Star*, July 3, 1924, p. 8.

<sup>xliiii</sup> *The Washington Post*, March 8, 1919, p.3.

<sup>xliv</sup> See case file for Civil Action No. 5070 in the District Court of the United States for the District of Columbia, available at the National Archives.

<sup>xlv</sup> Permit no. 4572, February 19, 1921 for garage at 1867 Columbia Road (lot 813), on microfilm in Washingtoniana Division, D.C. Public Library.

<sup>xlvi</sup> Salvage ads in the *Evening Star*, April 22, 1937, through August 1, 1937.

<sup>xlvii</sup> Galen Cranz, "Changing Roles of Urban Parks/From Pleasure Garden to Open Space," at <http://www.spur.org/publications/article/2000-06-01/changing-roles-urban-parks>

<sup>xlviii</sup> *District of Columbia Parks and Recreation Master Plan Historic Preservation Review*, prepared for the D.C. Office of Planning and D.C. Historic Preservation Office by History Matters, LLC, March 2014, pp. 10-11.

<sup>xlix</sup> "Flagpole Dedicated at Kalorama Grounds," *D.C. Citizen*, August-September 1949.

<sup>l</sup> Peter C. Wilson, LA, *Site Analysis: Kalorama Park, NW, District of Columbia*, August 2014.

<sup>li</sup> James M. Goode, *Best Addresses: One Hundred Years of Washington's Distinguished Apartment Houses* (Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Books, 1988); James M. Goode, *Capital Losses: A Cultural History of Washington's Destroyed Buildings* (Washington, D.C., Smithsonian Books, 1979); Emily Hotaling Eig, "Kalorama," in *Washington at Home*, ed. Kathryn S. Smith (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2010); D.C. city directories.

<sup>lii</sup> D.C. Recreation Board - From Report to the Commissioners for Year ending June 30, 1949, pp 205-206; letter dated February 23, 1949, from Department of the Interior Office of the Secretary to Harry Wender (Harry S. Wender Papers, Historical Society of Washington, D.C., MS 0379).

<sup>liii</sup> Harry S. Wender Papers, Historical Society of Washington, D.C., MS 0379, folder 57.

<sup>liv</sup> April 9, 1948, letter from the National Capital Park and Planning Commission letter to Milo Christensen, Superintendent, D.C. Recreation Dept., Re: Transfer of Playgrounds between White and Negro Use; June 29, 1948, letter from the D.C. Recreation Department to the D.C. Recreation Board (Harry S. Wender Papers, Historical Society of Washington, D.C., MS 0379, folders 67 and 57).

<sup>lv</sup> Hopkins real estate map, 1894; circles showing investigative sites superimposed for this report.

<sup>lvi</sup> D.C. Department of Recreation Project, Phase II, July 31, 1986, Engineering-Science, Inc., Washington, D.C.

<sup>lvii</sup> Belcher, Mary, Nomination of John Little's Farmhouse at Kalorama Park to the National Park Service National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom, approved 2008.

<sup>lviii</sup> Ruth Troccoli, Ph.D., City Archaeologist, D.C. Historic Preservation Office: August 14, 2015, email to Mara Cherkasky.

<sup>lix</sup> *Archaeological Investigation at Site 51NW061, Kalorama Park, Washington, D.C., Final Report, The Louis Berger Group, Inc., for C&E Services of Washington, D.C., 2010*



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Kalorama Park and Archaeological Site

