

MORNINGSIDE PARK, Manhattan. Preliminary plan (1873) and revised plan (1887), Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux; constructed largely 1883-95, Montgomery A. Kellogg, engineer, Jacob Wrey Mould, Julius Munckwitz, and Calvert Vaux, architects, Calvert Vaux, supervising landscape architect, and Samuel B. Parsons, Jr., Superintendent of Parks.

Landmark Site: Borough of Manhattan Tax Map Block 1850, Lots 1 and 2, and Block 1849, Lot 1.

Boundaries: Morningside Park, including the Lafayette and Washington Park triangle, consists of the property bounded by the eastern curbline of Morningside Drive, the northern curbline of Cathedral Parkway (West 110th Street), the western curbline of Manhattan Avenue, the southern curbline of West 114th Street, the western curbline of Morningside Avenue, the southern curbline of West 123rd Street, the eastern curbline of Amsterdam Avenue, and the southern curbline of Morningside Drive, to the point of beginning.

On April 10, 2007, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Scenic Landmark of Morningside Park and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site (Item No. 12). The hearing had been duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. Ten people spoke in favor of designation, including Commissioner of the Department of Parks and Recreation Adrian Benepe, and representatives of Manhattan Borough President Scott M. Stringer, State Assemblymember Daniel O'Donnell, Manhattan Community Board 9, Friends of Morningside Park, Historic Districts Council, and Metropolitan Chapter of the Victorian Society in America. No speakers testified against designation. In addition, the Commission received several communications in support of designation, including letters from U.S. Congressman Charles B. Rangel, City Councilmember Inez E. Dickens, Columbia University Senior Executive Vice President Robert Kasdin, Dean of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine Rev. James A. Kowalski, and Municipal Art Society of New York.¹

Summary

Morningside Park is a significant park in New York City by the renowned landscape designers Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux, whose work also included Central Park, Prospect Park, and Riverside Park and Drive. Originally, the site was a rugged rocky ledge separating Morningside Heights from the Harlem Plain, and because of the terrain, Andrew Haswell Green in 1867 proposed that it be excluded from the Commissioner's Plan street grid. Olmsted and Vaux, through their preliminary plan (1873) and later revised plan (1887), transformed the long, narrow,



and rather difficult and unusual site into a picturesque park by respecting and enhancing its inherent beauties and possibilities, including the views both eastward and westward, and creating areas of varying character. Important features of Morningside Park include the massive buttressed masonry retaining wall with parapet, overlook bays, and entrance stairways (constructed 1883-92, under the plans and supervision of architects Jacob Wrey Mould, Julius Munckwitz, and Vaux, and engineer Montgomery A. Kellogg); natural rock outcroppings; carefully worked-out "designed" rockwork and plantings; curvilinear walk system; and small open meadows along the southern and eastern sides. The initial construction of the park lasted until 1895. Samuel B. Parsons, Jr., a partner of Vaux's and the Superintendent of Parks, called the park "perhaps [Vaux's] most consummate piece of art that he ever created."

A number of important institutions selected locations facing the park along Morningside Drive on the Heights: the Cathedral of St. John the Divine (planned 1887; built from 1892 on); St. Luke's Hospital (1893-1928); and Columbia University (1894 on). Three notable works of sculpture were placed within the Scenic Landmark: *Lafayette and Washington* (1890, Frederic-Auguste Bartholdi; dedicated 1900), *Carl Schurz Monument* (1909-13, Karl Bitter and Henry Bacon), and *Bear and Faun (Seligman) Fountain* (c. 1910, Edgar M. Walter; donated 1914). The twentieth-century history of the park was characterized by threats to its integrity, as well as issues of its maintenance and condition. As early as 1909, when a stadium was proposed, and 1916, when the Board of Water Supply attempted to construct a Catskill Aqueduct pumping station, a citywide debate emerged about intrusions within the park. During the Robert Moses park era, playgrounds were inserted along the park's eastern side between 1935 and 1956. A controversial proposal (1960-69) by Columbia University to construct a gymnasium in the park was halted by community opposition and a student strike, though much park damage was inflicted by blasting on the site. The Board of Education took the northwest corner of the park for a new Public School 36 building (1965-66). Since 1987, the City's Parks Department has conducted a number of park renovation projects and built several new playgrounds. Despite modifications to its original design over the years, Morningside Park, with its unique site and views, prominent retaining wall and high rock outcroppings, and varied character and topography, remains one of the nationally significant landscape works by America's most renowned landscape designers.

