The study of Washington, DC as an embodiment of national identity and a
design proposal for a slave memorial on the National Mall

by

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A thesis
presented to the University of Waterloo
in fulfilment of the
thesis requirement for a degree of
Master of Architecture

Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, 2009

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AUTHOR’S DECLARATION

I here by declare that I am the sole author of this thesis. This is a true copy of the thesis, including any required final revisions, as accepted by my examiners.

I understand that my thesis may be made electronically available to the public.
ABSTRACT

The National Mall in Washington DC has become an “encyclopaedia of American history,” however conspicuous in its absence, is the history of African American slavery upon which this national artifact was built. Slavery may not be cause for celebration as one of America’s proudest moments, however its history is critical to understanding the history of America and why the deep-seated antagonism between the races continues to exist within its very core.

The purpose of the thesis is to focus on this aspect of American history in order to design an appropriate memorial that would satisfy this gap between this history and its recognition on the National Mall. Secondly, the slave memorial intends to honour the victims of slavery who have been largely ignored, trivialized, or misrepresented by the few memorials in Washington that claim to address their memory.

A major portion of this thesis constitutes a mapping of the memorials and monuments of Washington DC in an attempt to understand how the capital has come to embody the “national identity” of the United States.

The thesis also contains a summarized history of slavery and racial tension in the United States. This material is included in the thesis in order to remind us of the depth and seriousness of the history that the slave memorial must address through its built, architectural form.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank my supervisor Dereck Revington, and committee members Elizabeth English and Robert Jan Van Pelt for their insight and guidance, for asking the tough questions and challenging me to do my best.

I would like to thank my parents, Calvin and Myrna Hollett. Thank you for your love and care during the times I needed it most.

I would like to thank my girlfriend Catherine and Chris, Eric, Kenneth, and Michael.
I would like to dedicate this thesis to Barack Hussein Obama, the first African American President of the United States. Your Presidential election speeches were the inspiration of this thesis, your efforts lead to bringing our races closer together in harmony.
CONTENTS

Author`s Declaration ii
Abstract iii
Acknowledgements iv
Dedication v
Contents vi-vii
List of Figures viii-xv

INTRODUCTION 1
Thesis Structure 3

1. PART 1 - THE STAGE
Washington DC and its political symbolism 5

2. PART 2 - THE “MISSING SCRIPT”
Introduction 21
History of black slavery in America 23
The Emancipation Proclamation and the history of racial tension in America after 1865 35

3. PART 3 - A SLAVE MEMORIAL IN WASHINGTON DC
Introduction 61
Slave Memorial Proposed site - Washington Monument grounds 63
Proposal for a slave memorial on the National Mall 69

CONCLUSION 83

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A - ARCHITECTURAL PRECEDENTS
Lincoln Memorial - Washington, DC 87
Jefferson Memorial - Washington, DC 91
Vietnam Veteran`s Memorial - Washington, DC 95
Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe - Berlin, Germany 99
APPENDIX B - SLAVE MEMORIALS AROUND THE WORLD
Neg Mowan, Run Away Slave Statue - Port au Prince, Haiti 103
Bussa Statue, Emancipation Monument - Barbados 103
Memorial to the Slave Market - Stonetown, Tanzania 105
Slave Statue - Goree Island, Senegal 105
Slave Trade Memorial Statue - Savannah, Georgia 105
Anse Cafard Slave Memorial - The French Island, Martinique 106
Slavery Memorial and Museum - Goree Island, Senegal 106
Redemption Song, Emancipation Park - Kingston, Jamaica 107
Captured Africans - Lancaster, England 108
Mount Vernon’s Slave Memorial - Mount Vernon, Virginia 108

APPENDIX C - RECENT DEVELOPMENTS ON THE NATIONAL MALL
Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial 111
National Museum of African American History and Culture 113

APPENDIX D - RECENT GROWTH OF THE NATIONAL MALL
List of memory sites built during the previous three decades 115

APPENDIX E - SLAVE HISTORY SUPPLEMENT
Timeline of African American history in America. 121

APPENDIX F - SLAVE HISTORY SUPPLEMENT
Maps illustrating American expansion from 1619 to 2009 137

APPENDIX G - SLAVE HISTORY SUPPLEMENT
Graph of American development and slave state status 139

BIBLIOGRAPHY 143
**LIST OF FIGURES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PAGE &amp; TITLE</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PART 1</strong></td>
<td><strong>THE STAGE</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 4            | Fig 1.1 Precedents for the design of Washington DC.  
                Source: “Art of Designing Cities” page 20  
|              | Fig 1.2 Washington DC Influences and precedents.  
                Source: “Architecture, Power, and National Identity” page 58  
|              | Fig 1.3 Spatial Analysis of Washington DC.  
                Source: “Art of Designing Cities” page 7  
|              | Fig 1.4 Topography of Washington DC.  
                Source: “Art of Designing Cities” page 7  
| 5            | Fig 1.5 Map of the previous capital city, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1777.  
                Source: www.historicmapsrestored.com  
| 6            | Fig 1.6 Pierre L’Enfant’s Master-plan for Washington DC, 1791.  
                Source: “Pennsylvania Avenue” Page 51  
|              | Fig 1.7 “City of Washington From Beyond the Navy Yard.”  
                Source: Oil Painting by George Cooke in 1833  
| 8            | Fig 1.8 Balloon view of Washington, DC from Harpers Weekly, 1863.  
|              | Fig 1.9 Aerial sketch of Washington in 1880.  
                Source: Currier and Ives “The City of Washington”  
| 10           | Fig 1.10 View of the National Mall looking West towards the Potomac River.  
                Source: “Pennsylvania Avenue” Page 51  
| 12           | Fig 1.11 View of the National Mall from the Lincoln Memorial looking East.  
                Source: www.flickr.com  
|              | Fig 1.12 Aerial view of the National Mall looking West.  
                Source: www.flickr.com  
| 13           | Fig 1.13 View of the National Mall looking East from above the Potomac River.  
                Source: www.flickr.com  
|              | Fig 1.14 View of the National Mall looking South.  
                Source: www.flickr.com  
| 14           | Fig 1.15 Iconographic interpretation of the US Capitol.  
                Source: www.aoc.gov  
| 15           | Fig 1.16 View of the White House executive grounds.  
                Source: www.flickr.com  
|              | Fig 1.17 Iconographic interpretation of the White House.  
                Drawing created by author  
| 16           | Fig 1.18 Map of the District of Columbia and America.  

viii
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fig</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Fig 1.19</td>
<td>Googlemap of central Washington DC in 2009.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Fig 1.20</td>
<td>Map of the monuments and free public buildings in Washington DC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Fig 1.21</td>
<td>Detailed map of the National Mall, Washington DC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Fig 1.22</td>
<td>Map outlining the axial relationship between Washington’s most significant memory sites.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Fig 2.1</td>
<td>Atlantic Slave Trade Map.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Fig 2.2</td>
<td>“Negroes for Sale” Newspaper advertisement from the 18th century.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Fig 2.3</td>
<td>Sketch of the slave arrangement onboard a slave ship.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Fig 2.4</td>
<td>Sketch of a half lynching.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Fig 2.5</td>
<td>Plan of a Slave Shipping Vessel.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Fig 2.6</td>
<td>Cinematographic view of the White house under construction in 1795.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Fig 2.7</td>
<td>An overseer tending to the slaves building the White House.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Fig 2.8</td>
<td>Female slaves in front of the White House.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Fig 2.9</td>
<td>Sketch of the overseer rearing the livestock.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Fig 2.11</td>
<td>Oil Painting by Francis Bicknell Carpenter entitled “First Reading of the Emancipation Proclamation,” drawn in 1864.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>Fig 2.12</td>
<td>Emancipation Monument sculpted by Thomas Ball and erected in 1876.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>Fig 2.13</td>
<td>A drawing published in “Harper’s Weekly” in 1874 of the White League and the KKK.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Fig 2.14</td>
<td>Ku Klux Klan parade in Washington DC, Sept 13th, 1926.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fig 2.15  Photo of an anti-negro protest rally practiced by the Ku Klux Klan.
Source: http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/USAkkl.htm
Fig 2.16  Photo of a KKK rally in 1992.
Source: www.upi.com/enl-win/91db2af0c63ff114c0ba38485f00ee7a/
Fig 2.17  Photo of Omaha Courthouse Lynching of 1919.
Source: www.blackpast.org
Fig 2.18  Photo of a lynching during a Sunday picnic in 1930 by Brettman/Corbis.
Source: www.worldsfamousphotos.com
Fig 2.19  Photo of Marian Anderson in front of the Lincoln Memorial in 1939.
Source: University of Pennsylvania, Annenberg Rare Book Library
Fig 2.20  Examples of racial discrimination in the United Statues.
Source: http://memory.loc.gov
Fig 2.21  Photo of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom in 1963.
Source: http://ashp.cuny.edu/nowandthen/?p=255
Fig 2.22  Photo of the Mary McLeod Bethune memorial in Washington DC.
Source: www.flickr.com
Fig 2.23  Photo of Dr Martin Luther King Jr. during his “I Have a Dream” Speech.
Source: www.blackpast.org
Fig 2.24  Photo of Dr Martin Luther King Jr. in front of the Lincoln Memorial.
Source: www.blackpast.org
Fig 2.25  Aerial view of the “Million Man March” on the National Mall, 1995.
Fig 2.26  Photo of the “Million Man March” on Washington DC in 1995.
Source: www.africawithin.com/mmm/
Fig 2.27  Painting inspired by the Barack Obama’s Presidential campaign.
Source: http://www.obamaartreport.com/
Fig 2.28  Artwork inspired by the Barack Obama’s Presidential campaign.
Source: http://www.obamaartreport.com/
Fig 2.29  The National Mall during Barack Obama’s Presidential Inauguration.
Source: www.nypost.com/photos/galleries/archive/
Fig 2.30  Record setting attendance on the National Mall during Barack Obama’s
Presidential Inauguration.
Source: http://www.worldrecordsacademy.org/society/most_popular_inauguration
Fig 2.31  Group photo of Union Soldiers.
Source: www.civilwarphotos.net
Fig 2.32  Barack Obama day before Inauguration speech.
Source: www.cbc.ca/whatodds/obama-lincoln-cp-w6109957.jpg

PART 3

THE CASE FOR A SLAVE MEMORIAL IN WASHINGTON DC

Fig 3.1  Map of Washington DC.
Created by author
Fig 3.2  Three sections of Washington DC and the National Mall.
Created by author
Fig 3.3  Sketch of the original Washington Monument, drawn in 1852.
Source: http://xroads.virginia.edu/~CAP/MALL/index.html
Fig 3.4  Sketch of Washington DC, drawn in 1883.

Fig 3.5  Photo of the Jefferson Pier in 2009.
Source: www.flickr.com

Fig 3.6  Postcard of the Potomac Aqueduct with Washington Monument in view, drawn in 1868.
Source: John Hopkins University Press

Fig 3.7  Sketch of the new West Potomac Park, drawn in 1916.
Source: http://www.dcvote.org/trellis/character/historicalmaps.cfm

Fig 3.8  Photo of the half built Washington Monument, 1860.
Source: http://dckaleidoscope.wordpress.com/2009/01/14/

Fig 3.9  A Fireworks display over Washington DC.
Source: www.commons.wikimedia.org

Fig 3.10  Aerial photo of the Washington Monument.
Source: www.flickr.com

Fig 3.11  Map of the Washington Monument in 2009.
Source: Google Earth image.

Fig 3.12  Panorama of the current Washington Monument base.
Source: www.flickr.com

Fig 3.13  Site plan of the Slave memorial proposal.
Created by author

Fig 3.14  North and south elevations of the Slave memorial proposal.
Created by author

Fig 3.15  East and west elevations of the Slave memorial proposal.
Created by author

Fig 3.16  Map of Washington DC's original shoreline.
Created by author

Fig 3.17  Plan of the inner sanctum.
Created by author

Fig 3.18  Section A.
Created by author

Fig 3.19  Section B.
Created by author

Fig 3.20  Section C.
Created by author

Fig 3.21  Section D
Created by author

Fig 3.22  View of the memorial at night.
Created by author

Fig 3.23  Aerial view of the Slave memorial proposal.
Created by author

Fig 3.24  View of the east ceremonial entrance.
Created by author

Fig 3.25  Aerial view of the Slave memorial proposal.
Created by author
81 Fig 3.26  Bird’s eye view of the Slave memorial during a national ceremony. Created by author.

