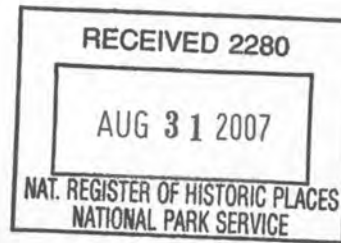


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



1051

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word process, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name James Cardinal Gibbons Memorial
other names _____

2. Location

street & number Reservation 309-G, 16th St. and Park Road, N.W. not for publication
city or town Washington vicinity
state D.C. code DC county n/a code 001 zip 20010

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Joe Wallis, Acting F.P.O. 8/28/07
Signature of certifying office/Title Date

National Park Service
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments).

DAVID MALONEY, ACTING SHPO 2-27-2007
Signature of certifying office/Title Date

DC HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

- I hereby certify that this property is:
- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
 - determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
 - Determined not eligible for the National Register.
 - removed from the National Register.
 - other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper Patrick Andrews Date of Action 10/11/2007

James Cardinal Gibbons Memorial
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- Private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
1	_____	objects
1	0	Total

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

Memorials in Washington, D.C.

number of contributing resource previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function of Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION and CULTURE: work of art

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION and CULTURE: work of art

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Naturalism

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation _____
walls _____
roof _____
other Granite, Bronze

Narrative Description

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Cardinal James Gibbons Memorial

Name of Property

Washington, DC

County and State

Section 7 Page 2

DESCRIPTION

The *James Cardinal Gibbons Memorial* sits in Reservation 309-G, located at the southeast corner of the intersection of 16th Street and Park Road, N.W. This bronze portrait statue on a granite pedestal was completed in 1932 and its design reflects the tenets of naturalism.

Wearing clerical robes and cap, the cardinal sits in a chair recalling ancient Roman curules. His right hand is raised and depicted in the act of blessing the observer. The hand is configured in the traditional Roman Catholic form for the blessing, the thumb and first two fingers extended, symbolizing the Trinity. The left hand holds a cross.

The top of the rectangular granite pedestal features a carved band of peacocks alternating with Greek and Latin crosses; in Christian art, peacocks symbolize the Resurrection and immortality. The front of the pedestal is inscribed with Gibbons' name with his dates in Roman numerals. Both sides of the pedestal are embellished by a coat of arms and cardinal's hats with flanking tassels. The shield on the left represents the Archdiocese of Washington and the Gibbons' family coat of arms is depicted on the right. The five tiers of tassels symbolize the clerical ranks Gibbons achieved: priest, monsignor, bishop, archbishop, and cardinal. The rear of the pedestal features the Latin inscription: "Emitte Spiritvm Tvvm." The phrase comes from the well-known liturgical prayer *Veni, Sancte Spiritus* (Come Holy Spirit), sung at the Feast of Pentecost.¹ The phrase is the first portion of the cantor's intercession. The complete line in the prayer is as follows: "Emitte Spiritum tuum et creabuntur, et renovabis faciem terrae." It translates to: "Send forth Thy Spirit and they shall be created, and you will renew the face of the earth."

¹ In the Christian tradition, Pentecost commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit on the apostles.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a Significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history.
- B** Property associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property as yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Area of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Art

Period of Significance

1932

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

Leo Lentelli
George Kayl

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

Previous documentation on files (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:
NPS, National Capital Region Headquarters

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

James Cardinal Gibbons Memorial

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

Section 8 Page 2

SIGNIFICANCE

The *James Cardinal Gibbons Memorial* is a rare example (in Washington, D.C.) of a portrait statue of a leader of a religious community. A gift of the Knights of Columbus, the memorial was approved by an Act of Congress on April 23, 1928 (45 Stat. 453) and dedicated on August 14, 1932. Leo Lentelli sculpted the work and architect George Kayl designed the pedestal. The memorial is significant under Criterion C in the area of Art.