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

History of the Site ²

Morningside Park is located along the steep and rocky cliffside that separates Morningside Heights from the Harlem Plain, with the ridge rising over 100 feet higher along the west side above the eastern side. This fault was created by movement of the earth millions of years ago, which left exposed various strata of rock, which were smoothed down by glacial action. When the European settlers arrived in Manhattan, large portions of the island were occupied by the Lenape, or Delaware Indians. Although no known evidence indicates that large Lenape settlements existed within what is now Morningside Park, the area may have been part of the area known as the "Muskota" meadow, or place of rushes. In the colonial era, most likely because of the topography of the western side of the park and the wet soils, the area to the east was not developed and was known as "Montagne's Flat," after the pioneer settler in 1658 of Nieuw Harlem, Johannes de la Montagne. In 1666, the western boundary of Nieuw Harlem was established, a line running diagonally from today's East 74th Street at the East River northwesterly to West 129th Street at the North (Hudson) River, passing through the site of Morningside Park. The area to the west of this line, in the vicinity of today's Morningside Heights, was held as common lands by the City of New York after it was granted by the British governor in 1686, until it was sold in 1701 to Jacob De Key. The portion of the De Key farm that later became the park was transferred in 1735 to Harman Vandewater, then in 1785 to James W. De Peyster. After a series of disputes over the eastern boundary of the De Key property in the eighteenth century, the actual topography of the cliffside was established as the boundary. The other parcels that later became the park, mostly in Montagne's Flat, were under multiple ownerships in the seventeenth century, including the Jansen/ Kortright, Van Bramer, and Bussing families, and were purchased in the eighteenth century by Charles Duryee, Benjamin Benson (1755), William Mollenaor (1790), Robert Hunter (1794), and Valentine Nutter (1798), and also David Wood (1812). According to the Censuses of 1790, 1800 and 1810, it is known that the De Peyster, Kortright, Van Bramer, Duryee, Mollenaor, Nutter, and Wood families owned between one and five slaves, and it is reasonable to assume that the earlier Dutch property owners did as well. On September 16, 1776, during the Battle of Harlem Heights, colonial forces retreated and may have used a road that cut through the area of today's park.

The Commissioners Plan of 1811, which laid out avenues and streets in Manhattan, hypothetically continued the city's grid in this vicinity, regardless of the actual topography. During the War of 1812, in anticipation of a British attack from the north in 1814, fortifications were constructed

along a line running from the Harlem River at 106th Street to the North (Hudson) River at 125th Street. Within the approximate boundaries of today's Morningside Park, Blockhouse No. 2 was located at Morningside Drive and West 113th- 114th Streets, Blockhouse No. 3 was at Morningside Drive and 121st Street, and Blockhouse No. 4 was set on the rocky bluff at Amsterdam Avenue and West 123rd Street. Like all of the city's defenses built in 1814, these blockhouses were designed by General Swift of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and constructed by citizen volunteers, but they were never actually used. Morningside Heights remained largely undeveloped into the mid-nineteenth century, though this area was the location of two charitable institutions: the Bloomingdale Insane Asylum (1818-21; extended), east of Broadway and north of West 114th Street, and the Leake and Watts Orphan Asylum (1837-43), east of Amsterdam Avenue between West 109th and 113th Streets.

In 1866, the New York State Legislature entrusted the Commissioners of Central Park with laying out the west side of Manhattan between 67th and 155th Streets. Andrew Haswell Green, a commissioner and the comptroller of Central Park, is often credited with setting in motion the creation of Morningside Park. In March 1867, Green presented a report to the Commissioners that questioned the feasibility of the city's grid plan here, stating that

*from 110th street north to Manhattan Valley, the ridge of rocks almost verdureless, mainly between 9th and 10th avenues, breaks so abruptly towards the east as to render the streets that have been laid over it in rigid conformity with the plan of the city, very expensive to work, and when worked so steep as to be very inconvenient for use.*³

In April, the Legislature granted the Commissioners of Central Park the exclusive power to alter the city plan on Manhattan's west side north of 59th Street. Green then presented the Commissioners with a map, prepared by John J. Serrell in November 1867, that modified the grid plan layout of streets and included a park on the site of today's Morningside Park, which was officially adopted. On March 26, 1868, the Commissioners passed a resolution to acquire those lands required for the public parks and squares indicated on Serrell's revised map drawn in February 1868. Under this authorization, the site of Morningside Park (31.238 acres) and the small triangle later known as Lafayette and Washington Park (.018 acre) were acquired by condemnation, at an approximate cost of \$1.33 million.⁴ In April 1870, however, the Legislature passed an act to reorganize the City's government, which dissolved the Commissioners of Central Park, to be replaced by the Department of Public Parks.

Initial Park Conception and Planning⁵

On September 13, 1870, the newly appointed Engineer in Chief of the Department of Public Parks (DPP), Montgomery A. Kellogg, was directed to prepare a topographical survey of a place known as Morning Side Park."⁶ At that time, the Commissioner of Public Works, William M. "Boss" Tweed, reported to the Common Council on assessments to the owners of adjacent property. DPP's *Annual Report* (May 1871) stated of the park site

*It is, as is well known, a very difficult piece of ground to treat for purposes of a garden or public park or place, being on a side hill and composed of a mass of rock, with a small plateau at the lower end. It is not only a very expensive work to undertake but one that will poorly exhibit any attempted improvement.*⁷

In 1870-71, around \$5500 was spent on surveying and preliminary engineering of the site, which the engineer called "this barren piece of ground."⁸ On October 16, 1871, Kellogg presented a very general plan for the layout and improvement of the park, which "proposed to make the surrounding avenues and streets form a portion of the Park, the area, more especially the width, of the grounds of the park, being inadequate in extent, and the topographical surface unsuited for carriage or equestrian roads."⁹ Ornamental basins with flower gardens were proposed for the southern and northeastern sections; a parapet wall with steps was to run along the western side; and paths would circulate through the park. The *New York Times* stated that the name of the park

was suggested by the fact that it possesses a sunny exposure in the early morning hours. ... As laid out the Park will contain handsome walks, flower-beds, jetting fountains, a play-ground, etc. ... During the past year it has been surveyed and a plan made to

*improve it. About \$8,000 has been spent thus far toward carrying out the plans.*¹⁰

A special committee was appointed by DPP in April 1872 to examine improving the street along the western side of the park, and Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux, designers of Central Park (1858 on), were directed to prepare detailed plans for the park. In June, DPP indicated that “a plan for the improvement of Morningside Park is nearly ready,” and if adopted, work could begin at once.¹¹ The *Times* commented that