CONCLUSION
82 Fig 3.27  Photo taken in 1863 documenting the damage inflicted by the whip. Source: http://thelouvertureproject.org/index.php?title=Slave

APPENDIX A      ARCHITECTURAL PRECEDENTS
86 Fig 4.1  Aerial view of the Lincoln Memorial Source: www.essential-architecture.com
          Fig 4.2  Panoramic view inside the Lincoln Memorial Source: www.flickr.com
87 Fig 4.3  Sketch inside the Temple of Zeus Source: www.worldwander.com
          Fig 4.4  Photo of the Lincoln Memorial exterior Source: www.flickr.com
88 Fig 4.5  Lincoln Memorial Front Elevation Source: www.flickr.com
          Fig 4.6  View inside the Lincoln Memorial Source: www.flickr.com
89 Fig 4.7  View of the Lincoln Memorial from the Washington monument Photo by author
90 Fig 4.8  Aerial photo of the Jefferson Memorial Source: www.flickr.com
          Fig 4.9  Photo of the Jefferson Memorial from across the Tidal Basin Source: www.flickr.com
91 Fig 4.10 Photo of the University of Virginia Rotunda Source: www.flickr.com
          Fig 4.11  Photo of the Pantheon, Rome Source: www.artchive.com/artchive/r/roman/roman_pantheon.jpg
92 Fig 4.12 Photo of the Jefferson Memorial interior Source: www.flickr.com
          Fig 4.13 Photo of the Jefferson Memorial Front Elevation Source: www.flickr.com
          Fig 4.14 Photo of the Jefferson Memorial entrance Source: www.flickr.com
94 Fig 4.15 Photo of the Vietnam Veteran’s Memorial at night. Source: www.flickr.com
95 Fig 4.16 Photo of the Vietnam Veteran’s Memorial. Source: www.flickr.com
96 Fig 4.17 Photo of the Vietnam Veteran’s Memorial. Photo taken by author
          Fig 4.18 Painting of the Vietnam Veteran’s Memorial. “Reflections” painting by Artist Lee Teter. 1988
97 Fig 4.19 Panoramic photo of the Vietnam Veteran’s Memorial looking north. Source: www.flickr.com
98  Fig 4.20  View within the matrix of the Holocaust Memorial.  
Source: www.flickr.com

100  Fig 4.21  Aerial view of the Holocaust Memorial in Berlin.  
Source: www.flickr.com

Fig 4.22  Holocaust Memorial: Concept sections.  
Source: Peter Eisenmen’s Winning Entry Set of Drawings

Fig 4.23  View of visitors within the Holocaust Memorial.  
Source: www.flickr.com

APPENDIX B  SLAVE MEMORIALS AROUND THE WORLD
102  Fig 5.1  Photo of the “Neg Mowan” statue in Port au Prince, Haiti in 1959.  
Source: www.flickr.com

Fig 5.2  “Bussa Statue” or “Emancipation Monument” built in Barbados, 1985.  
Source: www.flickr.com

104  Fig 5.3  Untitled, undated slave memorial in Stone Town, Tanzania.  
Source: www.flickr.com

Fig 5.4  “Slave Statue” on Goree Island.  
Source: www.flickr.com

Fig 5.5  Slave Trade Memorial in Savannah GA.  
Source: www.flickr.com

106  Fig 5.6  Photo of the Anse Cafard Slave Memorial.  
Source: www.flickr.com

Fig 5.7  Photo of the Slavery memorial spire on Goree Island.  
Source: www.flickr.com

107  Fig 5.8  Photo of the “Redemption Song” statue.  
Source: www.flickr.com

108  Fig 5.9  Photo of the “Captured Africans” Memorial.  
Source: www.flickr.com

Fig 5.10  Photo of “Mount Vernon Slave Memorial.”  
Source: www.flickr.com

APPENDIX C  RECENT ACTIVITY ON THE NATIONAL MALL
110  Fig 6.1  Martin Luther King Jr. memorial site plan.  
Source: www.gilvercorp.com/images/mlk_memorial.jpg

Fig 6.2  Martin Luther King Jr. memorial at night.  
Source: www.flickr.com

111  Fig 6.3  Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial sculpture.  
Source: www.npr.org

112  Fig 6.4  NMAAHC Winning Entry.  
Source: http://nmaahc.si.edu

Fig 6.5  Aerial view of the proposed site for the NMAAHC.  
Source: http://nmaahc.si.edu

113  Fig 6.6  Interior of the winning entry for the Proposed NMAAHC.  
Source: http://nmaahc.si.edu
APPENDIX D  RECENTLY BUILT WASHINGTON MEMORIALS

115  Fig 7.1  National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial.
     Source: www.visitingdc.com

Fig 7.2  Korean War Veterans Memorial.
     Source: www.visitingdc.com

Fig 7.3  Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial.
     Source: www.visitingdc.com

Fig 7.4  National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden.
     Source: www.visitingdc.com

Fig 7.5  National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism during World War II
     Source: www.visitingdc.com

116  Fig 7.6  US National World War II Memorial.
     Source: www.visitingdc.com

Fig 7.7  African American Civil War Memorial.
     Source: www.visitingdc.com

Fig 7.8  National Museum of the American Indian.
     Source: www.visitingdc.com

Fig 7.9  The Extra Mile - Points of Light Volunteer Pathway.
     Source: www.visitingdc.com

Fig 7.10  Victims of Communism Memorial.
     Source: www.visitingdc.com

117  Fig 7.11  US Capital Visitor’s Center Under Construction.
     Source: www.visitthecapitol.gov/

Fig 7.12  NMAAHC Museum Winning Entry.
     Source: http://nmaahc.si.edu

Fig 7.13  Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Proposal.
     Source: www.mlkmemorial.org/

118  Fig 7.14  Map of Washington DC with Monuments highlighted.
     Created by author

119  Fig 7.15  Map of Washington DC with African American memorial sites highlighted.
     Created by author

APPENDIX F  MAPS ILLUSTRATING AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT

136  Fig 8.1  Map of the United States in 1776.
     Created by author

Fig 8.2  Map of the United States in 1812.
     Created by author

137  Fig 8.3  Map of the United States during the Civil War.
     Created by author

Fig 8.4  Map of the United States in 2009.
     Created by author

APPENDIX G  SLAVE HISTORY SUPPLEMENT

140  Fig 9.1  Timeline of African slavery in America arranged by State.
     Created by author
INTRODUCTION

The National Mall in Washington, DC is defined as the open-area National Park in the downtown area connecting the nation’s federal, political, and cultural institutions. This public open green space receives over twenty-four million visitors each year from around the world.¹

The National Mall has been developed significantly throughout history to become the canvas on which the national identity of the United States is expressed, through the manifest iconography of its built environment. Although gatherings and historic events are important to the development and acknowledgement of the National Mall as the voice of the people, the built landscape consisting of museums, galleries, and monuments codifies these ephemeral acts of history as permanent, physical embodiments of memory. The collection of monuments, memorials, parks, streets and buildings ultimately forms a collective representation of America and an established acknowledgement of its national history.

This thesis focuses on one aspect that still seems conspicuously absent from the Mall, the historical account of slavery in America. The current study proposes that the national collective registry of memory sites on the National Mall recognize the history of slavery as part of its collective representation, codified in the form of a slave memorial.

THESIS STRUCTURE

The thesis is divided into three parts. Part One details the birth of Washington, DC and its embodiment of national identity in the United States.

Part Two highlights an aspect of American history that is not present on the National Mall, the history of slavery. In this chapter I detail the history of the American institution of slavery until the Emancipation Proclamation. This chapter also includes the course of racial tensions in the United States that resulted from the Proclamation, up through the present day.

Part Three deals with the design of a slave memorial to be placed on the National Mall in Washington, DC as a means of acknowledging its history.

After the three parts, I summarize the information presented above and state my conclusion.
There are six appendices attached with this thesis.

Appendix A contains four architectural precedents that illustrate the relationship between monuments and the collective memory they seek to embody. Three precedents are pre-existing memorials on the National Mall. The fourth is a Holocaust memorial which is located in Berlin, Germany.

Appendix B contains many slave memorials that exist around the world. They are displayed within the thesis as a point of reference for the thesis design proposal.

Appendix C details the recent developments of both the Martin Luther King memorial and the proposed National Museum of African American History and Culture. These are both considered strong new additions to the National Mall and commemorate significant events in African American history.

Appendix D lists all new additions to the National Mall during the past two decades. This list is part of the thesis as evidence that the Mall is in constant development and to display its current direction.

Appendices E, F, and G display slave history supplements. They contain more specific information regarding slavery in America from 1607 until 1865. This material provides maps of American expansion, growth of populations and account of significant events and milestones during America’s development.
Fig 1.1 Precedents for the design of Washington DC

Evelyn’s plan for rebuilding London, 1666.

Fig 1.2 Washington DC precedent icons.

The general plan for the great French palace park, based on the original Blondel design.

Fig 1.3 Capital city site spatial analysis, 1792.

L’Enfant’s plan for Washington, 1791.

Fig 1.4 Capital city site topography, 1792.

Fig 1.1 Precedents for the design of Washington DC
Construction of the capital city began in 1791 under George Washington; the first President of the United States. It was built deliberately as an iconographic statement of independence and a symbol of the nation’s newly acquired status. Washington was founded along the Potomac River in the uninhabited terrain between the power centres of the northern and the southern territories.

The “Federal City” was the first planned capital city built for a country. It was designed to house the functions of government, but also to advance their status following independence. The United States’ successful transition from a group of British colonies to become one of the world’s greatest powers, has influenced the style and tone of newer Capital cities such as those found in Australia, India, and Nigeria.

The design of Washington was based on Pierre L’Enfant’s competition entry. It was the resolute compilation of urban planning techniques and has been affiliated with many urban precedents. Washington was modelled most directly on the spatial arrangement of Versailles and influenced by Evelyn’s plan for London. These cities were chosen because they were considered the resolved solution in comparison to the experiences and design flaws found in Philadelphia, the former capital. Washington’s founders strove to amalgamate both worlds, the efficient and accessible American grid-system and the European elements of elegance and formality.

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5 Note: The city of Washington was originally a separate municipality within the Territory of Columbia. In 1871 they merged to become Washington, District County. *The District of Columbia Organic Act of 1871*.

Fig 1.6 Pierre L'Enfants Masterplan for Washington DC, 1791.

Fig 1.7 Oil Painting by George Cooke 1833 of Washington DC from across the Potomac River. On the left is the “Presidential Palace” (White House) and the “Federal House” (US Capitol)
The city was laid out to establish a hierarchy within the space. When the city was being designed, planners magnified the significance and presence of specific buildings. Two examples are the White House and the US Capitol building. These two buildings were critical to Washington’s success and were placed first and strategically within the city’s master-plan. After surveying the land, the Capitol building was placed atop Jenkins Hill, the highest point of land in the area. The building was intended to be the anchor-point of the newly formed republic and a symbol of the established liberties commended by its founders. The White House was placed on the adjacent hilltop, across the canal system that was currently under construction, and was to be connected with the US Capitol via a grand boulevard. After these institutions were erected, focus was placed on installing infrastructural buildings and systems that would accelerate the city’s development and allow Congress to officially transplant from the temporary government set up in Philadelphia into the new capital city.

As part of the celebration of their Independence, the founders of America sought out symbols that affirmed their rightful authority to self-govern. They adopted architectural typologies that were consecrated during the Greek, Roman, Egyptian, French and British empires and reformed them to establish an American perspective. This process allowed America’s system of government to infer great power and authority through association with other powerful systems of government. As a result, Washington, DC contains many buildings with a variety of architectural styles, such as Neoclassical, Georgian, Gothic revival, Queen Anne, Châteauesque, Richardsonian Romanesque, Beaux-Arts, French Second Empire style and a variety of Victorian styles.

CAPITAL: The city housing the administration of a state national government.

CAPITOL: Building that houses the government’s lawmakers.


8 Note: The White House, the United States Capitol building, and the United States Supreme Courts building are the current names of the three key buildings for each of America’s three government branches. The White House was originally founded as the Presidential Palace. The first design of the US Capitol building was known as the Federal House, and originally housed the Judicial Branch.

Fig 1.8 Balloon view of Washington, DC from Harpers Weekly, 1863.

Fig 1.9 Currier and Ives “The City of Washington. Bird’s Eye View From the Potomac--Looking North”. Lithograph published in New York in 1880.
The professional goal of government buildings is to forge something most often termed “national identity” or “national unity,” however the design of these buildings remains closely tied to political forces which reinforce existing patterns of dominance and submission.  

The City of Washington was originally a separate municipality within the Territory of Columbia until an act of Congress in 1871 effectively merged the City and the Territory into a single entity called the District of Columbia. It is for this reason that the city, while legally named the District of Columbia, is known as Washington, D.C.