Name of Property

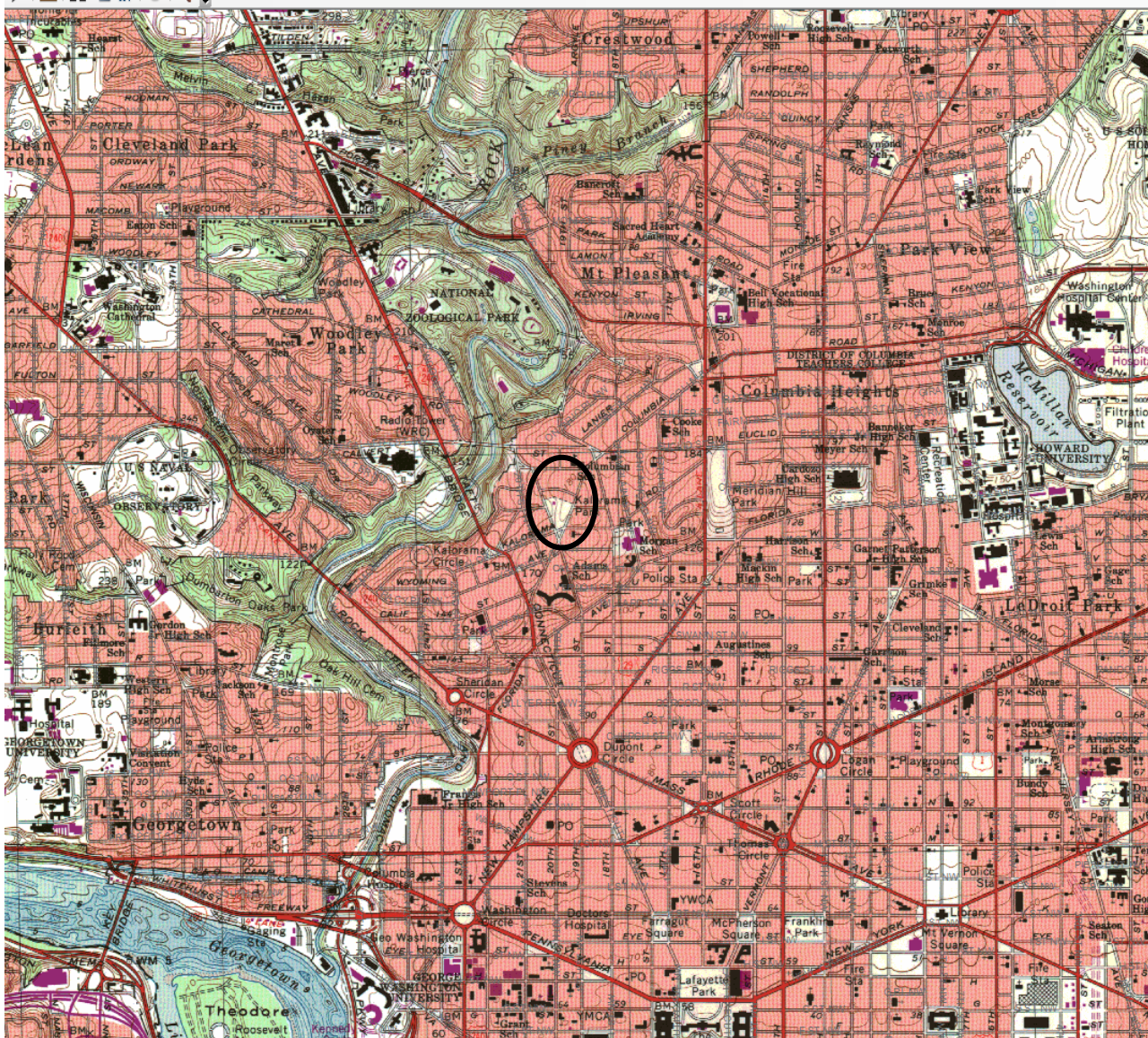
Washington, D.C.