*The ground is of such a nature as to have been considered almost valueless, but by the judicious arrangement of the Park architects and engineers it is expected that the new park will be made as much of an ornament, according to its size, as the present Central Park, which was also constructed from a wilderness.*¹²

By March 1873, there was discussion of a preliminary study and map of the proposed park prepared by Olmsted and Vaux, and Olmsted reported in June that “a plan for the improvement of Morningside Park is nearly ready.”¹³ In September, Olmsted was directed to finish this plan “without delay,” and was thus relieved of his other park superintending duties.¹⁴ Olmsted and Vaux submitted *A Preliminary Report on the Improvement of Morningside Park* on October 11, 1873.¹⁵ The park designers found that the site’s difficult terrain was “unusually limited” for “practical public purposes,” and was not adaptable to what they perceived were the greater recreational needs of the region. Their plan, therefore, addressed its close proximity to the northern end of Central Park (though finding it “rather inferior in interest”), the possibility of “a variety of scenery in the several divisions of the Park,” and the “fine view” afforded from every point along the height of the western avenue bordering the park. Features were thus to include a formal southeast entrance having a balcony above an irregular lagoon with aquatic and “tropical” plants; an esplanade with a large exhibition building to the northwest, connected by steps and paths to the east and west, with the area treated in a “gardenesque style”; walks to the north of this having a “wild, picturesque, and secluded character” along the rocky ledge; an open lawn north of 120th Street, “bordered by shrubbery and flowering plants”; walks leading to the craggy “Alpine ground” of the northwest corner; and a partial retaining wall and “terrace road mall” along the western avenue, having occasional balconies and entrance stairways. As observed later by the editors of Olmsted’s papers, “since the Morningside site lacked the open topography that allowed for the broad pastoral effects preferred by Olmsted and Vaux, they chose instead to produce effects of an opposite character by embellishing the already picturesque qualities of the ground.”¹⁶ The estimated cost of the park’s improvement was \$816,150.¹⁷ On October 16, 1873, DPP adopted the plan “in principle,” with the details to be modified in the future, and Olmsted was directed to inform the department what work could proceed immediately.

Beginning of Construction, 1873-86¹⁸

Despite the adoption of the Olmsted-Vaux plan, over the course of the next 14 years work on Morningside Park dragged on, in part because of the economic condition of the City following the Panic of 1873. Construction consisted mainly of the park’s massive stone retaining wall along Morningside Avenue [West] (now Morningside Drive). DPP’s *Annual Report* (December 31, 1873) described the initial work on the park’s infrastructure:

*The work on Morningside Park was commenced last fall and has been carried on with but little intermission throughout the winter. A large force has been employed in this work in clearing and shaping the ground, making excavation for the walks, etc. The greater portion of the excavation for the Lagoon in the southern part of the Park has been completed, and such portion of the rock as interfered with the construction of the walks has been removed. About one thousand feet of the main sewer for draining the Park has been finished. A large force of rockmen and stone-cutters have been employed for some time past, at One hundred and twenty-sixth street and Ninth avenue, in quarrying and cutting stone for the enclosing walls of the Park.*¹⁹

In April 1875, the *Times* reported that the Board of Aldermen directed the Department of Public Works to regulate, grade, and pave the avenues on the western and eastern sides of the park and to lay out sidewalks. Olmsted reported to Henry G. Stebbins, president of the DPP board, in July 1875:

*at the suspension of work in October 1874 construction was in progress on nearly all parts of Morningside Park, including the building of a sewer, the excavation of the pond, the grading and substructure of walks and the forming of embankments at various points.*²⁰

Over the next five years, however, little progress was seen in the park. The *Daily Graphic* in June 1877 noted that “at the present time a public street is being cut along a portion of the western boundary” of the park.²¹ The Legislature on June 16, 1880, authorized the Department of Public Works to complete the construction of roadways and sidewalks bounding Morningside Park, as well as “the necessary retaining walls to support” them, the latter in concert with DPP.²² The Board of DPP that month voted not to refer plans for the park’s improvement to Olmsted, then a consulting landscape architect. In September, Jacob Wrey Mould, who had assisted Vaux in Central Park, was appointed Architect of Morningside Park, and he was directed to prepare designs and plans for the park’s improvement, as well as to supervise the work. On April 12, 1881, Mould submitted preliminary studies for the treatment of the streets bounding the park,²³ treating Morningside Avenue [West] in particular as a “delightful promenade and resort for pedestrians and loungers,” terraced with steps but without shade trees, and with park entrances (110th, 114th, 116th, 118th, 120th, and 121st- 122nd Streets) and “a series of [seven] semi-octagonal bays or alcoves.” He submitted a detailed plan for the “most important” entrance/bay, that at 116th Street, and proposed a unified system for the random gneiss ashlar retaining wall and parapet, composed of a low wall coped with “Millstone Point” granite, cast- and wrought-iron railings, low granite posts, and stone piers. Steps and platforms were also to be granite. On the eastern side (“New Avenue”), were to be entrances at 110th, 114th-116th, 118th, 120th, and 123rd Streets, and street trees were proposed for the eastern, southern, and northern sidewalks. The proposed cost was \$233,736. The *Real Estate Record* considered Mould’s plans “striking and beautiful and will be greatly admired when seen and understood.”²⁴