In 1814, during the War of 1812, Washington was sacked by the British colonies from the north. During the invasion, the enemy forces razed all of Washington’s buildings and crippled its infrastructural components. After the war ended, American leaders rebuilt their capital city; however, several design modifications were made that magnified the political iconography of its architecture. The block house that originally housed Congress was reformed as the new US Capitol building with a large wooden dome that towered over the “low and convenient” Parisian-like skyline. Across the grand boulevard, the White House was given north and south porticos for greeting dignitaries and the entire building was repainted. During the course of upgrades, modifications and alterations, Washington became an elaborate display of its own interpretation of America. It began projecting itself onto the American psyche as an exaggerated manifestation of an idyllic world that its government hoped to create.

By the mid nineteenth century, Washington DC had become established and had grown in stature and its influence; however, the city had fallen behind in many infrastructural components. It had not yet capitalized on such inventions as electricity, indoor plumbing, and paved roads. Also, after the end of the American Civil War, a significant expansion of the federal government was needed to manage new departments, states and other national interests. New buildings were built throughout Washington wherever land was available, particularly on the National Mall. Part of this e

The rapid expansion of new buildings in Washington DC disregarded the city’s nationalistic vision and by 1900 L’Enfant’s master plan of the ceremonial core had become marred by slums and sporadically-placed buildings. Congress formed a joint committee that set out to beautify Washington’s ceremonial core and re-establish its iconographic vision. After a design competition, what became known as the McMillan Plan was chosen in 1902. It included the re-landscaping of the Capitol grounds and ceremonial core, the construction of new federal buildings and monuments, and the establishment of a new citywide park and waterway system throughout the region.

11 District of Columbia Organic Act of 1871

12 Note: This is in reference to the Jeffersonian vision of Washington as an American version of 18th-century Paris, with “low and convenient” housing on “light and airy” streets.
Fig 1.10 View of the National Mall looking West towards the Potomac River.
During the twentieth century the ceremonial core was redefined as the National Mall and later reformed and expanded in accordance with the McMillan master-plan. The canal system was buried and the shoreline of the Potomac River was extended. The expansion of the new park system nearly doubled the length of the Mall and removed most of the sporadically placed buildings, as well as hundreds of acres of swampland responsible for many malaria outbreaks in the past. It also included a major expansion of national museums, art galleries, and monuments throughout the National Mall as a form of celebration and preservation of American history. Over time, this collection has been enhanced and expanded to include more and more aspects of American history. This collection of memory sites is vast; however, it largely acknowledges deceased Americans, armed conflicts involving the United States, and aspects of American culture that were deemed worthy of preservation.  

As time unfolds and new events take place, new memory sites are requested and/or submitted to be part of the growing collection of national history markers in Washington, DC. As each new addition or modification of the National Mall takes place, the Mall is enriched. This process could continue indefinitely, and is likely to accelerate significantly with the development of the East Capital Axis towards the Anacostia River.

To assist in the understanding of how America’s national history is arranged in Washington, DC, the following pages include several images and maps of the city. These images and maps were included to highlight the city’s major components such as its boundaries, building mass, the two major axes, and the location of its national memory sites.


15 Note: Although a list of all monuments and memorials in Washington DC would be difficult to include, I have listed all memory sites erected during the last two decades, and it can be found in Appendix C.
Fig 1.11 View of the National Mall from the Lincoln Memorial looking East.

Fig 1.12 Aerial view of the National Mall.
Fig 1.13 View of the National Mall looking East from above the Potomac River.

Fig 1.14 View of the National Mall looking South. The East Wing of the White House can be seen on the lower right.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Statue of Freedom (Built by Slaves)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cupola (Declaration of Achievement)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dome of the Union (Influenced by the Dome of St. Peter's) (Replaced Dome of the Republic)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ceremonial Rotunda (Symbol of Democracy and the Union)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Congressional House and Senate Chambers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Slaves and Livestock Quarters</td>
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</table>

*Fig 1.15 Iconographic breakdown of the current US Capitol.*
Fig 1.16 View of the White House executive grounds from the Washington Monument.

Fig 1.17 An iconographic interpretation of the White House complex based on its architectural typology and the designation of the West Wing as the President’s workplace, and the East Wing as the offices for the First Lady.
Fig 1.18 Map of the District of Columbia and America.
Fig 1.19 Google map of central Washington DC in 2009
Fig 1.20: Map of the monuments and free public buildings in central Washington D.C.
Fig 1.22 Map outlining the axial relationship between Washington’s most significant memory sites.
PART 2  THE “MISSING SCRIPT” -

- INTRODUCTION -

Pierre L'Enfant's vision of Washington DC supports the notion that the capital city is a representation of the nation as a whole. It has grown and transformed, but always in support of this vision. This is a significant attribute uniquely part of Washington’s DNA, however it is an allusion. Many aspects of American history are omitted or ignored for the sake of maintaining an idyllic national message. One example of this is the history of slavery in the United States.

The breadth of American history that is represented by monuments and memorials in Washington, DC is vast; however the history of slavery is conspicuously absent from this group of memory sites. Slavery may not be cause for celebration as one of America’s proudest moments, but its history is critical to understanding the history of America and why the deep seated antagonism between the races continues to exist within the nation’s very core. Secondly, the victims of slavery have been largely ignored, trivialized, or misrepresented by the few memorials in Washington, DC that claim to address their memory. This thesis proposes to correct this oversight by establishing a new slave memorial on the National Mall as a means of addressing its history.

The following chapter briefly recounts the development and evolution of slavery in America. It details how roughly 650,000 Africans that survived the kidnapping and transport through the middle passage to United States were bred to establish a slave population that grew to over 4 million people over a period of two and a half centuries. Its purpose is to reveal the weight and seriousness of the history that the memorial must represent.
Fig 2.1 Map of how an estimated 24 million blacks were extracted from Africa over several centuries through the middle passage of the Atlantic Trade Triangle to South America, Central America, and the United States. The Atlantic slave trade was abolished in 1807.

The Slave trade can only be described as a vast complex of international crime by which, in four centuries, a total of fifteen million men, women and children of African blood were delivered into transatlantic slavery, under conditions so hideous that another nine million are estimated to have died during the crossing.16

When the women and girls are taken on board a ship, naked, trembling, terrified, perhaps almost exhausted from cold, fatigue and hunger, they are often exposed to the wanton rudeness of white savages... In imagination the prey is divided on the spot, and only reserved till opportunity offers. Although they could not speak English, these shivering creatures could not fail to understand the manners and the gestures of the seamen – the international language, the Esperanto, of lust.17

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17 Ibid., 100.
During the European exploration and expansion into the New World, Africans were kidnapped and forced to perform the hard labour required to establish the pioneer settlements. Many were exploited specifically for their strength, tolerance of harsh climatic conditions and their strong immunity from commonly found illnesses in the New World. The slave kidnappers, slave traders, and the slave owners were reinforced by a doctrine of false political, legal, and religious dogma geared specifically to subdue the “wild Africans” and permanently enchain them into the acceptance of racial inferiority. The first slaves are documented to have arrived in America in Virginia in 1619, twelve years after the first permanent settlement in America.\(^{19}\)

In the beginning, Africans were enslaved as “indentured servants,” working alongside others serving out debt or legal sentences. However, African servitude transformed into perpetual obligation to tyrannical slave-owners, a stark contrast from the path of indentured whites during the same era.

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\(^{18}\) Olaudah Equiano, a slave, 1793

In order to have a contented slave, it was necessary to make an unthinking one. It is necessary to darken his moral and mental vision, and, as far as possible, to annihilate the power of reason. The slave must be able to detect no inconsistencies in slavery; he must be made to feel that slavery is right; and he can be brought to that only when he ceases to be a man.\textsuperscript{20}

Now it is quite natural that plantation owners should themselves disseminate, and indeed believe, the theory that their Africans had been miserable in Africa. Most people will persuade themselves of anything if there is money in it. Furthermore, many of them were genuinely convinced that slave conditions on a good plantation, with a humane owner and a considerate overseer, were a distinct step up from the ‘savagery’ in which they had been told that the natives of the Slave Coast habitually lived. But here a question rears its head: who has told them so? The vast web of myth and misinformation which for centuries obscured the European vision of West Africa was spun by the slave traders themselves.\textsuperscript{21}

\begin{flushleft}
\textsuperscript{21} James P. Hennessy, (1968), 22.
\end{flushleft}

\textbf{Fig 2.3} Slaves arranged onboard a slave trading ship for maximum efficiency.
Although efficiently packed, tighter quarters often led to a deterioration of the cargo. The wrist and ankle locks often chafed the skin, wearing away the flesh to the bone over the length of the voyage. These infections, coupled with malnutrition, made it quite common for the slave ships to lose up to a third of the original investment during transportation; however, by dumping the dead and dying cargo overboard, the slave ship captain could claim insurance for “drowned” cargo, thus recouping the losses.

Many slaves experienced conflicting emotions at the death of their child. The first was one of joy that their child was beyond the reach of the slave trader; the second was the natural grief over the loss of a loved one. Alone in the solitude of the quarters, many parents felt relieved of the burden of raising a slave. Often, slaves expressed a wish that their children had been born stillborn.22

Each slave was phrenologically catalogued and assigned to a life of servitude under the “superior” race. Slave-Codes were enacted to define a system which sought to control blacks and exploit their labour. Slaves could not own property, leave their master’s estate without a pass, enter into contracts, marry or bear arms. Over time, enslaved blacks were reduced legally to the status of domestic animals however unlike animals, the law held slaves to be strictly accountable for their transgressions.23 The master commonly “corrected” the slaves through starvation, deprivation, whippings, amputation, castration, mutilated half-lynchings and death.

During this period, African Americans were continuously brainwashed and conditioned to accept subservience to the white race. Although many resisted, insubordination and insurrection carried the worst sentences. Despite the fact that many slaves risked their lives to escape, few knew where to run, and most were unable to ask for directions, read signs or find shelter during their journey into the unknown. Many slave-owners even threatened to punish the resistant slave’s mate and offspring for their misbehaviour.


Fig 2.4 An example of a mutilated half lynching. This technique was intended to discipline rebellious behaviour but did not kill the slave.

Fig 2.5 Plan of a slave ship, designed for maximum profit.
Once the slaves had been put ashore, selling began in earnest. The moribund or ‘refuse’ slaves were landed first and sold off at a tavern or public auction. At these they were usually purchased by Jews, as a speculation, or by surgeons. In Grenada you could buy a slave who seemed to be dying of the flux for as little as a dollar; most of these refuse slaves, who were carried on shore, always died.24

In the slave pen, men and women were separated and both were separated from the children. The youngest and prettiest females were set apart as the concubines of the masters, who might change mistresses as often as every week. The degree of immorality in the pen was extremely high, yet many slaves felt that the beautiful females dreaded the fate that awaited them when sold away even more than the life in the pen.25

The death rate among the slaves was high. In order to replace the loss of men, plantation owners encouraged the slaves to have more children. The settlers made girls produce children, so that before they attained womanhood there would be more slaves to export. Child-bearing started around the age of 13, and by 20 the women slaves were expected to have four or five children. In order to encourage child-bearing, some slave owners promised women slaves their freedom if they produced fifteen children.26

Institutionalized slavery had been forming in a large part of the world since 1541; however, a single day in 1662 shifted the course of American slavery distinctly away from other slave institutions. The American “Law of Hereditary Slavery,” passed in 1662, allowed the institution of slavery to continue indefinitely without the need of new slaves from Africa.27 It ruled that the colour of the mother determined the status of the child, regardless of the father. Through breeding slave children, the institution became “sustainable.” It removed its dependence on Africa for labour and internalized the system, resulting in a transformation within the relationship between the races.

During the period from the first slave crossing in 1619 until the abolition of the Atlantic Slave Trade in 1807, only six hundred fifty thousand slaves (survivors) were transported to North America.28 Although this number pales in comparison to the millions transported to South and Central America, through the use of slave breeding, the slave population of the United States grew exponentially. Because of its dependence on slaves to maintain profits and reduce costs, the United States became entrenched in the grotesque practice and it became even more difficult to abolish.