The first large wave of Irish emigrants set sail for America in the 1820s. Ireland's widespread famines during the late 1840s caused nearly half a million citizens to follow. The previously established Protestants developed ill will toward the Irish in part, because of the latter's poor living conditions—not always of their own making—and their willingness to work for low wages. Religion exacerbated the circumstances. The centuries of violent disputes between Protestants and Roman Catholics in the Old World resurfaced in America. In the 1850s political arena, the American Party (better known as the Know-Nothing Party) advanced an anti-Catholic and anti-foreigner platform. Anti-Catholic sentiment continued to reach new heights throughout the nineteenth century.

James Gibbons was born in Baltimore, Maryland as the first son of Irish immigrants on July 23, 1834. Three years later, James's ailing father, the merchant Thomas Gibbons, heeded his doctor's advice and took an extended holiday. The family returned to Ballinrobe in County Mayo and ultimately stayed. Following her husband's death in 1847 and in the middle of the Great Famine, Bridget Gibbons sought to move the family back to the United States. She did not want to experience Baltimore without her husband, so she opted for New Orleans.² (At this time, Irish passengers were often used as ballast and to assuage costs for the British ships en route to the southern port to pick up raw cotton for Britain's textile industry.) The six Gibbons were in New Orleans by the spring of 1853. Two years later, the local priest, Father James J. Duffy, S.J., recommended that James pursue an education in Maryland. In September 1855, at the age of twenty-one, James entered St. Charles College in Ellicott City. Two years later, he, and thirty-one other young men, entered St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore.³

James Gibbons was ordained two months after the outbreak of the Civil War on June 30, 1861. Initially, he served two parishes in Baltimore and also acted as the Roman Catholic chaplain at Fort McHenry. His pastoral zeal and effective preaching brought him to the attention of Archbishop Martin Spalding, who made him his secretary in 1865. Gibbons was consecrated a bishop the following year and sent as Vicar Apostolic to the newly created vicariate of North Carolina. For the next six years, he ministered

² Ellis, John T. *The Life of James Cardinal Gibbons*. (Milwaukee, WI: Bruce Publishing Co., 1952) Vol. 1, p. 22.

³ Although the United States had several colleges that were committed, from their founding, to educating religious leaders, for example, Harvard (1636), William and Mary (1693), Yale (1701), Princeton (1746), and Georgetown (1789), St. Mary's (1791) was the first seminary in the country. St. Mary's was founded by French Sulpicians, a Roman Catholic society founded at Saint-Sulpice in Paris in 1642 to prepare teachers to serve in seminaries.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

James Cardinal Gibbons Memorial

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

Section 8 Page 3

to the less than one thousand Roman Catholics that lived scattered across the fifty thousand square miles under his control.

In 1872, Gibbons was consecrated the Bishop of Richmond, and thus became the youngest Roman Catholic bishop in the world. His travels throughout North Carolina gave him the experience to write his first apologetic, *The Faith of Our Fathers* (1876).⁴ Although its main function was to guide laymen, the book was also published as a response to the nation's anti-Catholic sentiment. In 1877, Gibbons was appointed the Coadjutor Archbishop of Baltimore. Due to the unexpected death of Archbishop Bayley, Gibbons became the Archbishop of Baltimore later that year. For the next four decades, Gibbons actively sought to improve church-state relations, integrate immigrants, defend the poor, preach morality, and champion labor.

Throughout the nineteenth century, the Vatican continued to see the United States as a missionary country. Gibbons became the de facto American primate (senior bishop) and dealt directly with the Vatican's missionary office. The position often forced Gibbons to conduct nuanced diplomacy between the disparate sides. For example, he softened Vatican demands on American clergy and the public, both groups were suspicious of foreign entanglement and disliked the Vatican's open sympathies to the Bourbon Restorationists.

