

PH0001601

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
MAR 1 1972	

1. NAME

COMMON:
Adams Memorial (Rock Creek Cemetery)

AND/OR HISTORIC:
"Grief"; "Peace of God"

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Webster Street and Rock Creek Church Road, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11 COUNTY: District of Columbia CODE: 001

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Memorial</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Adams Memorial Society--Rock Creek Cemetery

STREET AND NUMBER:
Webster Street and Rock Creek Church Road, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Recorder of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:
6th and D Streets, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Proposed District of Columbia Additions to the National Register of Historic Properties recommended by the Joint Committee on Landmarks

DATE OF SURVEY: March 7, 1968 Federal State County Local

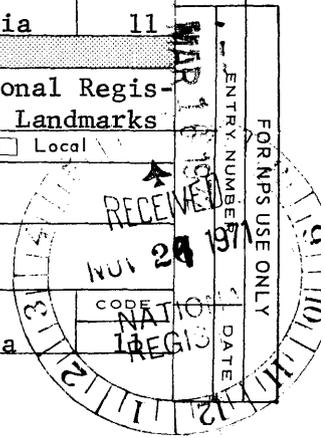
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
National Capital Planning Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
1325 G Street, NW

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
COUNTY:



7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Adams Memorial, "Grief" is located in the Rock Creek Cemetery, Washington, D.C.; the Cemetery can be entered at Webster Street and Rock Creek Church Road, NW. The Memorial is found in an hexagonal plot, approximately 20 feet in diameter, screened from the rest of the cemetery by foliage; it is located to the east of St. Paul's Church in Section E.

The Memorial consists of a cast bronze figure seated on a rough stone placed in an architectural setting. Created by the American sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens, the figure was completed in 1891 and installed in a setting designed by Stanford White of McKim, Mead and White. The statue is framed by two smooth monoliths of polished granite with classical molding which form a right angle in which the figure is placed. The plot itself is hexagonal and the three sides opposite the statue are defined by a massive stone bench. The foliage around the plot not only screens the figure from the rest of the cemetery, but provides a very intimate setting for the memorial.

The massive bronze figure is sexless, but not without a feeling of substance, for it sits almost engulfed by a heavily draped shroud. The right arm is raised to the chin and the left arm is concealed in the folds of the drapery. The legs are parted and give a feeling of solidity and massiveness beneath the drapery. The face is expressionless and imparts a quality of mystery to the figure--a quality of contemplation or meditation. The abstract quality of the subject matter is mirrored in the execution of the figure. The contrasts of stone and bronze, of the unmoving, rigid setting against the poetic quality of the figure tend to enhance the effect of the Memorial as does the quality of the light. The Adams Memorial has often been called Saint-Gaudens' masterpiece--its excellence as a work of art, its importance in the history of the development of 20th Century sculpture, and its historical associations contribute to the fact that this Memorial is one of Washington's outstanding attractions.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) completed 1891

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	<u>Memorial, grave</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

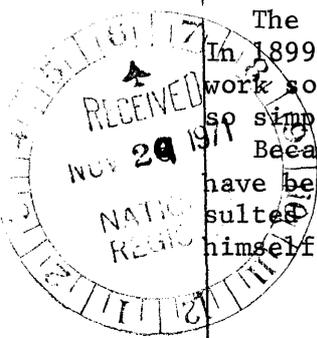
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The Joint Committee on Landmarks has designated the Adams Memorial "Grief" a Category II Landmark of importance which contributes significantly to the cultural heritage and visual beauty of the District of Columbia. The Memorial, completed in 1891, was designed by Augustus Saint-Gaudens and placed in a setting designed by Stanford White of the architectural firm of McKim, Mead and White. The Memorial was erected by Henry Adams, historian and author of Mont St. Michel and Chartres and The Education of Henry Adams, and descendant of John and John Quincy Adams. It was erected by Adams as a memorial to his wife who committed suicide in 1885. Acclaimed by many critics as a great work of art, the memorial is internationally known and attracts many visitors. The work has also been recognized as a significant step in the history of the development of American Sculpture, anticipating 20th century qualities in abstract composition and form. The Adams Memorial is located in Rock Creek Cemetery, and the oldest burial ground in the District of Columbia, which contains, in addition to the Adams Memorial, the graves of a number of people important to the history of the District of Columbia and the nation.