24 James P. Hennessy, (1968), 106.
27 African Online <www.africanaonline.com/slavery_timeline.htm> (Toonari Corp. no date)
You call this the land of the free, the land of liberty, and every day that passes, things are done in it at which the despotisms of Europe would be horror-struck and disgusted. In no part on Earth, not even on the rivers of Africa, is there so great, so infamous a slave market as in the metropolis, in the seat of government of this nation which prides itself on freedom.29

- Slave-owner John Randolph

Near the end of the eighteenth century, a transfer of power took place in the New World. After facing discrimination by the British, Americans declared their independence and were forced to fight a war to rightfully claim their inalienable right to self-govern. After several years in battle, The United States earned its independence and established a written covenant titled the US Constitution, which acknowledged and listed the rights of all citizens within its territory. Although these rights were outlined specifically in the document, neither women nor blacks were considered “men” and were therefore disqualified from attaining equal rights. As America began to establish a structure for its new government, this exception allowed its founders to capitalize on this loophole and continue to exploit America’s slaves rather than grant them their freedom.

One such example was during the construction of Washington, DC in 1791. Slaves were exploited to construct most of Washington’s buildings and infrastructure, most notably the White House, and the United States Capitol building. These symbols of the republic were the primary focus during the city’s development and required extensive detailing and co-ordination. So many buildings needed to be built, that Washington, DC became a major slave port and distribution centre for breeding and conditioning slaves for city labour.

Although some of initial leaders of the United States were abolitionists, the majority either owned or supported the institution of slavery. One such example is George Washington, the commander of the Continental Army in the American Revolutionary War, the first President of the United States, and the founder of the nation’s capital city. Although he personally owned over two hundred slaves, today he is remembered primarily for his other accomplishments.

Fig 2.9 Sketch of the overseer rearing the livestock.

Fig 2.10 Sketch of a slave insurrection.
During the inception of slavery, the relationship between whites and blacks was extremely dictatorial. Because all slave owners feared a slave insurrection could occur, excessive brutality was quite common to maintain operations.

Making matters worse, whites had calculated that it was cheaper to maximize the use of a slave until they died of exhaustion and purchase another than to care for a slave after their prime. Although the Atlantic Slave Trade ended in 1807, the slave population continued to grow and was maintained through conditioning and exploitation of the population as a whole.

The internalization of slavery through the use of breeding slave children sustained slavery; however, a paradoxical bond of dependency between the races in the United States had formed. This dependency had been adopted and embraced by both whites and blacks over time each to their own benefit. For the slave-owners, adopting a sense of paternalism allowed them to rebrand their dictatorial actions as benevolent responses. Acts of brutal atrocity and barbarism were re-branded as appropriations of their disobedient “children.” Slaves, on the other hand, recognized that by accepting the white man’s paternalistic ideology, they could ameliorate their living and working conditions. In exchange for absolute submission to the master, slaves were more likely rewarded with improved subsistence, and shelter. The condition of the slaves worsened with respect to access to freedom and the promise of eventual emancipation, however it got better with respect to access to material conditions of life.

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33 Note: The use of the word “children” is used metaphorically within the sense of the concept of paternalism. It is noted however, that thousands of slaves were in fact mulatto children born as a result from rape by the slave owners.
James Roberts reported that on his plantation, fifty to sixty females were kept solely for breeding. No other slave was allowed near them, for they were reserved for whites. From twenty to twenty-five children a year were bred on this plantation and as soon as they were ready for market, they would be taken away and sold.35

Marriage in the ordinary legal sense did not exist. The only requirement for entering a marriage is the consent of the master. In most cases slaves were encouraged to marry, for marriage was to the master like animal breeding and had as its purpose the increase of his “stock.” Unlike most Americans, slaves were permitted to have more than one mate; as many in fact, as the owner would allow or demand.36

“You niggers have no souls. You are just like those cattle, when you die there is an end of you, there is nothing more for you to think about than living. Only white people have souls.”37

The Georgian Narratives reported that the owners who caught their sons teaching slaves to read and write would become so furious they would give their children severe beatings and cut off the thumb and forefinger of the slave-child. Such mutilation became known as the sign of attempted education.38

...“Who is that boy?”
“No boy, Master.”
He clamped one hand on my mouth, pinned me down with his chest and began unbuttoning his trousers with his other hand. His skin pressed down on mine. I could feel his wet skin, sweating. And he stank.

“Who owns you? he said.
“Master.”
“I say who owns you?”
The wiry hairs on his chest scratched my breasts. The stubble on his cheeks bit into my face.

“Master, please don’t—”
“Don’t tell me what to do,” he said.
I gasped and pushed but could not get out from under his weight. I thought about biting his shoulder, or a finger, but then he might hurt me even more. Should I lie still, like I was dead, and wait for it to be over? I tried to keep my thighs together, but he yanked them apart with his hands. He owned my labour, but now he was bursting to own all of me...39

- Excerpt from “The Book of Negroes” describing Aminata Diallo’s first raping, age 12.

36 Ibid., 52.
37 Ibid., 69.
38 Ibid., 62.
Slave owners often discouraged religious instruction, not just because of their fear that slave gatherings could lead to conspiracies and insurrection, but because they feared that the slave, by attending these meetings and listening to the preachers, might come away with a morality which included the concepts of equality and liberty.40

Slavery is as destructive to the master as to the slave, for while it stupefied the slave with fear and relegated him to a position beneath the condition of other men, it also brutalized the slaveholder by its continual tyranny that made him the “prey of all vices which render human nature loathsome.” 41

As time passed each generation of slaves became accustomed to their environment. They forgot their original names, their history, their language and their country. This formed a dependency by the slaves on the white race for survival. Although each race’s seething hatred of the other was openly observed, each race depended on the other for their survival. The legal and social structure of the country had formed an inseparable bond between the races. On the positive side, it brought whites and blacks together and welded them into one people with genuine elements of affection and intimacy. However, slavery in its overwhelming negative aspects – its arrogant doctrine of domination and its inherent cruelty towards a supposedly inferior race, pitted blacks against whites in bitter antagonism and simultaneously poisoned the life of the dominant white community itself.42

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Abolition dates:43</th>
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<tr>
<td>1723 - Russia.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1761 - Portugal.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1793 - Upper Canada.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1803 - Lower Canada.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1803 - Atlantic Slave Trade abolished.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1804 - Haiti.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1807 - Prussia (Germany).</td>
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<tr>
<td>1808 - Importation of slaves into the United States is prohibited.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1811 - Slavery abolished throughout the Spanish Empire. (except in Cuba, Puerto Rico, and Santo Domingo).</td>
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<tr>
<td>1814 - Slavery abolished throughout the Dutch Empire.</td>
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<td>1829 - Mexico.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1833 - Slavery abolished throughout the British Empire.</td>
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<td>1848 - Slavery abolished throughout the French and Danish colonies.</td>
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<td>1854 - Peru.</td>
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<td>1854 - Venezuela.</td>
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<td><strong>1865 - United States.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1867 - Slavery abolished in Portuguese African colonies.</td>
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<td>1873 - Puerto Rico.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1874 - Britain abolishes slavery in the Gold coast (now Ghana)</td>
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<td>1886 - Cuba.</td>
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<td>1888 - Brazil.</td>
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<td>1942 - Ethiopia.</td>
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<td>1981 - Mauritania.</td>
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40 Stanley Feldstein, (1971), 68.
41 Ibid., 225.
Countries in the Middle East and Asia were excluded from this list as they are outside the scope of the thesis.
President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, announcing, “That all persons held as slaves” within the rebellious areas “are, and henceforward shall be free.”  

As the great day drew nearer, there was more singing in the slave quarters than usual. It was bolder, had more ring, and lasted later into the night. Most of the verses of the plantation songs had some reference to freedom.... Some man who seemed to be a stranger (a United States officer, I presume) made a little speech and then read a rather long paper—the Emancipation Proclamation, I think. After the reading we were told that we were all free, and could go when and where we pleased. My mother, who was standing by my side, leaned over and kissed her children, while tears of joy ran down her cheeks. She explained to us what it all meant, that this was the day for which she had been so long praying, but fearing that she would never live to see.  

- Booker T Washington

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In 1861, a national crisis erupted in the United States. Several slave states seceded from the Union to retain their inherent rights as sovereign states after conflicts with the Federation over taxation, internal improvements, and the use of slavery. In response to the secession, the North invaded the South to squelch the revolution. The South resisted, and the American Civil War unfolded. During the war, Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, thus declaring the abolition of slavery throughout the Union and the Confederacy, despite their secession. After two more years of civil war, the Union conquered the Confederation. When the Union regained control over the South, the Emancipation Act was immediately imposed throughout the South and new laws were enforced.

The slave-owners felt the shockwave within days as their "children" began to desert their plantations. As a common response to the distortion of the master-slave relationship, whites began to stigmatize the entire race for their sense of ingratitude, unfaithfulness, and disloyalty. Some even felt that the slaves were committing an act of treason by accepting the right to self-govern. Most farmers could not afford to re-hire their slaves as paid workers and were left with farms too large to manage and loans they were unable to re-pay. Because the southern economy was based on chattel slavery, the immediate aftermath of the Thirteenth Amendment was a total collapse of the South and economic dependence on the North.

Thirteenth Amendment

Section 1. - Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

Section 2. - Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.46

The slaveholder and his sympathizers argued that it was the abolitionists who were guilty of tightening the bonds of the slave, who increased the slave’s hardships and blighted his prospects for freedom by their alleged kindness in mistakenly showing the slave the enormity of this sin.47

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46 Quote from the Thirteenth Amendment. Enacted into law December, 1865.
Fig 2.12 Photo of the most famous Emancipation monument, the “Freedman’s Memorial”, built in 1876.
The monument is entrenched in and perpetuates racist ideology; its figures arranged quite clearly to condescend the very people it supposedly commemorates. It is argued that while the memorial claims the title of emancipation, its figures are arranged as to suggest that the emancipation of slavery was not an acknowledgement of normalcy. That in essence whites freed a lesser people, a people to be forever indebted rather than liberated from inequality.50

- Kirk Savage

We reside among you and yet are strangers; natives, and yet not citizens; surrounded by the freest people and most republican institutions in the world, and yet enjoying none of the immunities of freedom... Though we are not slaves, we are not free.51

The Emancipation Statue in Washington, DC is the only public recognition of emancipation. Many countries have either public recognitions of slavery or emancipation days. In the United States, there is no recognition of the end of slavery.52

During the era of slavery, every racial interaction within society was designed to instill the belief in inferiority of the African race in a white man’s world. Although the Thirteenth Amendment liberated the African Americans, their subservience to the white race was still expected. The freed slaves discovered that although they were no longer considered property of the white men, the cultural biases and prejudices from the previous era were left unaltered. African Americans, regardless of their previous status, experienced a hardening of institutionalized racism and legal discrimination against them. Democrats began passing laws making voter registration and elections more restrictive out of fear that elected African Americans would champion laws that reversed the established order. Jim Crow laws were introduced to implement segregation between the races and were geared specifically to keep Negroes in a position of inferiority. Without key civil rights such as the right for blacks to read, write, open an account, buy land, or get legal counsel, they were forced to choose between voluntary slavery in exchange for food and shelter or homelessness and starvation as free men.

One such example of how strong this ideology was can be witnessed in Lincoln Park, Washington, DC. In 1876, an emancipation monument was erected east of the US Capitol as a tribute to the African American slaves. It depicts President Lincoln standing with his right hand holding an unrolled copy of the Emancipation Proclamation over a podium while his left hand is extended over a shirtless slave who is shackled at his feet.

The monument was intended to cement the heroic image of Abraham Lincoln as the Great Emancipator in the minds of all Americans. Although it memorializes Lincoln’s contributions, it actually perpetuates racial inferiority. Even though it was built as a national tribute towards racial equality, it blatantly reaffirms a national position that whites should be remembered as the compassionate liberators of the slaves and that African Americans should be forever indebted to the white race for their acts of heroism.

51 Plaque from the “Memorial of the Free People of Colour of Baltimore,” erected December, 1826.
Fig 2.13 A drawing published in “Harper’s Weekly” in 1874 of the White League and the KKK.
Whenever I hear any one advocating measures that are meant to curtail the development of another, I pity the individual who would do this. I know that the one who makes this mistake does so because of his lack of opportunity for the highest kind of growth. I pity him because I know that he is trying to stop the progress of the world, and because I know that in time the development and the ceaseless advance of humanity will make him ashamed of his weak and narrow position. One might as well try to stop the progress of a mighty railroad train by throwing his body across the track, as to try to stop the growth of the world in the direction of giving mankind more intelligence, more culture, more skill, more liberty, and in the direction of extending more sympathy and more brotherly kindness.53

This era following the Reconstruction period marked the point of greatest adversity and despair in American race relations. It was strongly feared that if African Americans reached true equality, whites would face charges of accountability and reparations to the entire Negro race.54 Anti-Negro groups formed and terrorized black communities in the hopes of re-enforcing white supremacy throughout the nation. Acts of racial discrimination and racial violence increased nationwide where deep-seated antagonism had been festering for centuries. Horrific lynchings of African Americans by mobs of white supremacists also became common.