In 1884, Archbishop Gibbons was the principal mind and organizer behind the Third Plenary Council of Baltimore—a legislative meeting of American bishops. The council produced the "Baltimore Catechism," the series of lessons about the truths of the Roman Catholic religion. The catechism incorporated thirty-seven lessons with explanations (for teachers) and questions and answers (for students). Every American child in a parochial or Roman Catholic Sunday school, during the next seventy-five years, was required to memorize these answers. The success of the Third Plenary Council and the ensuing catechism were important factors that led Pope Leo XIII to consecrate Gibbons as a cardinal in 1886.

At the end of the nineteenth century, the Roman Catholic Church in America struggled with itself over the so-called Americanist controversy. A group of largely Irish-American, moderately-liberal bishops took positions against a coalition of Irish- and German-American conservative bishops. The former, labeled as the Americanists, held that Roman Catholicism was fully compatible with American traditions and its democratic institutions. The opposition believed that if Roman Catholics assimilated to a greater degree in American culture, then they would necessarily be forced to surrender their spiritual traditions, and thus imperil their souls. Gibbons played a critical role in gathering support for a national Roman Catholic university, which required overcoming opposition from Jesuits in New York City and papal approval. Leo XIII was wary of chartering a permanent national institution in America, because

⁴ Gibbons wrote two other apologetics, *Our Christian Heritage* (1889) and *The Ambassador of Christ* (1896).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

James Cardinal Gibbons Memorial

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

Section 8 Page 4

he feared the spread of democratic ideas and also considered it an extravagance. After much negotiating, the Catholic University of America was founded in 1889 and Gibbons served as its first chancellor.

The most significant implication of the Americanist controversy dealt with the Knights of Labor, the largest labor organization in the country at this time. At the end of the nineteenth century, the Knights of Labor, under the leadership of its founder, a devout Roman Catholic of Irish descent, aggressively recruited thousands of workers. The conservative American bishops, following the papal preference, were opposed to labor unions. The Vatican condemned unions, because of their roots in European anticlericalism (French and Italian peasants were typically non-believers who fought the hierarchical systems of royalty and the church) and it was also suspicious of unions' tendencies toward secrecy. Honest blue-collar Roman Catholics were confused by the Vatican's condemnation of unions. The issue surrounding the Knights was one of the few occasions when Gibbons dropped his typical diplomatic caution in favor of his personal convictions. Based on his experiences with the working class at the beginning of his career, he was an ardent proponent of unions. Gibbons's shepherding of the Americanist position through the Vatican was his greatest contribution to the worldwide Roman Catholic Church.⁵

In America, the Roman Catholic Church and urban political machines occupied separate spheres that occasionally overlapped each other. At the turn of the century, Irish-Americans became a powerful political force, in part because of their significant numbers and exceptional organizational skills. They transformed American politics by putting local power in the hands of men who originated from the working class. Despite their negative reputations, the political machines established social services long before the federal government acted in this arena. The political machines always upheld connections to the church. Accordingly, Gibbons had strong political ties.

During most of the period that Gibbons served as Archbishop of Baltimore, between 1877 and 1921, he was the acknowledged leader of the Roman Catholic Church in America. As Charles Morris has argued, "Cardinal Gibbons became the public face of the American Church. This small, neat man, his silver hair perfectly in place, seemed always gracious, never pompous, impeccably conservative, but instinctively fair. His caution usually passed as wisdom, and often was, and he readily lent the Church's name to all good patriotic causes."⁶ Gibbons's power was such that President William Taft honored him with praise at the cardinal's golden jubilee celebration in 1911. Six years later, President Theodore Roosevelt described Gibbons as the most "useful citizen in America."⁷ Many women, on the other hand, undoubtedly would not have agreed with Roosevelt's remarks, because Gibbons's generally

⁵ See Charles R. Morris, *American Catholic* (New York: Times Books, 1997), 86 ff. and James Fisher, *Catholics in America* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2000), 84-85.

⁶ Morris, 112.