Henry Adams was inconsolable after his wife's death and left for a trip to the Orient the following spring with his friend the artist John LaFarge. He spent several years there, studying the culture and philosophy of the Far East, and during this period conceived the ideal of a memorial to his wife. Upon his return to Washington, Adams sought out the sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens. The basic idea behind the work was a result of the collaboration of Adams, Saint-Gaudens, and John LaFarge. Adams wished the statue to convey "the acceptance intellectually, of the inevitable." In Saint-Gaudens' sketchbook can be found a clue as to the evolution of the work. Around a faint ink sketch of the figure, he had written: "Adams. Buddha. Mental Repose. Calm reflection in contrast with the violence or force in nature." Adams left for the south Seas soon after talking with Saint-Gaudens, leaving the sculptor to complete the monument alone.

The completed work has been praised by both art critics and historians. In 1899, the French critic Gaston Migeon said of it: "I know of no analagous work so profound in sentiment, so exalted in its art and executed by methods so simple and broad, since the most telling sculpture of the Middle Ages." Because the Memorial is nameless, various interpretations and meanings have been ascribed to it. The name "Grief" is actually a misnomer and resulted from Mark Twain's comment that it embodied all human grief. Adams, himself, noted in a letter written in 1896: "...The whole meaning and feel-

(Continued on Form 10-300a)



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Green, Samuel. American Art - A Historical Survey. New York: The Ronald Press Company. 1966.
 Adams, Henry. The Education of Henry Adams. New York: 1931.
 Early, Eleanor. And This is Washington. Cambridge: Houghton Mifflin, 1934.
 Homer Saint-Gaudens. The Reminiscences of Augustus Saint-Gaudens, New York. 1913.
 Information received from W. Howard Adams, Assistant Administrator, National Gallery of Art.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		38° 56' 50"	77° 00' 39"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one acre in an 86 acre site

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Suzanne Ganschinietz, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION: National Capital Planning Commission DATE: May 27, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:
1325 G Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: [Signature]

Title: Deputy Mayor-Commissioner

Date: _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: MAR 16 1972

ATTEST:
[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: FEB 3 1972



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
772	

(Number all entries)