During this period the deep-seated anger, fear, and suspicion by both whites and blacks established an irreversible stranglehold upon the nation that would define the culture of racial tension in the United States for the next century.

54 Information taken from “Reconstruction: The Second Civil War” 2004 PBS film series and transcript connecting the replacement of Civil Rights with segregation at the end of 19th century Reconstruction with 1960s Civil Rights Movement.
Fig 2.14 Photo of “Ku Klux Klan parade, Washington, D.C., on Pennsylvania Ave., N.W. “
Ku Klux Klan Parade of 1926 along Constitution Avenue, Washington DC.
Fig 2.15 Photo of an anti-negro protest rally practiced by the Ku Klux Klan.

Fig 2.16 Photo of a Ku Klux Klan rally in the 1992. A burning cross and a noose are stark reminders of the hatred held by the Ku Klux Klan as members burn a cross in celebration of a Supreme Court that any state law banning cross burnings would be a violation of the first amendment.
Fig 2.17 Omaha lynching of 1919 for allegedly assaulting a white female. The alleged assailant was lynched in front of the courthouse on the way to the trial by a mob of 15,000 whites.

Fig 2.18 Photo of a lynching in 1930 at a Sunday picnic.
As the tension in the South increased in both its frequency and severity, millions of African Americans fled north to centres of opportunity, such as Boston, New York, and Chicago. As these centres became more multicultural, episodes of race riots and public displays of murder erupted in their streets. In response to these acts of racism and race-related atrocities, protest and lobby groups formed to promote racial equality and the advancement of coloured people in the United States. As the atrocities began to heighten and disrupt the entire nation, protests became larger and much more frequent.

In the Jim Crow context, the presidential election of 1912 was steeply slanted against the interests of African Americans. Most blacks were still in the South, where they had been effectively disfranchised, so they could not vote at all. While poll taxes and literacy requirements banned many Americans from voting, these stipulations frequently had loopholes that exempted White Americans from meeting the requirements. In Oklahoma, for instance, anyone qualified to vote prior to 1866, or related to someone qualified to vote prior to 1866, was exempted from the literacy requirement; the only Americans who could vote prior to that year were, of course, White Americans, so that all White Americans were effectively excluded from the literacy testing, whereas all Black Americans were effectively singled out by the law.

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Fig 2.19 Photo of Marian Anderson singing in front of the Lincoln Memorial on the National Mall in 1939.
Segregation between the races continued to increase throughout the nation. The races lived as two separate societies within a shared space. The Thirteenth Amendment had liberated African Americans from slavery but it had not declared the right of equality. Both black and white proponents for civil rights began hosting demonstrations and holding rallies to bring awareness to the issue in more prominent locations. Sites throughout the United States that represented harmony between the races were often promoted as iconic symbols and chosen as the location for these peaceful demonstrations.

In 1939, one demonstration transformed how Americans viewed the Lincoln Memorial and the National Mall. Marian Anderson, a famous singer, had been refused permission to perform for an integrated audience as part of the Daughters of the American Revolution at the Constitutional Hall, Washington, DC, when it became known that she was black. The President’s wife, Eleanor Roosevelt, protested the discrimination and arranged for her to perform on the nation’s public domain, the National Mall.\(^56\) This concert, hosted in front of the Lincoln Memorial addressed a crowd of thousands, marked a turning point in favour of civil rights and bonded the memorial with the advocacy of civil rights for all Americans.

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\(^{56}\) Articles and letters preserved in the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum.
Fig 2.21 Photo of the demonstration during the “March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom” in 1963.

Fig 2.22 Photo of the Mary McLeod Bethune memorial in Washington DC.
Throughout the next two decades, civil rights advocacy heightened. In 1955 a famous incident involving segregation on an Alabama city transit bus became the catalyst for political activists seeking change. Rosa Parks, an African American woman, was arrested for not giving up her seat for a white person on a Montgomery city bus. This incident reaffirmed that African Americans were “equal, but separate.” It reinforced that African Americans were still expected to live in subservience to the white race. A boycott against city transit formed and the Supreme Court became involved, bringing the issue to national attention. Rosa Parks won the case and the segregation of city transit lines was abolished.

In 1959, the Mary McLeod Bethune Memorial was added adjacent to the Emancipation Monument in Lincoln Park, Washington, DC. The memorial was erected to commemorate the life of Mary McLeod Bethune, an African American woman responsible for establishing a school for African American girls and a prominent women’s and civil rights activist.
Fig 2.23 Photo of Dr Martin Luther King Jr. during his “I Have a Dream” Speech.

Fig 2.24 Photo of Dr Martin Luther King Jr. addressing the crowd in front of the Lincoln Memorial.
In 1963, as part of the commemoration of the centennial anniversary of the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation by Abraham Lincoln, a gathering of several hundred thousand marched on Washington, DC “for Jobs and Freedom.” Although the event was part of the celebration of abolition, it was also conceived as an opportunity to dramatize the desperate condition of blacks in the Southern United States. It was considered a public opportunity to place organizers’ concerns and grievances in the front yard of the seat of power in the nation’s capital. The event was orchestrated to challenge the federal government for its failure to safeguard the civil rights and physical safety of civil rights workers and blacks in the United States. Many civil rights activists participated in the demonstration. One of the most famous speeches in US history was delivered by Martin Luther King Jr. The speech called for a peaceful union between the races and spoke of a dream of racial equality.

This event is widely credited as the catalyst that led to the Civil Rights Act in 1964 and the National Voting Rights Act a year later. These laws banned the practice of segregation in the United States and established equal rights for all Americans. Although this was a great legal victory for Americans, it spawned violent reaction from anti-black groups.

In 1965 Malcolm X, a prominent political activist also present at the 1963 rally, was assassinated in Manhattan. Three years later, Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee. Outrage flooded through the nation, and new lobby groups formed in reaction to these atrocities. Groups such as the Black Power Movement (1966 - 1975) began lobbying for racial dignity, economic and political self-sufficiency, and for the freedom from oppression by whites.

57 “I Have a Dream” speech delivered by Martin Luther King Jr. on August 28, 1963.
Throughout the next decades, the United States focused efforts to remove segregation within the school system. Many cities and organizations encouraged integration within the workforce by implementing practices such as Affirmative Action and calling for the peaceful co-existence of their citizens. Although overall it was an improvement, it is still common for African Americans to experience incidents of discrimination or unfair treatment within schools and the workforce.

In 1995 activists called on African Americans to travel to Washington, DC to unite in self-help and self defense against economic and social ills plaguing the African American community. Known as the Million Man March, this massive gathering was intended to cripple the city’s infrastructural capacity and gain the attention of America’s leaders in Washington, DC. Although it attracted hundreds of thousands of participants, many felt the speeches fuelled racism and did not encourage peace and harmony between the races.64

64 Charles Bierbauer, “Its goal more widely accepted than its leader,” Cable News Network, Inc. (October 17, 1995).
During the last century, African Americans have achieved substantial milestones within America that have improved their rights and opportunities throughout the country.

In 2008, America achieved a hugely significant victory in the quest for racial unity with the democratic election of the first African American President of the United States. Despite fierce competition within his party for the democratic nomination and from the Republican presidential candidates, Barack Hussein Obama won the votes and hearts of the US majority. The election was an extraordinary step in America’s progress towards racial equality, despite the continued evidence of resistance from those seeking to sustain a previous era of illegitimate superiority, a superiority that was entirely the result of exploitation and manipulation of both the legal and social structure of America.

Part of Barack Obama’s successful campaign hinged on his speeches and an overall message of hope and optimism for a non-partisan America, for equal opportunities for all, and most importantly, an America that does not “judge a person by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character.”

- "A More Perfect Union" Speech Excerpt

Opposite page

Fig 2.27 Painting inspired by the Barack Obama’s Presidential campaign.


66 “I Have a Dream” speech delivered by Martin Luther King Jr. on August 28, 1963.
OBAMA FOR PRESIDENT!
“...If there is anyone out there who still doubts that America is a place where all things are possible; who still wonders if the dream of our founders is alive in our time; who still questions the power of our democracy, tonight is your answer...”\(^{67}\)

- Excerpt from Barack Obama’s Presidential Acceptance speech.

“...Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we’ve been waiting for. We are the change that we seek...”\(^{68}\)

- Excerpt from “We are One” speech delivered by Barack Obama.

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67 Presidential Acceptance speech delivered by Barack Obama on November 4th, 2008.

68 “We are One” speech delivered by Barack Hussein Obama on January 18th, 2009.
Fig 2.30 Record setting attendance on the National Mall during Barack Obama’s Presidential Inauguration.
Fig 2.31 Photo of Union Soldiers during the Civil War, circa 1864. Notice that the white soldiers were placed in the fore-front of the photo. African Americans were simply part of the background in a white man’s world.

Fig 2.32 Barack Obama in front of the Lincoln Memorial. January 19th, 2009
The perception of African Americans has undergone a radical shift during the last five hundred years. They may have entered America as a resource to be exploited for capital gain, but over the centuries, through turmoil, protests, and martyrdom, African Americans have made much progress in attaining equal footing in the race relations of America. The election of an African American as the 44th President of the United States, the highest and most prestigious seat of office in the country, underscores the undeniable legitimacy of equal rights and opportunities for all Americans, regardless of their race.

Given that the United States has had a white president throughout its history; how will this shift in power alter the tone and experience of Washington, DC? Is it simply a matter of replacing the drapes, or will it require a re-envisioning of its master plan to express the embodiment of racial equality? I believe that our time is defined by our actions and that the future of the city is the product of the impacts that occur today. In time, the city of Washington will reflect events from the present.

In time, the United States will create a monument in Washington, DC commemorating the first African American President; however, what about the nation’s African Americans who were responsible for opening the door for racial equality? The election of Barack Obama is the accumulation of generations of sacrifice, dedication and martyrdom. It is time for the United States to acknowledge the sacrifice in the same manner that other major aspects of American history have been acknowledged. America must erect a memorial in Washington, DC that gives respect and decency to the victims of slavery. As long as the National Mall is void of such a memorial, a significant proportion of African American history will continue to remain largely dismissed and ignored in relation to the American depiction of national identity, as embodied on the National Mall.
Fig 3.1 Map of Washington DC

Fig 3.2 Three sections of Washington DC and the National Mall.
PART 3  THE CASE FOR A SLAVE MEMORIAL IN WASHINGTON DC

- INTRODUCTION -

The National Mall has been growing and developing for over two centuries. However, it continues to embody a select image of America that does not acknowledge the impact on American society caused by the institution of slavery. Slave history is almost entirely absent from the collective body of memorials currently on the National Mall. There are a few sites in Washington, DC that depict events in African American history but most are obscurely placed within the city and none of them memorialize the history of slavery in an overwhelmingly successful capacity.

In the following chapter, I will introduce the chosen site and the proposal for a slave memorial on the National Mall. The location and composition of the design is influenced primarily by the history of slavery, the current arrangement of the Mall, and my experience of Washington, DC.
Fig 3.3 The original design of the Washington Monument, designed by Robert Mills, 1836. Lithograph drawn in 1852.

Fig 3.4 Sketch of the original shoreline of Washington DC drawn in 1883. The cardinal axes have been superimposed to show the location of the Jefferson Pier, the same location intended for the Washington Monument.
The proposed slave memorial is to be located at the base of the Washington Monument, a central icon, place-marker and viewing platform of the National Mall. The Washington Monument towers over a mound placed in the centre of the National Mall with an unobstructed view of the entire city.

Although the Washington Monument is one of the most famous symbols of Washington, its form is radically different today than how it was intended. Although today the monument has become synonymous with the city of Washington, DC and an embodiment of patriotism and unity of the United States, it was originally designed to be a mausoleum for George Washington; “The illustrious Commander-in-Chief of the Armies of the United States of America during the war which vindicated and secured their liberty, sovereignty, and independence.”

The design proposed an obelisk with a record-setting height of six hundred feet, surpassing the height of the pyramids of Giza. It was intended to honour him like a king. According to the Board of Managers, “it would blend stupendousness with elegance, and be of such magnitude and beauty as to be an object of pride to the American people, and of admiration to all who see it. Its material is intended to be wholly American, and to be of marble and granite brought from each state, that each state may participate in the glory of contributing material as well as in funds to its construction.” It was built entirely of marble and granite imported from each American state, so that the monument, in some way, speaks on behalf of the entire nation.