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Maps and Images

Page 1



Site Plan showing location of Kalorama Park and Archaeological Site  
(USGS Washington West Quad)



**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Kalorama Park and Archaeological Site

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Maps and Images

Page 2



Site Plan of Kalorama Park and Archaeological Site showing National Register boundaries

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Kalorama Park and Archaeological Site

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Maps and Images

Page 3



**Sketch Map of Kalorama Park with Key Areas Numbered**

1. Central Lawn
2. Plaza and Field house
3. Entrance Court from Columbia Road
4. Service Road from Columbia Road
5. Upper hillside
6. Location of 2009 Archaeological discovery
7. Basketball Courts
8. 19<sup>th</sup> Street entrance and stairs
9. 19<sup>th</sup> Street Promenade
10. Southern entrance area
11. Community Garden
12. Older Children's Playground
13. Tots' Lot



**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Kalorama Park and Archaeological Site

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Maps and Images

Page 4



John Little House, photographed circa 1900  
(*Historical Society of Washington, D.C.*)



John Little House, photographed circa 1926  
(*Historical Society of Washington, D.C.*)

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Kalorama Park and Archaeological Site

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Maps and Images

Page 5



Detail from the Nathaniel Michler, Map of Rock Creek and its Surroundings, 1866, showing the J. Little property  
(Library of Congress Geography and Maps Division)



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Kalorama Park and Archaeological Site

Name of Property

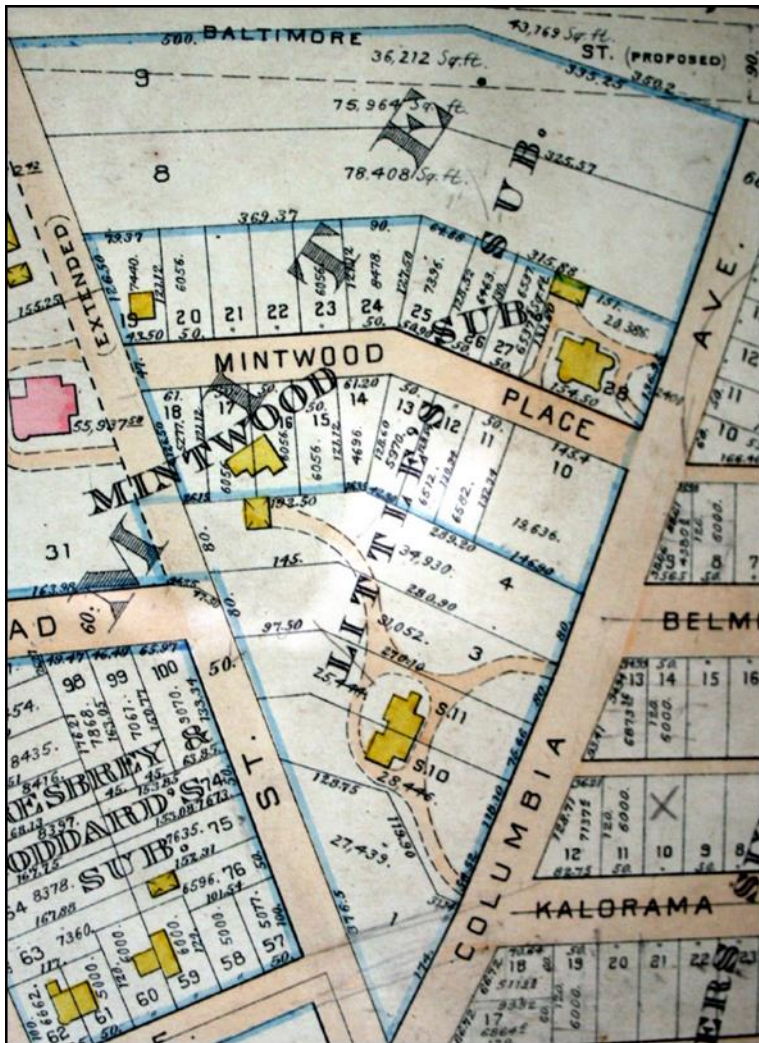
Washington, D.C.