⁷ www.memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/July23

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

James Cardinal Gibbons Memorial

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

Section 8 Page 5

conservative disposition led him to become an active leader of the National Association Opposed to Women Suffrage (NAOWS). After his death in 1921, the Baltimore See never carried the weight of the four other important sees (Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia, and New York); when Gibbons died, he was the oldest Roman Catholic Bishop in the world. He was buried in the Baltimore Cathedral, the nation's oldest Roman Catholic cathedral.⁸

The Knights of Columbus commissioned the *James Cardinal Gibbons Memorial*. This benefit society, dominated by Irish-Americans, was founded in 1882 during an era when clubs and fraternal societies were very popular. The organization was established to strengthen religious faith, while providing for the financial needs of poor families; it also strove to combat the forces of anti-Catholicism. The Knights of Columbus maintained strong ties to the Roman Catholic Church. The society's desire to erect a statue of Gibbons was indicative of the link between the two institutions.

Leo Lentelli sculpted the *James Cardinal Gibbons Memorial* in 1932 and architect George Kayl designed the pedestal. Lentelli (1879-1961) was born in Bologna, Italy and worked in Rome before he moved to the United States in 1903. He taught sculpture at the California School of Fine Arts in San Francisco and the Art Students League in New York City and became a fellow of the National Sculpture Society. His most important commissions were all in New York City, they included the *Saviour* and sixteen angles for the reredos at the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine and architectural sculpture for the Steinway Building and the International Building at Rockefeller Center. After sculptor Henry Shrady died, Lentelli completed Shrady's *Robert E. Lee* for the City of Charlottesville, Virginia.

⁸ In 1803, Roman Catholic Bishop John Carroll purchased a tract of land on the highest hill in the city. Benjamin Henry Latrobe's design was erected between 1806 and 1821; the crossing incorporated a double-dome with hidden skylights to allow for diffused light in the space. In 1937, Pope Pius XI designated the Cathedral the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

James Cardinal Gibbons Memorial

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

Section 9 Page 1

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Ellis, John T. *The Life of James Cardinal Gibbons*. Vols. 1-2. Milwaukee, WI: Bruce Publishing Co., 1952.
- Fisher, James T. *Catholics in America*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2000.
- Goode, James. *The Outdoor Sculpture of Washington, D.C.* Washington: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1974.
- Morris, Charles R. *American Catholic: The Saints and Sinners Who Built America's Most Powerful Church*. New York: Times Books, 1997.

www.memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/July23

James Cardinal Gibbons Memorial
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre.

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	1 8	3 2 3 4 8 6	4 3 1 1 1 2 1	3							
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing				
2				4							
					Zone	Easting	Northing				

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Eve L. Barsoum, Historian
organization National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers date May 2006
street & number 444 North Capitol Street, N.W. telephone 202.354.1822
city or town Washington state D.C. zip code 20001

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO)

name U.S. Government, administered by the National Park Service, National Capital Region, Rock Creek Park
street & number 3545 Williamsburg Lane, N.W. telephone 202.895.6000
city or town Washington state D.C. zip code 20008

Paperwork Reduction Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et. seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

James Cardinal Gibbons Memorial

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

Section 10 Page 2

Verbal Boundary Description

The *James Cardinal Gibbons Memorial* is located in Reservation 309-G at the southeast corner of Sixteenth Street and Park Road, N.W. The boundary of the object includes the land occupied by the granite pedestal.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the *James Cardinal Gibbons Memorial* has been historically associated with the object.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Gibbons, James, Cardinal

MULTIPLE NAME: Memorials in Washington, D.C.

STATE & COUNTY: DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, District of Columbia

DATE RECEIVED: 8/31/07 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/17/07
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 10/02/07 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/14/07
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 07001051

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: Y

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 10/11/07 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept c

REVIEWER Patrick Andrus DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE _____ DATE 10/11/2007

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



JAMES CARDINAL GIBBONS
MEMORIAL

WASHINGTON, D.C.

EVE BARSOUM

FEB 2004

NCR

FACING NORTH

1 of 1

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500992