Fig 3.6 Postcard depicting the original relationship of the Washington Monument. Drawn in 1868.

Fig 3.7 Sketch of the new West Potomac Park, drawn in 1916. Sketch illustrates how the Washington Monument became centralized within the National Mall.
The monument was built along the shoreline of the Potomac River. Originally, it was intended to be built at the intersection of the two main axes of the National Mall, but when construction started, it was determined that the bearing capacity of the soil at this location was inadequate to support the weight of the monument. In light of this evidence, the monument was moved southeast roughly 370 feet (113m). If the soil had been sufficient, the Washington Monument would have replaced the Jefferson Pier, which still exists at the exact intersection of the cardinal axes connecting the White House and the US Capitol.

The construction of the Washington Monument began in 1848; however, its erection came to a halt when it ran out of private funding in 1854. Its enormous cost led to the board’s decision to abandon the colonnade and focus on the completion of the obelisk until private funding re-emerged. Before it could be completed, the Civil War broke out and construction was postponed once again.

With the assistance of public funding, the monument resumed construction in 1876 and officially opened to the public in 1888. When it was completed, it was the first monument on the National Mall and stood alone as the only monument in Washington DC until the addition of the Lincoln memorial during the early twentieth century.

The expansion of the West Potomac Park and the 1902 McMillan Plan drastically altered how the Washington Monument is perceived in relation to the Mall. Originally it was located along the shoreline, isolated from the city. The major west and south expansions of the Mall altered the monument’s status as a “lighthouse” stationed on the periphery, transforming it to become the central icon and reference point of the National Mall.

As it stands today, the monument, made of marble, granite, and sandstone, is both the world’s tallest stone structure and the world’s tallest obelisk, measuring 555 feet (169m) in height.\footnote{Washington Monument tourism web-site, \<http://www.nps.gov/nr/twhp/ww-wlps/lessons/62wash/62facts1.htm\>, 2009.}
Fig 3.10 Aerial photo of the Washington Monument during the Anti-Terrorism Protection modifications of the National Mall in response to the attacks of September 11th, 2001. All of the nation’s capital buildings received modifications, most commonly in the form of increased security at entry-points, vehicular barriers, and the limiting of accessibility by the general public.

Fig 3.11 Google Earth image of the Washington Monument in 2009.
George Washington is remembered today as one of the United States greatest Presidents. His contributions to the American way of life have become so central to the definition of American politics and government. In this regard, it is no wonder that the monument intended to immortalize his honour has ultimately become a symbol of the United States as a whole.

The Washington Monument has become a representation of the ideals of the United States, however, it only acknowledges its triumphant history and projects an inaccurate picture. Through its celebration the monument magnifies the absence of the United States’ darker aspects that were also paramount in sculpting America’s course of progress. For this reason, I have chosen the Washington Monument as the location of the Slave Memorial proposal.

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THE CASE FOR A SLAVE MEMORIAL IN WASHINGTON DC

- SLAVE MEMORIAL DESIGN -

The details and facts associated with the history of slavery will be displayed within the new National Museum of African American History and Culture, currently under construction adjacent to the proposed site. The purpose of the design, in its abstract form, is not to retell this history, but rather to stress the significance of slavery’s role in American history through its arrangement and tone within Washington, DC. It does this primarily through its relationship with the Washington Monument and the intersection of the National Mall’s primary axes. The design and placement of the Slave memorial hinges on the interpretation of Washington DC as an embodiment of American national identity.

The slave memorial will be a major earthworks project that forms an envelope around the Washington Monument. The ground surrounding the monument and the official intersection of the National Mall axes would be built up and compacted to form two elongated walls that curve around the national objects. Both sections are clad entirely with long black marble slabs, stacked on top of one another.

The memorial arises from the earth to form a dark-mountainous landscape in stark contrast to the light airiness of the Washington Monument. It represents the darker side of America’s history; however, it is juxtaposed with America’s more noble and awe-inspiring accomplishments. By placing the memorial at the Washington Monument’s base, it creates a liminal state that separates one of the nation’s purest icons from the city. In order to approach the American icon, all users would have to pass through the form of the nation’s darkest history.

Opposite page:
Fig 3.13 Site plan of the Slave memorial proposal.

Fig 3.14 North and south elevations of the Slave memorial proposal.
Fig 3.15 East and west elevations of the Slave memorial proposal.
The memorial has two central entrance points placed at opposing ends of its main East-West axis. These gateways are aligned to strengthen the existing network of pathways along the Mall and provide the main access into the inner sanctum of the memorial, as well into the Washington Monument, left unaltered in its current state.

The west entrance opens up towards West Potomac Park, the portion of the National Mall that contains the Lincoln memorial. The slave memorial is aligned with this monument to visually link visitors with the memory of Abraham Lincoln and through it, the emancipation from slavery. The slave memorial’s entrance also opens up towards the WWI, WWII, Korean war and Vietnam War memorials. These memorials commemorate wars which significantly improved America’s respect and appreciation for African American soldiers.

The second entrance faces eastward towards the more developed portion of the National Mall, looking out over many memorials, buildings, and institutions that commemorate American history. Although the slave memorial opens up towards the US Capitol, the Civil War monument, and the American History Museum, the east entrance is oriented predominantly to face the future National Museum of African American History and Culture.

The shape of the slave memorial is heavily influenced by the original shoreline of the Potomac River. Like the history of slavery, the shoreline determined many aspects of Washington’s arrangements, developments, and social progressions. Although the landscape has been modified, the memory of its previous state still exists and is expressed through the remaining artefacts that retain its history.

Collective memory emerges within our physical realm through material and spatial manifestations that link personal and collective conceptions of the past and present. The role of the memorial, as a primary urban element of collective memory, aims to encourage selective remembrance and reconciliation as part of a cultural healing process held over time.75

We could say that the counter-monument is beyond any doubt a tangible experience of sight, hearing and touch. The distance which existed before between the monument and the audience no longer exists. The counter-monument interacts with the audience, provokes profound feelings to the viewer and urges him to meditate. 76

Opposite page:
Fig. 3.16 Map of Washington DC’s original shoreline. Although the original shoreline has been completely reshaped, it influenced many planning decisions of the city’s ceremonial corridors and routes of access. Today the only trace of its history is the misalignment of the Washington Monument with the White House-Jefferson Axis.

The slave memorial is divided into two sections that together, create an enclosure surrounding the Washington Monument. These walls range in height between four and six storeys and were designed to isolate the inner sanctum from the rest of the city. Within the central space created by the granite enclosure, there is a single field of grass retained from the previous state of the Washington Monument grounds. This field forms the ceremonial space of the inner sanctum and is surrounded by benches and a paved walkway. This inner sanctum contains the Slave memorial’s ceremonial plaque, located at the east entrance, as well as the Jefferson Pier, left in its unaltered state at the true intersection of the National Mall axes.

Monuments become memorials when they satisfy three functions for the living. First, they should acknowledge the importance of the death and destruction that constituted the sacrificial act. Secondly, this acceptance of violence takes place in a context where it is claimed that something has been gained instead, which is effectively the transformation of a sense of collective loss into an object of devotion and passion. Thirdly, the dead are deified as part of a devotional logic in the sense that they become embodied in the idea of the collective. It is the role of the living to recognize the debt and express a willingness to reciprocate.77

77 Forty, Adrian, (1999), 144.
The commemorative function of the monument appears self evidently universal, made to enshrine the knowledge of the cultural past for the sake of future generations; a culture without monuments appears to us like a ship lost to the sea – unable to navigate and correct mistaken judgment. Only hunter-gatherer societies, lacking institutionalized authority, are genuinely bereft of the need to memorialize the lives of their dead.78

Monuments are human landmarks that men create as symbols for their ideals, for their aims, and for their actions. They are intended to outlive the period which originated them, and constitute a heritage for future generations. As such, they form a link between the past and the future... Monuments are the expression of man’s highest needs.79

The memorial is about the size of a national stadium; the overwhelming scale of the memorial dwarfs its visitors and their presence within its space. The memorial is built at the same scale as the Washington Monument. This approach was taken to magnify its significance on the Mall and the weight of the content it represents.

Along the perimeter of the memorial there are several smaller, more intimate pathways for pedestrian traffic arriving from the White House, the Jefferson memorial, and the Holocaust Museum. These entrances allow visitors to create their own route of experience and help reduce congestion within the memorial.

78 Adrian Forty, (1999), 53.
Fig 3.22 View of the memorial at night.

Fig 3.23 Aerial view of the memorial depicting its alignment with the US Capitol - Lincoln memorial axis.
Like the majority of monuments and memorials in Washington, DC, the memorial is an open air space with free public access, twenty four hours a day. To assist in creating a welcoming space, the curvilinear contours of the memorial are illuminated by the recessed lighting along the base of the memorial’s retaining walls. These lights magnify the length and height of the memorial in relation to the scale of the human form inside, while creating a more intimate space along the perimeter.

The primary focus of the slave memorial is its recognition of the victims of slavery. The location, shape, scale and material selection have all been deliberately chosen as a means of representing the history of slavery and its relationship with American history. The purpose of the design is to ground the history of slavery as part of the fundamental experience of Washington, DC and to promote a balanced representation of American history on the National Mall.

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Fig 3.25 Aerial view of the Slave memorial proposal.

LEGEND
A - WHITE HOUSE
B - US CAPITOL BUILDING
C - PROPOSED NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE
D - AMERICAN HISTORY MUSEUM
E - HOLOCAUST MUSEUM
F - DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
G - WWII MEMORIAL
H - VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL
I - LINCOLN MEMORIAL
Fig 3.26 Bird's eye view of the Slave memorial during a national ceremony.
CONCLUSION

"...I recognize that change cannot happen overnight. No single speech can eradicate years of mistrust, nor can I answer in the time that I have all the complex questions that brought us to this point. But I am convinced that in order to move forward, we must say openly the things we hold in our hearts, and that too often are said only behind closed doors. There must be a sustained effort to listen to each other; to learn from each other; to respect one another; and to seek common ground..."\textsuperscript{82}

- Excerpt from Barack Obama’s Cairo speech, June 4, 2009

The National Mall is occupied by a large number of place-markers that represent the breadth of American history. Although currently absent from this collection, the history of slavery and its victims deserves to be acknowledged within the heart of the nation’s capital city.

Although the United States’ has been erecting monuments and memorials to commemorate its nation’s history, African American history has been largely unacknowledged in Washington, DC. While the city has acknowledged acts of horror in the past, as illustrated with Washington’s Holocaust museum, it doesn’t seem to acknowledge events in its own dark history, especially its involvement in the enslavement of millions of African Americans.

The purpose of the memorial is to represent this history and create an impact on the National Mall. I argue that the erection of a slave memorial in Washington, DC would redefine the relationship between African Americans and the National Mall. The slave memorial will not forgive white Americans’ transgressions against African Americans; however, it will help future generations acknowledge and understand the severity of their entanglement.

As a centre for preserving and educating Americans about their national history and development, Washington, DC must acknowledge all American history. Like the monuments and memorials that have already been consecrated on the National Mall, a slave memorial is crucial to the preservation of America’s history.

This thesis proposes one example of how this history could be codified as a memorial in the nation’s capital. Although the style and form of such a monument may be subject to debate, the history it represents must never be suppressed.

\textsuperscript{82} “Cairo” speech delivered by Barack Obama. June 4, 2009.
Fig 4.1 Aerial view of the Lincoln Memorial looking South-West.

Fig 4.2 Panoramic view of the Lincoln Memorial looking west to east.
APPENDIX A
ARCHITECTURAL PRECEDENTS

- LINCOLN MEMORIAL -

The memorial is located on reclaimed soil created by the McMillan Plan of 1902. The building was aligned with the US Capitol and used as a tool of the McMillan Plan to create an East-West Axis along the National Mall.

The memorial was built to honour Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865), the 16th President of the United States to commemorate his role in the emancipation of slaves and to leading the Union to war against the Confederacy in what became the American Civil War (1861-1865).

The memorial, built to resemble a Doric temple, houses a colossal statue of Lincoln in its chamber. The design was heavily based on the Temple of Zeus (432 BC) located in Olympia, Greece. In front of the temple there is a reflecting pool half a mile long. The large seated sculpture is oriented to gaze eastwards across the reflecting pool toward the Washington Monument. This orientation was intended as a symbolic gesture of Lincoln’s commitment to the Union.

The memorial has had a lasting sense of permanence within the capital city and around the world as a powerful symbol of universal principles. In Washington, DC the memorial has become recognized as one of the primary memorial structures of the National Mall and has influenced the design of the majority of newer memorials erected around the city.