Mould’s plans were approved by DPP in August, and he was directed to prepare final plans and specifications for the west side of the park, so that contract bids could be obtained in preparation for work by both the Departments of Public Works and Public Parks. A resolution was passed in May 1882 that the two departments enter into a joint contract for construction of Morningside Avenue [West] and the park’s retaining wall. Mould presented final plans for the park’s entrances and overlook bays along the western retaining wall, which were approved in September 1882; plans for the northern, southern, and eastern sides were then approved in October. In December, Mould was suspended by DPP, supposedly for the sake of economy, as his plans had been adopted and the construction season was ending. However, in January 1883, architect Julius Munckwitz was selected to prepare working drawings and specifications, with Mould named as his assistant. Munckwitz finished these in March, and Engineer in Chief Kellogg was directed to finish measurements. In April, resolutions were passed to begin excavations for foundation work, and Kellogg was appointed Engineer of Construction of DPP, including Morningside Park, in June. Charles Jones, the lowest bidder (\$53,500), was contracted in July 1883 to build the walls for the western overlook bays and entrances, and construction began in November. In January 1884, Munckwitz was directed to prepare drawings for the entrances and steps on the eastern side of the park. In May, Munckwitz reported on the estimated costs of coping, arching, iron railings, etc., for the western overlook bays and entrances, and was directed to prepare plans to complete work on the park. Munckwitz’s drawings and specifications for granite steps and platforms, iron railings, brick arches, etc., for the western overlook bays and entrances were approved in October, and contractor Jones’s work was reported as completed. The *New York Times* listed the estimated cost of park improvement as \$71,337.²⁵

In February 1885, Kellogg reported on the construction of the foundations of the stone stairways at 110th, 116th, and 120th Streets on the west side of the park. Michael McGrath, the low bidder, was contracted in May for the construction of “Hurricane Island” granite steps and platforms, brick arches, iron beams, etc., at the two western entrances at 110th and 116th Streets, and the four overlook bays in between. Munckwitz, who ended his service as architect of DPP on July 1, 1885, was hired as a consultant, and authorized to inspect that contract’s materials and completed work. The still-raw nature of the park at this stage was indicated by an article in the *Times*, which stated that policemen had captured 16 cows in the park, whose adjacent shanty owners had allowed them to graze on public lands for years.²⁶ Also, the Superintendent of Parks was directed to have “all signs and other defacements upon the rocks”

removed from the park.²⁷ Kellogg reported on the masonry of the two western entrances and four overlook bays in April. In May 1886, Olmsted responded to Henry K. Beekman, president of DPP, who had inquired about Olmsted's conditions for being re-hired as a consultant on matters relating to Central, Riverside, and Morningside Parks; Olmsted replied that he would return as Landscape Architect Advisory, along with Vaux, if given similar duties to those in the past.²⁸

Frustrated by the lack of substantial progress over the years, the Morningside Park Association requested in May 1886 and January 1887 that DPP immediately improve the park. In February 1887, Kellogg prepared estimates for further park improvements, and DPP prepared to request that the mayor issue bonds to finish the parks, including \$250,000 for "the entire constructure of the interior" of Morningside Park.²⁹ The *New York Times* commented in March that

*Property owners assessed for Morningside Park are clamoring for justice. They supposed when they paid their money, 17 years ago, that the beautiful park pictured to them in bright colors would be constructed within the generation. The work has progressed up to the present time, but is not yet sufficiently advanced to cause a building epidemic.*³⁰

The paper further reported that at 116th Street the "elegant staircase [was] completed last year at an expense of \$75,000," and noted that Morningside Avenue [West] "has not been graded, and the bare stone wall looms up like an uncanny thing."³¹ According to *A History of Real Estate, Building and Architecture in New York City* (1898), the 116th Street staircase was constructed by the firm of the prominent builder Jeremiah C. Lyons, whose business was located on 125th Street.³² The *New-York Daily Tribune* reported that the Legislature appropriated the needed \$250,000 for the park, which it commented "has for years existed in name rather than in fact."³³ In summary, after fourteen years, despite some infrastructural work such as excavation, grading, and sewers, the only completed feature of the park was the main portion of the western retaining wall, with its overlook bays and stairways south of 116th Street.

Revised Olmsted & Vaux Plan of 1887³⁴

In June 1887, Frederick Law Olmsted was invited to meet with the Board of DPP and to prepare informal plans for Central, Morningside, and Riverside Parks, but he responded that he would only do so with the equal participation of Calvert Vaux, as consulting Advisory Landscape Architects:

*With regard to the plans of Riverside and Morningside, Mr. Vaux's responsibility and mine are not identical. But there are problems to be solved in the revised plans for these works of much difficulty and no plans can be offered with regard to which there will not be heated differences of opinion. Mr. Vaux's judgement upon them would be of great value, greater than that of any other man in the country; it would be more convenient for me to work at them and should reach conclusions sooner, with confidence to present them, if proceeding in conference with him than studying the subject independently. I have no doubt that you would obtain better plans, that they would stand fire better and be more likely to be carried out.*³⁵

Olmsted communicated with Vaux about the possibility of going it alone, if Vaux didn't want to participate, and that, despite Olmsted's reluctance to return to New York and its difficult park politics, he did desire to bring the parks' designs back to their "original principles."³⁶ Several days later, Olmsted's proposal was defeated, and a resolution was passed for Superintendent of Parks Samuel B. Parsons, Jr., and engineer Kellogg to report on the original 1873 Olmsted-Vaux Morningside Park plan, making any necessary modifications.³⁷