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Maps and Images

Page 6



Detail from 1896 G.M. Hopkins Map showing the subdivision of the John Little property. The Little Manor House straddles lots S10 and S11 (of original Lot 2).  
(Library of Congress Geography and Maps Division)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Kalorama Park and Archaeological Site

Name of Property

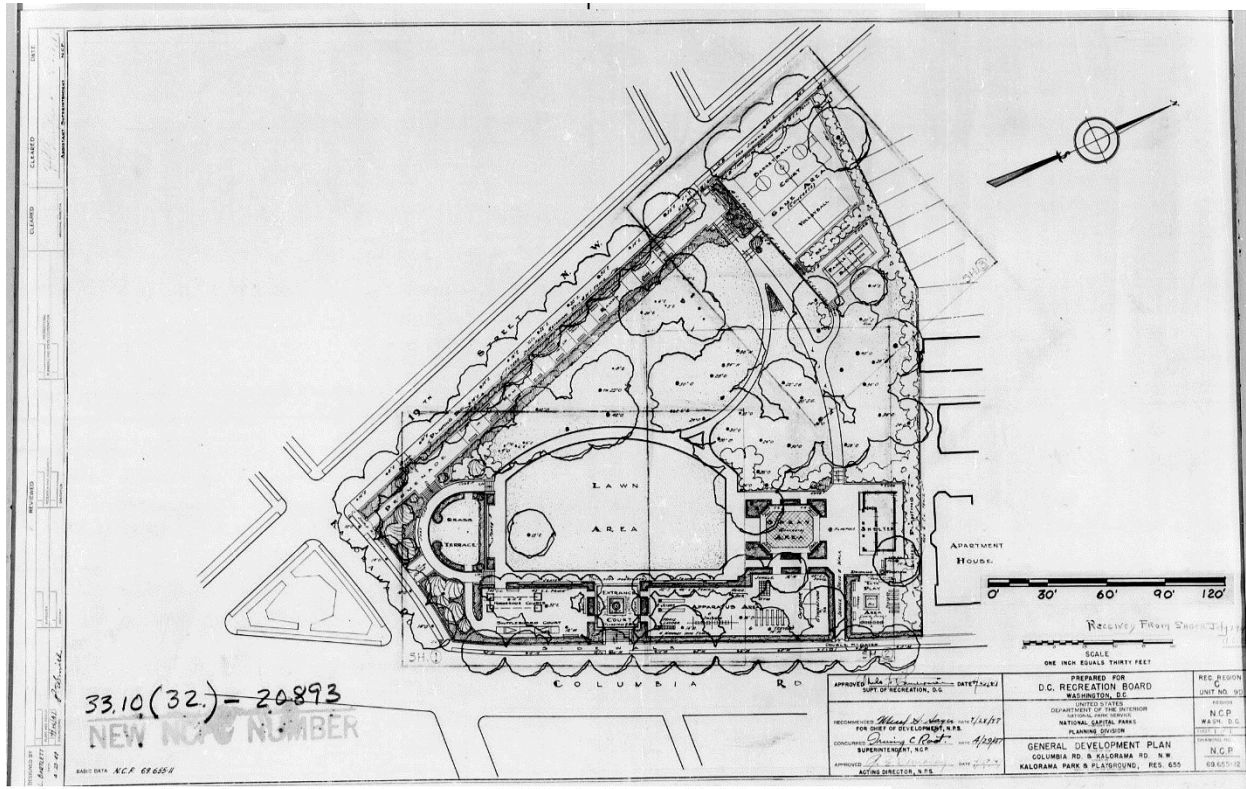
Washington, D.C.

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Maps and Images

Page 7



Plan for Kalorama Park, 1947, submitted by The National Park Service to the D.C. Recreation Board (National Capital Planning Commission)



**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Kalorama Park and Archaeological Site

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Maps and Images

Page 8

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION,  
KALORAMA PARK, 2009**



Louis Berger Group archaeologist Jason Shellenhammer next to the brick wall found at the north end of the park  
(Photo by Mary Belcher, 2009)



**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Kalorama Park and Archaeological Site

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Maps and Images

Page 9



Detail of brick wall

(Photo by Mary Belcher, 2009)



Photo of ceramic sherd found near brick wall

(Photo by Mary Belcher)

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Kalorama Park and Archaeological Site

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Maps and Images

Page 10



Brick pillar that might have supported outbuilding