Fig 4.5 View looking up the steps towards the entrance of the Lincoln Memorial.

Fig 4.6 View inside the Lincoln Memorial.
Inside the memorial there are two well-known Lincoln speeches, his Gettysburg Address and his second Inaugural Address.

The Gettysburg Address was written and delivered Nov 19, 1863 after the battle of Gettysburg during the American Civil War. It is one of the most quoted speeches in the United States and was delivered during a very unstable era of American history. With anti-war, anti-Lincoln, anti-draft sentiments forming a rift throughout the nation and a quarter of a million American soldiers dead, Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address is considered today as a major shifting moment within the course of America’s progress towards unity. For this reason, this speech has had an enduring presence in American culture.

Lincoln’s second Inaugural Address was written and delivered March 14, 1865 for his second term of presidency. It was delivered days before the end of the Civil War and foreshadowed the national abolition of slavery.

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84 The “Gettysburg Address” delivered by Abraham Lincoln. November 19, 1863
85 Abraham Lincoln’s “Second Inaugural Address.” March 4, 1865
Fig 4.8 View of the Jefferson Memorial looking South-East.

Fig 4.9 View of the Jefferson Memorial looking South-West across the tidal basin.
The Jefferson Memorial was built and designed as a Neo-Classical Temple to honour Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826), the 3rd President of the United States. Jefferson is noted as the primary author of the Declaration of Independence (1776) and he helped draft the US Constitution (1787). He is honoured and remembered today for his strong belief in the rights of man, a government derived from the people, free from religious imposition, and on the principles of equal access for all citizens to education.

Within the Washington, DC hierarchy of importance, the Jefferson memorial is in the same group of iconic buildings as the Lincoln memorial and the Washington Monument. Like the Lincoln memorial, the Jefferson memorial was also erected on reclaimed soil created by the McMillan Plan of 1902. The building was aligned with the White House to create a North-South Axis to counterbalance the weight of the Lincoln-US Capitol axis.

The memorial is based heavily on Jefferson’s own architecture, specifically his design of the Rotunda (1822), located in the University of Virginia. The Jefferson memorial is composed of circular marble steps, a portico, a circular colonnade of Ionic columns, and a shallow dome with a statue of Jefferson in its centre looking outward toward the White House and the Washington Monument.
Fig 4.12 View inside the Jefferson Memorial.

Fig 4.13 View of the Jefferson Memorial at night.

Fig 4.14 The Jefferson Memorial entrance through the Ionic colonnade.
“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights governments are instituted among men, We...solemnly publish and declare, that these united colonies are and of right ought to be free and independent states...And for the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine providence, we mutually pledge our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honour.”

- Declaration of Independence Panel

“I am not an advocate for frequent changes in laws and constitutions, but laws and institutions must go hand in hand with the progress of the human mind. As that becomes more developed, more enlightened, as new discoveries are made, new truths discovered and manners and opinions change, with the change of circumstances, institutions must advance also to keep pace with the times. We might as well require a man to wear still the coat which fitted him when a boy as civilized society to remain ever under the regimen of their barbarous ancestors.”

- Role of institutions Panel

Inside the memorial there are four excerpts from Jefferson`s published works: an excerpt from the Declaration of Independence, his argument for religious freedom, the relationship between God and law, and the role of institutions. Many of the quotes within the memorial were altered and reformed from Jefferson`s original texts.

Although Thomas Jefferson was a slave owner and fathered over twenty-three children with slaves from his plantation, it is well known that he believed that African Americans should be entitled to the same rights and freedoms as white Americans. He wrote about it in his works and even made reference to it in the Declaration of Independence. In it, he included what can he considered his version of the Emancipation Proclamation, however it was omitted by recommendation of his peers to avoid deterioration in the relations with the South during the struggle for independence from British rule.

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86 An inscription within the Jefferson memorial.
87 An inscription within the Jefferson memorial.
APPENDIX A

- VIETNAM VETERAN’S MEMORIAL -

In 1982 the Vietnam Veteran’s memorial challenged the way we viewed memorials by immortalizing and venerating the fallen soldiers rather than glorifying America’s involvement in the Vietnam War. It was considered a counter-monument within the context of the city and caused a highly-publicized controversy regarding its intended message. Although this controversy was resolved by including additional, patriotic elements with the original proposal, the memorial was credited as a significant catalyst to the passing of the Commemorative Works Act, which enhanced Congress’ ability to control the placement and composition of all future memorials in Washington, DC.

The Vietnam Veteran’s memorial is located on the west end of the National Mall and is adjacent to the Lincoln memorial on the north side. It was built to honour the US armed forces killed during the Vietnam War (1959-1975). The memorial is composed of two 250 feet long polished granite retaining walls reaching 10 feet in height. The names of the fallen soldiers are etched into the granite in the order of their death by year. The surface texture of the granite walls is deliberately polished to reflect light and imagery. When a visitor engages the wall, it is intended that his or her reflection can be seen simultaneously with the engraved names. This relationship is intended as a symbolic bridge bonding the past with the present, thus connecting history to the collective memory of America.89

“...a sharp pain that lessens with time but can never quite heal over. The idea occurred to me on that site. Take a knife and cut open the earth and with time the grass would heal it.”

- Maya Lin


Fig 4.17 View of the Vietnam Veteran`s Memorial during the day.

Fig 4.18 “Reflections” painting of the Vietnam Veteran’s Memorial.
In the Vietnam memorial, there are essentially two radically different visual modes of forgetting at play: one that promotes ambivalence and moves people to remember as much as possible of what suffering meant to the victims, and another that effectively transforms suffering into something else to form a collective validation that transcends personal trauma.90

The art historian Arthur Danto, writing on the Vietnam memorial, distinguished memorials from monuments on the principle that the former are about the healing embrace of remembrance and reconciliation, whereas the latter are usually celebratory and triumphant. However, the ambiguity of the statement suggests the distinction may not be so simple, since it’s common for memorials to have the capacity to turn traumatic individual deaths into acts of national celebration and heroic assertions of collective value. 91

The memorial that is experienced today is embraced and celebrated; however, when it was first implemented it was considered by many as unpatriotic and anti-American. Many high officials lobbied against it, arguing that it would bring shame to the National Mall; others felt that the memorial in some way, suggested America lost the Vietnam War. After years of negotiation, the Vietnam Veteran’s memorial was built; however, it was accompanied by two separate trio statues and an American flag as a form of appeasement to its opposition.

The Vietnam memorial is often regarded as the counter-monument on the National Mall. Several commentators have noticed that in many ways it is an inversion of the other most popular and iconic monuments on the National Mall. The memorial is interrogative in nature, its black marble is in contrast to the Mall, and its form represents a gash in the earth instead of a temple on a mound. Overall, its form is based on an abstraction rather than the traditional elements. Through this method, the Vietnam memorial’s message also becomes an inversion from the unanimous message of celebration and triumphant patriotism that is showcased repeatedly on the Mall. The Vietnam memorial implies terrible questions about futility, dying in vain, and the purpose of war.92

Although this is counter to the style and tone of Washington’s previous memorials, its interactive relationship with its audience strengthens its connection with the public discourse. As a result, the Vietnam memorial has become a common point of comparison when designing new memorials, for example, the Oklahoma Bombing Memorial (1995) and the future 9/11 Memorial in New York City.

90 Adrian Forty, (1999), 132.
91 Ibid., 130.
92 Ibid., 141.
**APPENDIX A**

- **MEMORIAL TO THE MURDERED JEWS OF EUROPE** -

  The Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe is located in front of the Reichstag, Berlin, and recognizes German atrocities against Jews during the Holocaust. It consists of 2,711 concrete slabs ("stelae") planted close together in undulating waves in a grid pattern on a 19,000 square metre site. The stelae represent the six million Jews murdered by the Germans during World War Two.95

  There are no plaques, inscriptions, or religious symbols on the site. The memorial can be entered from all sides but offers no prescribed path. The ground is designed to slope unevenly and the entire site is adorned with paving stone to encourage personal exploration through the site.

  The memorial was designed to be experienced as an analogy of how Europe witnessed the Nazi persecution and eradication of Jewish people. The scale and size of the memorial is intentionally magnified so that when an audience is amongst the stelae, the massive grid of intersections invokes a sense of tunnel vision. Looking down its long paths, the user often frames objects between its stelae. Due to the repetitive design, it becomes difficult to measure the distance to an object. The experience created within the memorial is intended as a metaphor of witnessing an event but being unable to act upon what is seen.96

  **APPENDIX A Table**

  **Title:** Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe

  **Location:** Berlin, Germany

  **Built:** 2004

  **Architect:** Peter Eisenman

  "I wanted visitors to feel the loss and disorientation that Jews felt during the Holocaust."93

  "The initial impulse to memorialize events like the Holocaust may actually spring from an opposite desire to forget them."94

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95 Sarah Quigley, (2005).
96 Ibid.
Fig 4.21 Aerial view of the Holocaust Memorial in Berlin.

Fig 4.22 Holocaust Memorial: Concept sections.

Fig 4.23 View of visitors within the Holocaust Memorial.
Critics protest that the Memorial is too abstract and does not present historical information about the Nazi campaign against the Jews. Other people say that the Memorial resembles a vast field of nameless tombstones and captures the horror of the Nazi death camps.\(^{97}\)

In light of Berlin’s history and struggle with graffiti in the past, the stelae were given a graffiti-proof coating. In a stranger-than-fiction twist, the firm supplying the proofing was Degussa – co-owner of the company that made the Zyklon B gas used in concentration camps.\(^{98}\)

Many people felt that the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe should include inscriptions, artefacts, and historical information. To meet that need, a visitor’s centre was constructed beneath the Memorial stones.\(^{99}\)

In their muteness, the stelae promote individual responsibility over the stately consensus of the historical plaque; however, it is up to each individual to determine why the blocks are there and to decide how to act around them. This approach, while profoundly democratic, often leaves the audience in a state of bodily confusion regarding one’s behaviour toward others, above all toward the murdered Jews. Its abstract form may inspire and solicit new ways of acknowledging the victims; however the monument is only effective during the act of participation by its audience.

The solution to this problem was to include a built-in museum and interpretative centre below the memorial as a means of prescribing a path of enlightenment. It was built to ensure that all of its visitors would understand its intended message.

The Holocaust Museum is a wonderful addition to preserving the memory of the victims; however, the museum has radically transformed the nature of the audience’s experience. The memorial that was intended as an exploration and discovery of personal understanding has been minimized into decoration for the main exhibit. Now, visitors choose to nip in along the periphery before they stand in the museum entrance queue. The analogous message of the memorial is still present; however, its visitors rarely inhabit the deeper regions of the stelae where its visual effects are the most moving and where its message can be readily observed.

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\(^{98}\) Sarah Quigley. (2005).

\(^{99}\) Ibid.
Fig 5.1 “Neg Mowan” or “Marron Inconnu” or “Run Away Slave” statue in Port au Prince, Haiti, built in 1959. The slave exile is blowing a conch and holding a sword while his ankle is shackled.

Fig 5.2 “Bussa Statue” or “Emancipation Monument” built in Barbados, 1985.
The Neg Mawon statue is in tribute to the run-away slaves who fought against the St. Dominque’s colonists and later, Napoleon’s army between 1790 and 1803. The statue is located across from the National Palace in Port au Prince, Haiti.

The figure holds a queen conch shell in his left hand, signifying its use for communication, a machete in his right hand, and wears a shackle and chain on his left ankle. The statue memorializes Haiti’s successful slave revolution of 1804.

As a slave memorial, its iconography is a drastic contrast to the Emancipation Monument in Washington, DC. Its depiction of the human form embodies the essence of energy and power that seeks to defy its oppressors. While Washington’s Emancipation monument celebrates the complacency of the African Race, the Neg Mawon commemorates their uprising against the White race, the very aspect America is terrified of encountering.

The Emancipation Statue symbolizes the historic breaking of the chains of slavery. In Barbados slavery was abolished in 1834, and eliminated in 1838, freeing over 70,000 Africans. The native title of the statue, ‘Bussa,' refers to a famous slave upriser who helped inspire a revolt against slavery in Barbados in 1816. Before this rebellion, slavery existed in Barbados without resistance for 124 years.

Although it commemorates the revolution against slavery, it does not capture the struggle. Unfortunately, this simply propagates the clichéd representation of emancipation through the sculpture of broken chains.
Fig 5.3 Untitled, undated slave memorial in Stone Town, Tanzania.

Fig 5.4 “Slave Statue” on Goree Island.