In August 1887, Parsons and Kellogg suggested modifications to the 1873 Olmsted-Vaux plan, which they believed could be accommodated with the \$250,000 appropriation. Adjacent property owners, represented by ex-Senator Francis M. Bixby, however, advocated prompt completion of the 1873 plan. The *Times*, echoing Olmsted, advocated a revision of the 1873 plan, since it had been drawn up when the character of the neighborhood was merely a "conjecture," but was then was in the process of being developed: "There can be, in fact, no doubt that the plan should receive a thorough revision, nor is there any that the authors of the plan are the most competent revisers that could be chosen."³⁸ Apparently, the park commissioners had balked at hiring Olmsted since they wanted a revised park plan prior to payment,

which Olmsted had refused.³⁹ A resolution was passed, however, later that month to engage Olmsted and Vaux to revise and complete their 1873 plan, and in September it was reported that arrangements had been made with both men to that end. Olmsted and Vaux communicated by letter, gently sparring while trading ideas on the park plan. Olmsted observed:

*It is obvious that we have been going different ways; you being disposed to a more, I to a less elaborate plan, than that to which we had virtually come last Tuesday. ... Four fifths of the plan, probably, as it now stands in your mind, we shall not disagree upon and we can be defining that for several days. As to the other fifth, it may save time if I can get you to try my point of view which I get at perhaps in this way.*⁴⁰

Olmsted then outlined in detail his overall vision for the park: “the capabilities of the place to be made pleasing and refreshing from the ground above and the ground below,” with the contrasting character of the eastern flat areas “of turf and water”; “simple and direct” places to cross the park; eliminating all north-south walks except one; “keeping the ‘plateau’ in a natural forest character”; and eliminating constructions that cause “people to lounge and rest and loaf there.”⁴¹ Vaux, in turn, responded:

*The plateau as we call it is an extensive area. I have no thought of planting it in any different way than as a forest mass but do not see that walks through it affect the skyline which is under control quite independent of a series of through lines of walk, which to a fair minimum extent will be pushed through by somebody at some time on the logical ground that the park was intended to be occupied as well as looked at – and the same argument applies to a “Restawhile” building ...*⁴²

To which Olmsted replied:

*I do not think that the ground should not be “occupied” as well as “looked at”... The question for our consideration is only as to the degree of “occupation.” ... Our design is that people coming to this property of the city shall find that it supplies, as a whole, something peculiar to itself. Everything else should be subordinate to this object. For this design the topography supplies certain distinctive advantages, capabilities, which the design is to develop. The question is whether what you propose to introduce more than I do, would strengthen or weaken this distinctive action upon the visitor that we desire to provide for. ... Unless there is a clear obvious need for complication it should be avoided. ... I think that the refreshment that visitors would get from Morningside would be a more unbroken, undiluted character if they were not invited to go to and fro and stop at a house and circle about it, in that little district.*⁴³

On October 1, 1887, Olmsted and Vaux’s *General Plan for the Improvement of Morningside Park* was approved,⁴⁴ and a request was made to the Board of Estimate for \$250,000, with engineer Kellogg instructed to prepare estimates for its execution. The designers’ revisions reflected the changed conditions of the park and neighborhood: the looming presence of the high elevated railroad along 110th Street, and the fact that it would bring visitors from outside the immediate environs; the increased importance of 116th Street as an entrance; the partial construction of the retaining wall, along costlier lines than that originally envisioned; and that DPP no longer wanted an exhibition hall in the park. Their revised plan therefore eliminated the prominent southeastern entrance plaza; replaced the lagoon with a lawn at the south end; substituted a “Restawhile” structure for the exhibition hall; and included major cross passageways through the park at 116th and 120th Streets. The plan reinforced the topographical character of the park, emphasizing the “mall” along Morningside Avenue [West]; walks along the middle section of the park and adjacent to the northern portion of the retaining wall, as well as paths along the rocky northwest corner, near the remnants of the 1814 blockhouse; and, because of the rocky nature of much of the park, the need for a wide variety of plants for a “luxuriant and cheerful character,” with the emphasis that their propagation should take precedence in the park’s implementation.

Later that month, the Morningside Park Association approved the revised plan, as did the Board of Estimate, which authorized \$250,000 in bonds. Kellogg was directed to prepare specifications for necessary earth- and stone-work, as well as for steps and stairways, according to the plan, and Supt. Parsons and the superintending gardener were directed to select a nursery for plants and shrubs. A

resolution was then passed to retain Vaux to oversee the park's completion, and he was appointed Landscape Architect. Olmsted and Vaux's bill for their revised plan was approved in January 1888.

Completion of the Park, 1888-95 ⁴⁵

In April 1888, Kellogg's plans and specifications were approved for earth and rock filling, and for construction of receiving basins, foundation walls along 110th Street and Manhattan Avenue between 110th and 114th Streets, and steps and stairways, and the low bid was accepted in May for the filling and foundation walls. Olmsted reported that poor construction work was being performed, and a new foreman was appointed. In July, low bids (Joseph Moore) were accepted for construction of bluestone steps and foundation walls, as well as for receiving basins for walk and surface drainage. Vaux recommended the widening of the roadbed of Morningside Avenue [West] to 40 feet, with the eastern (park) sidewalk decreased to 25 feet and planted with American elm trees, and commented that "the precise character of the design to be followed in the completion of the parapet is not under consideration at this moment, but I assume that it is the intention of the Board to make it correspond generally with the existing work."⁴⁶ Two additional appropriations of \$50,000 each were requested in September 1888 and March 1889. Kellogg reported that the contracts for filling and foundation walls along 110th Street and Manhattan Avenue were completed in March, and requested an extension on the contracts for receiving basins and bluestone steps and foundation walls, which was approved in June.