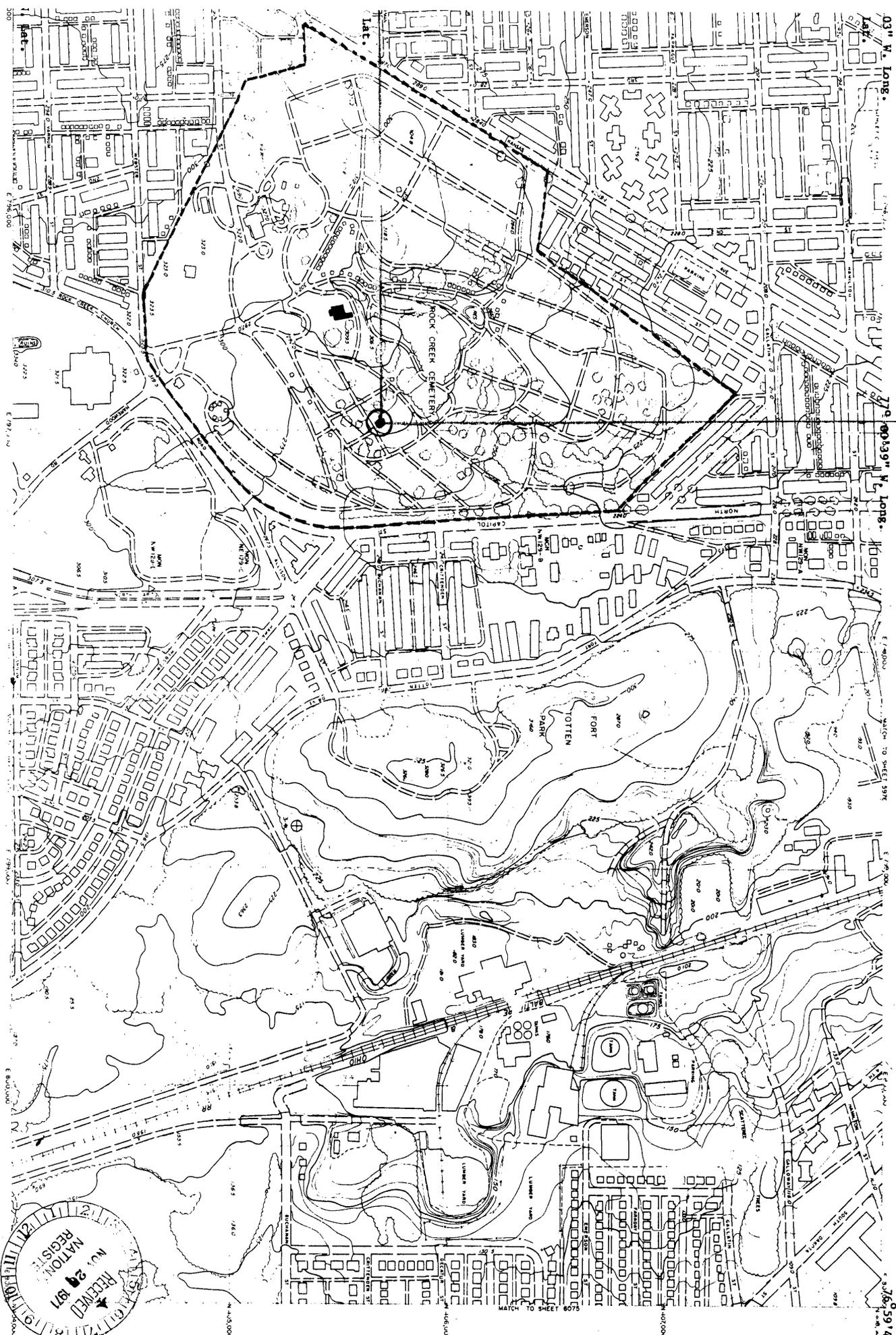
8. Significance - Adams Memorial "Grief"

ing of the figure is in its universality and anonymity. My own name for it is 'The Peace of God.' LaFarge would call it 'Kwannon.'" Saint-Gaudens has referred to the figure as 'The Mystery of the Hereafter.' Adams perhaps best summed up all attempts to interpret the statue when, in The Education of Henry Adams, he said, "The interest of the figure was not in its meaning, but in the response of the observer."

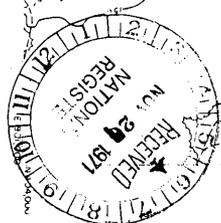
Augustus Saint-Gaudens (1848-1907) dominated the field of American sculpture in the last quarter of the 19th Century. His first training was as an apprentice to a gem cutter. He was next apprenticed to the Baltimore sculptor Reinhart in Rome, and later through the Ecole des Beaux Arts he worked with two prominent Parisian sculptors, Jouffroy and Jean Baptiste Guillaume.

Rock Creek Cemetery, where the Memorial is located, was established in 1719. Both Henry Adams and his wife are buried in unmarked graves in the vicinity of the Memorial. In addition to "Grief," other memorials in the cemetery are also works of art by such noted artists as Gutzon Borglum, Brenda Putnam, and William Ordway Partridge.





031° N. LONG.
 77° 00' 39" N. LONG.
 38° 59' 47" N. LONG.



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC
 TOPOGRAPHY COMPILED BY
 PHOTOGRAMMETRIC METHODS
 LEAD SERVICE CORPORATION

APRIL 1963
 PROJECT Adams Memorial
 Rock Creek Cemetery
 PROJECT NO.

5975
 1:400'
 W. 515-666
 ON 12x18"