Fig 5.5 Slave Trade Memorial in Savannah GA.
In the small village of Stone Town, Tanzania, a slave memorial rests in the public square without a plaque or signature. Its presence stands as a sombre reminder of the countless number of slaves who passed through the island’s slave markets heading for Europe and the Middle-East. The life-size stone slaves imprisoned, with iron shackles and chains, stand in a pit in front of the slave-auction house site.

The main Zanzibar slave market was closed in 1873 and the buildings destroyed. This memorial pit of statues was built in memory of the estimated one million slaves who were bought and sold in Zanzibar during the 1800s.

The common element linking all of these emancipation monuments is their literal depiction of the human figure to mark a moment in history. Although there are very few emancipation monuments around the world, they tend to victimize the slave rather than commemorating their ability to persist in life despite injustice. Even the monuments depicting Emancipation Acts celebrate the act of freedom by showing the slaves' reaction to their chains being broken rather than acknowledging that their freedom arrived from their pursuit for equality in the face of injustice over many generations.

**Titles:** Anse Cafard
Slave Memorial

**Location:** The French Island
Martinique

**Artist:** Laurent Valère

**Built:** 1998105

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**Titles:** Slavery Memorial and Museum

**Location:** Goree Island,
Senegal

**Architect:** Ottavio di Blasi

**Built:** 2006106

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**Titles:** Redemption Song

**Location:** Emancipation Park, Kingston, Jamaica

**Artist:** Laura Facey

**Built:** 2002

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**Fig 5.8 Photo of the “Redemption Song” statue.**

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**Titles:** Captured Africans

**Location:** Lancaster, England

**Artist:** Slave Trade Arts Memorial Project

**Built:** 2005

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**Titles:** Mount Vernon’s Slave Memorial

**Location:** Mount Vernon

**Artist:** David Edge

**Built:** 1983

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Another major reason which brought increased doubt to the assumed relationship between objects and memory was a result of a crisis of representation that faced the generation of post-holocaust memorial-markers in their search for an appropriate means of commemorating historical trauma. As intersections between public art and political memory, these monuments could easily reflect the aesthetic and political ideals of the issues; however, they also magnify the realization that conventional memorial practices are inadequate and inappropriate to the task - to keeping memory alive rather than fixing it in stone.¹¹⁰

The collection of slave memorials shown in this section represents the current overall tone and style of slave memorials in the world. They provide perspective regarding how different nations have memorialized the history of slavery and when it was ended.

The strongest message of these memorials is how difficult it is to grasp slave history. What is repeatedly showcased within all of these memorials is an inability to represent the complexity of slave history that spanned generations. Rather, it is more common to observe slave memorials that simply acknowledge and celebrate its end. It is quite rare to observe a memorial that successfully represents in an architectural-form, the transfer of memory into the collective memory of the people.

Fig 6.1 Martin Luther King Jr. memorial site plan.

Fig 6.2 Martin Luther King Jr. memorial at night.
APPENDIX C

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS ON THE NATIONAL MALL

Over the last few decades, the development of the National Mall has increased dramatically. Most of these developments are directly linked to an increase in public donations and funding and the desire to commemorate specific aspects of American history that have been under-represented in the past.

One of the memorials that has already begun construction and is nearing completion is the Martin Luther King Jr. memorial located directly on the National Mall along the shoreline of the Tidal Basin across from the Jefferson Memorial. It is slated to open in 2010 and aims to commemorate King’s work as a peaceful civil rights activist and his contributions towards ending racial segregation in America. The memorial has been anticipated for several years and is expected to draw large crowds to experience its presence and its message.

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Fig 6.4 Winning entry for the Proposed NMAAHC, selected in 2009.

Fig 6.5 Aerial view of the proposed site for the National Museum of African American History and Culture.
Another great achievement of recognition for African Americans that will soon be part of the National Mall is the National Museum of African Americans History and Culture (NMAAHC). The museum has been proposed for the National Mall by several different lobby groups for over thirty years. The decision to allow the construction of a new museum preserving African American history was finally passed in 2003. The committee held an International Design competition during 2008 and announced the winner, Freelon Adjaye Bond/SmithGroup Architects, in January of 2009.\textsuperscript{112}

The building is currently being designed and is slated to open in 2015. The museum announcement has generated extensive media coverage, most of which speculated what the museum will look like, or should look like, and how it will change the arrangement of the National Mall. Many suggest that the museum should be associated visually as well as architecturally with the other buildings on the Mall, citing ideals of unity and representation of the National Mall. Others feel that the museum’s context renders that approach impractical. They argue that its architecture must be a radical departure from the style of the Smithsonian’s other museums within the city.\textsuperscript{113}


During our lifetime, the commemoration of monuments in Washington, DC has substantially increased. Below is the list of ceremonial additions to the city during the previous two decades:

**Fig 7.1 National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial**

1991

**Fig 7.2 Korean War Veterans Memorial**

1995

**Fig 7.3 Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial**

1997

**Fig 7.4 National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden**

1999

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Fig 7.5 National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism during World War II
2000

Fig 7.6 US National World War II Memorial
2004

Fig 7.7 African American Civil War Memorial
2004

Fig 7.8 National Museum of the American Indian
2004

Fig 7.9 The Extra Mile - Points of Light Volunteer Pathway
2005

Fig 7.10 Victims of Communism Memorial
2007^123

Fig 7.11 US Capital Visitor’s Center
UNDER CONSTRUCTION (2009)^124

Fig 7.12 Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial
UNDER CONSTRUCTION (2010)^125

Fig 7.13 National Museum of African American History and Culture Museum (NMAAHC)
UNDER CONSTRUCTION (2015)^126

Fig 7.14 Map of the most recent monumental additions to Washington DC.
Fig 7.15 Monumental structures commemorating African American history in Washington DC. Although there are many, most simply preserve historic sites that do not represent slave history as a whole.
### APPENDIX E

**- TIME-LINE OF AFRICAN AMERICAN SLAVERY IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA -**

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127 Note: Dates and facts for Appendix E were taken from Dr. Byrcchan Carey's online data, [http://www.brycchancarey.com/slavery/chrono1.htm], 2009.
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- The Massachusetts colony enacts a law that protects runaway slaves from abusive treatment by their owners.
- Enslaved Africans are imported to Maryland.
- Virginia, a new law which says, “All persons except Negroes are to be provided with arms and ammunition or be fired at the pleasure of the governor and council.”
- Massachusetts is the first colony to recognize slavery as a legal institution.
- Slavery is introduced to New Hampshire.
- Connecticut legally recognizes the institution of slavery.
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- Rhode Island passes the first colonial law limiting servitude to no more than 10 years.
- Blacks and Native Americans are barred from military service in Massachusetts due to fear of uprising.
- Connecticut forbids African Americans from military service.
- Virginia legally recognizes the institution of slavery.
- Virginia declares that a mother’s status determines whether the child is free or not; Virginia and Maryland pass laws prohibiting interracial marriage, Maryland law is passed that all blacks into the colony are automatically slaves.
- Maryland law: white women who marry black men are slaves until her husband dies; beginning of importation of slaves directly from Africa. Maryland forbids interracial marriages. Maryland no longer grants freedom to slaves who become Christian.
- English seize New Amsterdam (city and colony) from the Dutch and rename it New York. New York and New Jersey legally recognize slavery.
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New York and Virginia pass laws stating that slaves cannot become free by Christian baptism. New York passes law prohibiting slaves from testifying for or against a free person.

Black slaves in Carolinas outnumber white denizens born free or bounded for the first time; Governor Joseph Dudley of Massachusetts, “The Negroes...brought in from the West Indies are usually the worst servants they have,” Increase value of African slaves.

Slave market is created on Wall Street; New York ordinance: requires masters to tend to their slaves’ physical needs, prohibits willful killing, deliberate mutilation, or maiming.

Great Britain’s Queen Anne overrules a Pennsylvania colonial law prohibiting slavery.

New York City: a slave revolt leaves 9 whites dead and some 20 African-American rebels dead.

North Carolina legally recognizes the institution of slavery.

Slave ships begin to deliver slaves to Louisiana.

New York law requires blacks to carry lighted lanterns on the street after nightfall.

South Carolina statute limits voting rights to free white Christian men.

South Carolina act makes slave escape punishable by death; white justices in Carolinas are authorized to search blacks for firearms.
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Virginia amends its 1705 law declaring that blacks can’t serve as witnesses in court cases; instead it admits “any free Negro, being a Christian” as a witness in a criminal or civil suit involving another black

South Carolina allows African Americans to serve in the colonial militias during war

A Georgia law repeals prohibitions on importation of enslaved Africans; also helps to protect slaves from cruel treatment and being hired out

Georgia legally recognizes slavery

French and Indian War. Blacks serve in the French and Indian War.

A Georgia law increases the number of slaves permitted on a plantation and reduces the penalties for a slave’s murder

A Georgia law excludes black males from voting, restricting voting to white men

A Virginia law excludes black males from voting

Final conflict in the ongoing struggle between the British and French for control of eastern North America.
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<td>1798</td>
<td>1796</td>
<td>Tennessee enters the Union as a slave state</td>
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<td>1799</td>
<td>A Connecticut law emancipates slaves at age 21</td>
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<tr>
<td>1800</td>
<td>Georgia law abolishes the slave trade</td>
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<td>1801</td>
<td>The U.S. capital is moved from Philadelphia to Washington, DC. US citizens are prevented from exporting slaves</td>
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<td>1802</td>
<td>Ohio’s constitution abolishes slavery</td>
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<td>1803</td>
<td>Louisiana Purchase doubles size of America. South Carolina reopens its ports to African slave trade; Ohio enters the Union as a free state</td>
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<td>1804</td>
<td>Lewis and Clark set out from St. Louis, Mo., on expedition to explore the West and find a route to the Pacific Ocean.</td>
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<td>1805</td>
<td>A Charleston, SC ordinance prohibits teaching slaves &quot;in any mechanic or handicraft trade&quot;</td>
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<td>1806</td>
<td>The US Congress prohibits importation of new slaves; The revised New Jersey state constitution limits suffrage to strictly white free males</td>
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<td>1807</td>
<td>Maryland v. Dolly Chappell, court rules that enslaved blacks may testify in court involving other enslaved people</td>
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<td>1810</td>
<td>7,239,881</td>
<td>1,130,781</td>
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<td>1811</td>
<td>War of 1812: U.S. declares war on Britain over British interference with American maritime shipping and westward expansion. Louisiana enters the Union as a slave state.</td>
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<td>1812</td>
<td>British capture Washington, DC, and set fire to the White House and Capitol. The New York legislature declares July 4, 1827 as the date for the absolute end of slavery.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Louisiana law prohibits slaves from testifying</td>
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<td>1817</td>
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<td>Mississippi enters the Union as a slave state</td>
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<td>1818</td>
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<tr>
<td>Illinois constitution abolishes slavery</td>
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<td>1819</td>
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<td>The Canadian government refuses to cooperate with the US government in the apprehension of fugitive slaves living in Canada. Spain agrees to cede Florida to the United States.</td>
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<td>1820</td>
<td>9,638,453</td>
<td>1,529,012</td>
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<td>Missouri Compromise: In an effort to maintain the balance between free and slave states, Maine (formerly part of Massachusetts) is admitted as a free state so that Missouri can be admitted as a slave state; except for Missouri, slavery is prohibited in the Louisiana Purchase lands north of latitude 36°30</td>
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<td>Denmark Vesey, an enslaved African American carpenter who had purchased his freedom, plans a slave revolt with the intent to lay siege on Charleston, South Carolina. The plot is discovered, and Vesey and 34 coconspirators are hanged.</td>
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<td>Mexico outlaws slavery.</td>
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<td>South Carolina law allows free blacks to own real estate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Illinois law prohibits any African-American from testifying</td>
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<td>Construction is begun on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, the first public railroad in the U.S.</td>
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<td>12,866,020</td>
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<td>President Jackson signs the Indian Removal Act, which authorizes the forced removal of Native Americans living in the eastern part of the country to lands west of the Mississippi River</td>
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<td>35,000,000</td>
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Fig 8.1 Map of the United States in 1776.

The 13 colonies which unanimously declared independence from Britain in 1776.

Condition of the United States during the war of 1812.

Fig 8.2 Map of the United States in 1812.
American civil war 1861-1865
Union vs Confederation

Fig 8.3 Map of the United States during the Civil War.

Fig 8.4 Map of the United States in 2009.
APPENDIX G
- GRAPH OF SLAVE STATES AND FREE STATES IN THE UNITED STATES DURING THE HISTORY OF SLAVERY -
Fig 9.1 Time-line of African slavery in the United States arranged by date each state was founded.
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