Olmsted reported on the progress and character of the work in the park:

... in a recent cursory inspection of the Morningside Park work I discovered no variations from the Plan of the Park, as adopted in 1887, except such as are usually and properly made in the elaboration of a plan during the progress of construction. As a rule the variations appear to have been suggested by the disclosure of rock where it had been concealed at the time the plan was studied, and in most cases it was evident to me that they had been adapted to avoid unnecessary outlay without sacrifice of the essential aim of the design. ... the southwest quarter of the ground ... offered an opportunity for an improvement of grades and for a gain of picturesqueness that has been ingeniously and skillfully taken advantage of. A piece of work has resulted of which the Commissioners may be proud. ... The most important and telling part of [the remaining work] will be the planting. The design requires that this should be of an uncommon character, elaborate and skillful. Large and valuable preparations for it have been made. Growth will afterwards be needed under careful horticultural superintendence before the design can be realized, but even within a year the park is likely to be a very interesting and valuable addition to the recreation grounds of the city. ⁴⁷

In July, Vaux's plan for Morningside Avenue [West] and the eastern (park) sidewalk was adopted, and Kellogg's plans and specifications for paving were approved. Kellogg was directed to prepare plans and specifications for all exterior work necessary to complete Morningside Park. The purchase of rock asphalt, concrete, and gravel for the park's walks was authorized in August.

In September 1889, a resolution was passed that the overlook bays and stairways along Morningside Avenue [West], from 117th Street north, were to be completed according to the adopted plans, and similar to the ones already constructed; that the southeast corner entrance and stairs were to be completed according to Vaux's plans; and that these plans and Kellogg's estimates for the park's improvement were to be forwarded to the Board of Estimate, with a request for \$75,000. Kellogg's specifications for paving the walks, platforms and esplanades with rock asphalt, concrete, and gravel were approved, and DPP requested an additional \$50,000.⁴⁸ In October, low bids were accepted for paving Morningside Avenue [West] and for walks, and the construction of steps and foundation walls was completed in December.

The Board of Estimate authorized \$75,000 in bonds in January 1890. Vaux's modified plans, and Kellogg's specifications, for the completion of the western overlook bays, entrances, etc., were approved in January and April, and the low bid was accepted in June for the associated construction of granite and bluestone steps, platforms, cornices and parapet walls, bronze railings, brick arches, etc. A contract for

steps, platforms, etc., at the three western bays and three entrances, and the southeast entrance, was executed in July and worked commenced in August.⁴⁹

The “‘West Side’ Number,” a special addition of the *Real Estate Record & Builders Guide* in December 1890, carried the following description of the park:

*The Park Department of the City of New York has received appropriations of hundreds of thousands of dollars for the improvement of Morningside Park. The work has not progressed as rapidly as might have been expected with such substantial contributions from the city treasury; yet, after several years of effort, the park is now very near completion. For all practical purposes it is just as much open to the public as Central Park, and while it is not yet quite finished it is visited by thousands of people weekly. Indeed, Morningside Park is unique in its way. It is not very wide, but it is some three-quarters of a mile in length. It has hills and dales and green swards, which, with its imposing terraces, make it peculiarly attractive. In addition to this, Morningside Drive, which skirts the park on the bluff to the west, is now being improved, and by next spring both the park and the drive will form two of the most important attractions to the north of Central Park.*⁵⁰

Vaux and Kellogg’s plans for the construction of parapet walls and railings on the park’s southern and western sides had been approved in October, and Kellogg was directed to prepare specifications in March 1891; these were approved in November, and the low bid was accepted in February 1892. Work resumed on paving in April 1891, and was completed in May. Extensions were granted on the contract for steps, etc., in August and October. In December 1892, the parapet walls and bronze railings were completed.⁵¹

In June 1894, Supt. Parsons reported on the completion of “certain works” in the park, and designated points that required filling. In October, the Board of Estimate authorized funds for paving the sidewalks on the eastern and western sides of the park, and the contract was awarded. In March 1895, it was reported that “improvements are already in progress. Asphalt sidewalks are to be constructed on both the east and west sides of the park, from One Hundred and Tenth Street to One Hundred and Twenty-third Street, making twenty-six blocks of new sidewalks altogether.”⁵² The park was completed in 1895.

Parsons, later reminiscing about, and summarizing the construction of, Morningside Park, was quite bitter about the quality of construction, but praised the design and Vaux’s role, in particular:

*Mr. Olmsted was invited to come on from Boston to consult with Mr. Vaux as to the design which was finally to be adopted. I was Superintendent of Parks at the time and, having cooperated and studied with Mr. Vaux on all designs submitted to the Board, I naturally took part in the Morningside Park studies. Many weeks and months were occupied in perfecting this design and various discussions resulted in adopting the plan which was submitted and approved by the Park Board. ... The plan was carefully worked out by Mr. Vaux and myself, based on the original scheme presented to the Board, which naturally was much changed when the work was done. Management of the high and low places, the increase of the apparent length of the vistas, the utilization of the small amount of level ground so as to produce the greatest possible effect of open spaces were problems that received careful attention. ... The scheme of rock work in Morningside Park was a very elaborate and difficult one to work out. Probably no landscape architect who ever lived had a finer sense of the right adjustment of rocks in a park than did Mr. Vaux. His method of fitting rocks to rocks and adding to or changing the rocky topography of a territory was remarkable. ... Morningside Park became the most conspicuous example of the use of rocks placed to look like nature that probably has ever been built.*⁵³

Parsons further called it “perhaps [Vaux’s] most consummate piece of art that he ever created.”⁵⁴

