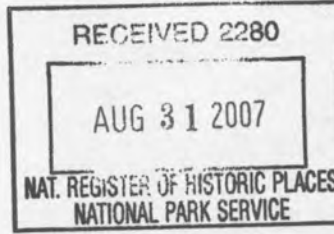


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



1056

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *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 Henry Wadsworth Longfellow Memorial
other names _____

2. Location

street & number Reservation 150, Connecticut Ave., M and 18th Sts., N.W. not for publication
city or town Washington vicinity
state D.C. Code DC county n/a code 001 zip 20560

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 2-27-07
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 Patricia Andrews Date of Action 10/11/2007

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow 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

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow Memorial

Name of Property

Washington, DC

County and State

Section 7 Page 2

DESCRIPTION

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow Memorial is located in the triangular Reservation (No. 150) at the intersection between Connecticut Avenue, M and 18th Streets, N.W. This bronze portrait statue, created by William Couper, rests on a granite pedestal and faces east. Completed in 1909, the sculpture reflects the tenets of naturalism.

Wearing a scholar's robe, the poet sits in an Empire-style chair. His right hand supports a bearded chin while his eyes stare ahead lost in thought. His left arm has dropped downward, below the seat of the chair, while the hand holds a partially closed book with its index finger remaining between the pages. William Couper's signature is inscribed on the left side of the bronze base.

The portrait sculpture sits on a reddish-pink, polished granite pedestal. Its base incorporates a broad rectilinear platform that supports a more narrow volume with tapering sides. The transition between the two masses is delineated by a robust, unpolished molding comprised of rows of laurel leaves, with a berry between each leaf, marked by crossed bindings; as a whole, its form implies a wreath. The front of the pedestal features the incised inscription: Longfellow.

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

1909

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

William Couper

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

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow Memorial

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

Section 8 Page 2

SIGNIFICANCE

The *Henry Wadsworth Longfellow Memorial* is significant as the first sculpture to commemorate a person associated with literature in Washington, D.C. The sculpture, created by William Couper, was a gift of the Longfellow National Memorial Association to the nation. Its acceptance was approved by an Act of Congress on June 8, 1906 (34 Stat. 830); Congress appropriated \$4,000 for the pedestal.¹ The statue is significant under Criterion C in the area of Art.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882) was one of the nation's most important nineteenth-century poets, his fame continued in the decades following his death. He was hailed for popularizing native themes related to the landscape and the indigenous people, as well as the country's early history and traditions. Longfellow had the gift of rhyme and wrote about subjects with a broad appeal. His most famous poems are *The Song of Hiawatha* (1855), *The Courtship of Miles Standish* (1858), and *Tales of a Wayside Inn* (1863), which includes the legendary ride of Paul Revere. His later poems sought to establish an American mythology.

Longfellow's popularity also swept over England. His poetry was second to that of Lord Tennyson. Consequently, two years after Longfellow's death, he gained a place in Poet's Corner at Westminster Abbey. Because a monument to him had not been created in his homeland, the marble bust in Westminster (*Longfellow*, 1884, Sir Thomas Brock) ultimately became a source of embarrassment for his American devotees. The Longfellow National Memorial Association was founded around 1900 to rectify the lack of recognition. President William McKinley was the Honorary Regent. Grover Cleveland and Benjamin Harrison also served as Honorary Regents, in addition to thirty-four other men who lived throughout the nation. The memorial association's promotional material stated that the Americans had been upstaged by the English and the organization was founded for the "purpose of erecting a statue of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow in the capital of the nation."² Donations, of any amount, were solicited from the public at large and a sum \$35,000 was stated as the goal.³

The sculpture was unveiled on May 7, 1909. Chief Justice Melville Fuller presided over the ceremony. The U.S. Marine Band played and speakers included Major General A.W. Greely and Bliss Perry, a

¹ The value of \$4,000 in 1906 is worth \$79,600 in 2002.

² This literature can be found in the archives at the Longfellow National Historic Site, National Park Service.

³ The value of \$35,000 in 1900 is worth \$745,000 in 2002.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow Memorial

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

Section 8 Page 3

professor at Harvard University and the editor of the *Atlantic Monthly*.⁴ One of Longfellow's granddaughters unveiled the sculpture and President William Taft accepted the statue.

William Couper (1853-1942) was an important late-nineteenth century sculptor. He was born in Norfolk, Virginia. After studying at the Cooper Union, he left the country in 1872 for the Grand Tour. He wound up staying twenty years in Italy and marrying Eliza Chickering Ball, the daughter of sculptor Thomas Ball. Couper, consequently, became a partner in the studio at Villa Ball. The entire family returned to the United States in 1897 and Couper opened a studio with Ball in New York City. The mainstay of Couper's early work was portrait busts and allegorical figures. An early commission upon his return was for *Moses* (1897), one of the ten attic statues (Judaic Law) on the Appellate Courthouse in New York City. Thirteen days after the dedication of *Longfellow*, Couper had the honor of having his *John Witherspoon* dedicated one block away at Connecticut Avenue and N Street, N.W. Couper retired from sculpting in 1911.

⁴ Perry's thoughts on Longfellow can be read in an article he wrote two years before the monument's dedication. See Bliss Perry, "The Centenary of Longfellow," *Atlantic Monthly*, Vol. 99 (March 1907), pp. 379-388.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow Memorial

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

Section 9 Page 1

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Goode, James. *The Outdoor Sculpture of Washington, D.C.* Washington: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1974.

Longfellow National Memorial Association promotional material. Located at the Longfellow National Historic Site, National Park Service.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow Memorial
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	1 8	3 2 2 9 6 6	4 3 0 8 3 1 5	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2				4			

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 April 2003

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 NPS, NCR, National Mall & Memorial Parks

street & number 900 Ohio Drive, S.W. telephone 202.485.9686

city or town Washington state D.C. zip code 20242

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

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow Memorial

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

Section 10 Page 2

Verbal Boundary Description

The *Henry Wadsworth Longfellow Memorial* is located in Reservation 150 between Connecticut Avenue, M and 18th Streets, N.W. The boundary of the object includes the land occupied by the granite pedestal.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the *Henry Wadsworth Longfellow 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: Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth, Memorial

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: 07001056

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 Andrews 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.



HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW MEMORIAL

WASHINGTON, DC

EVE PARSONS

FEB 2004

NUR

FACING SOUTHWEST

1 OF 1

PENN 18 ST < 2002 >
377 20** N N N-8 23 2 (024)

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500992