Morningside Heights⁵⁵

The eventual development of the neighborhood that came to be called Morningside Heights was anticipated by the decision, prior to the laying out of streets, by the City to provide for the two picturesque parks that flanked the Heights: Morningside Park and Riverside Park and Drive (plan 1873-75, construction 1875-1902, Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux), near the North (Hudson) River

shore. Though the Bloomingdale Asylum and Leake and Watts Orphan Asylum already occupied locations overlooking Morningside Park, a series of significant institutions made plans to move here, and constructed new edifices at the end of the nineteenth century. The Cathedral of St. John the Divine was the first; planned in 1887 for the Leake and Watts site, the Cathedral was built from 1892 to 1911 according to a design by Heins & LaFarge and, after 1916, to one by Ralph Adams Cram. After much agitation (including the Morningside Park Association) during the 1880s against the Bloomingdale Asylum remaining in the neighborhood, which was considered a detriment to development and a hindrance to the opening of cross streets connecting the parks, the Asylum announced plans to move to White Plains in 1888. Columbia College decided to move its campus from midtown to the Bloomingdale site in 1891. A campus plan was devised in 1894 by Charles F. McKim, and the initial buildings (1894-97), designed by McKim, Mead & White, included the centerpiece Low Library. Renamed Columbia University in 1896, it opened to classes in 1897. Columbia was followed by Teachers College, for which a site north of Columbia was purchased in 1892 (the first buildings were opened 1894), and Barnard College, west of Columbia, for which a site was acquired in 1895.

St. Luke's Hospital, envisioned in its *Annual Report* of 1892 as "one of an important group of buildings for charitable and educational purposes, which are to be located in this vicinity,"⁵⁶ was planned by architect Ernest Flagg as a 9-pavilion complex arranged around a central domed administrative pavilion, five of which were built in 1893-96 between 113th and 114th Streets. The Plant and Scrymser Pavilions for Private Patients (1904-06 and 1926-28) were later built facing Morningside Park to Flagg's designs.⁵⁷ Among the other charitable and religious institutions that contributed to making Morningside Heights the "Acropolis" of New York were: the Home for Old Men and Aged Couples (1896, Cady, Berg & See; demolished), Amsterdam Avenue and West 112th Street; St. Luke's Home for Indigent Christian Females (1897, Trowbridge & Livingston); Woman's Hospital (1902-06, Frederick R. Allen; demolished), Amsterdam Avenue and Cathedral Parkway; Union Theological Seminary (1906-10, Allen & Collens), Broadway and West 120th-122nd Streets; and Eglise de Notre Dame (1909-10, Daus & Otto; 1914, Cross & Cross), Morningside Drive and West 114th Street.⁵⁸

Designers of Morningside Park

*Frederick Law Olmsted*⁵⁹

Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. (1822-1903), born in Hartford, Conn., was along with his frequent partner, the architect Calvert Vaux [see below], instrumental in establishing the profession of landscape architecture in the United States through their many designs which continued the principles of the English naturalistic romantic landscape tradition. Their original firm, Olmsted, Vaux & Co. (1865-72), and its successors, executed hundreds of projects throughout the nation, ranging from municipal and state parks, parkways, estates, and institutional grounds, to residential subdivisions. Olmsted & Vaux's first design collaboration, as well as the first designed American park, was Central Park (1858), now a designated New York City Scenic Landmark and National Historic Landmark. Olmsted had struggled in his early life to find a career, and had worked (among other jobs) as a gentleman farmer and writer/publisher, including time as a correspondent in the Southern states for the *New York Times* writing on slavery. Olmsted was initially hired in 1857 to act as superintendent for clearing the site of the proposed Central Park under chief engineer Egbert Viele. After Viele's plan was scrapped for a competition, due in large part to Vaux's influence, Olmsted collaborated with Vaux on the winning design. Olmsted was appointed Architect in Chief, and Vaux as Consulting Architect. During the Civil War, Olmsted served as general secretary of the U.S. Sanitary Commission, and was involved in several landscape designs in California in 1863-65. After his return to New York in 1865, he resumed work in Central Park, and again collaborated with Vaux on Prospect Park (1866), Brooklyn, a designated New York City Scenic Landmark. They also planned the residential community of Riverside, Ill., and the Buffalo (N.Y.) Park System (1868). Olmsted & Vaux's other New York City projects included Morningside Park, Riverside Park and Drive, and Ocean and Eastern Parkways, all designated New York City Scenic Landmarks. After Olmsted's individual practice (1872-84) and move in 1881 from New York City to Brookline, Mass., he was joined

by a succession of partners until, in poor physical and mental health, he retired in 1895. Among Olmsted's many notable projects were the U.S. Capitol grounds (1874), Washington, D.C.; Boston Park System (1879-81); Stanford University (1886), Palo Alto, Cal.; Biltmore Estate (1888), Asheville, N.C.; and the World's Columbian Exposition (1893), Chicago. The firm was continued by his son, Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., and nephew/stepson, John C. Olmsted, as Olmsted Brothers.

*Calvert Vaux*⁶⁰

One of America's foremost nineteenth-century architects, Calvert Vaux (1824-1895) was born and trained in London, moving to Newburgh, N.Y., in 1850 to assist Andrew Jackson Downing, then considered the preeminent landscape designer in the U.S., in the design and landscaping of country residences. While associated with Downing, Vaux worked on the landscape designs of the grounds of the U.S. Capitol, Smithsonian Institution, and the White House, in Washington, D.C. After Downing's death in 1852, Vaux formed a partnership with Frederick Clarke Withers, another English emigre, with whom he later designed the Jefferson Market Courthouse and Jail (1874-77). In 1856, Vaux published *Villas and Cottages*, a book which documented his early work, and moved to New York City. Following his selection with Olmsted as designers of Central Park, Vaux was the person in charge, first as Consulting Architect and then as Landscape Architect, of the park's architectural features, including its bridges, structures, and shelters, which included the Dairy, Boathouse, Belvedere, and the Terrace (1858-71). He was assisted by others, including Jacob Wrey Mould and Julius F. Munckwitz [see below]. Vaux served in a variety of titles as landscape architect for the Dept. of Public Parks (1871-73, 1881-82, and 1888-95), and supervised (alone and with Olmsted) the execution of their landscape designs. He collaborated with Mould in the design of the first buildings of the Metropolitan Museum of Art (1874-80) and American Museum of Natural History (1874-77). Vaux was also associated with engineer George K. Radford (1876-92), with whom he designed a number of lodging houses and schools for the Children's Aid Society, and Samuel B. Parsons, Jr. [see below] in Vaux & Co. (1879-95). Vaux drowned in Gravesend Bay in 1895, presumably a suicide.

*Jacob Wrey Mould*⁶¹

Born in England, Jacob Wrey Mould (1825-1886) was said to have been trained in design under Owen Jones, with whom he collaborated on the polychrome decoration of the Crystal Palace (1851), London, and on *The Grammar of Ornament*. Mould moved to New York City around 1852 and established an architectural practice. His first major commission, All Soul's Unitarian Church and Parsonage (1853-55; demolished), is considered to have introduced "constructional polychromy" to American architecture. Much of his work was executed in the High Victorian Gothic style. He served as an assistant architect in Olmsted, Vaux & Co. from 1858 to 1870. As associate architect working with Vaux in Central Park, Mould devoted much attention to the park's architectural details, notably the stone carving and Minton encaustic tiles of the Terrace, as well as buildings and bridges. He served under several titles as architect to the Dept. of Public Parks (1870-74), designing, among other things, the fountain in City Hall Park (1871). He collaborated with Vaux in the design of the first buildings of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and American Museum of Natural History. In Lima, Peru, in 1875-80, Mould was Architect to the Dept. of Public Works. After his work as Architect of Morningside Park (1880-82), he worked as an architectural draftsman and architect for the Dept. of Public Parks (1885-86).

*Julius F. Munckwitz*⁶²

Julius F. Munckwitz (c. 1831/32-1902), born in Leipzig, Germany, immigrated to the United States in 1850. Beginning in 1857, he found employment in New York City parks, including Central Park, and in 1862-68 was working in the office of Vaux. In the Dept. of Public Parks, he worked in a variety of titles as architect and superintendent (1870-85), collaborating with Vaux and Mould on such structures as the Central Park Boathouse (1872-76; demolished). Munckwitz was responsible for continuing the work (1883-84) on the massive stone retaining wall of Morningside Park begun by Mould. His son, Julius Munckwitz, Jr., succeeded him as architect to the Parks Department. The senior

Munckwitz established an independent architectural practice by 1862, which lasted until his death. Among his designs were the E.D. Farrell Furniture Co. Building (1891; demolished), West 125th Street, Marie Antoinette Hotel (1895; demolished), West 66th Street, and the Keller Hotel (1897-98), 150 Barrow Street (aka 384-385 West Street), in Greenwich Village, a designated New York City Landmark.

*Montgomery Alexander Kellogg*⁶³

Born in upstate New York, Montgomery A. Kellogg (1830-1898) was educated at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and worked on railroads in Ohio (including as Resident Engineer on the Cleveland & Pittsburgh Railroad in 1852) and the New York Central and Hudson River Railroads, as well as the Georgetown (Washington, D.C.) waterworks, prior to moving to New York City c. 1858. Kellogg served as Engineer to the Commissioners of Central Park prior to 1869, and was named Engineer in Chief of the newly-formed Dept. of Public Parks in 1870. He assisted Ignatz Anton Pilat in the re-design of small parks in Manhattan in 1870, including Washington Square, as well as The Boulevard (Broadway). Kellogg was Engineer in Chief of the Bureau of Construction of Roads and Avenues of the Dept. of Public Works c. 1872-76, and was appointed Engineer of Construction for the Dept. of Public Parks in 1883, in which capacity he served until his death. In the latter position he was also responsible for the construction of bridges over the Harlem River c. 1892-98.

*Samuel Bowne Parsons, Jr.*⁶⁴

Born in New Bedford, Mass., and descended from two generations of Quaker horticulturalists, Samuel B. Parsons, Jr. (1844-1923) became one of the country's leading landscape architects. His father, Samuel Bowne Parsons, Sr. (1819-1906) operated an internationally known nursery, Parsons & Sons Co. (established 1838), in Flushing, Queens, and was the first to import Japanese maples and to propagate rhododendrons in the U.S. Parsons, Jr., graduated from Yale Scientific School in 1862, after which he continued his studies and farmed. He returned to the family nursery, which was then conducting business with Olmsted, Vaux & Co., supplying plants and trees for Central and Prospect Parks. Parsons joined Vaux & Co. c. 1879 and became Vaux's partner in 1887-95. After Vaux was re-appointed Landscape Architect to the Dept. of Public Parks in 1881, Parsons became his assistant and Superintendent of Planting in 1882. He was promoted to Superintendent of Parks in 1885, and worked with Vaux on Morningside Park. Vaux and Parsons were responsible for the design and reconstruction of many parks in Manhattan at that time, including Highbridge, Corlears Hook, East River (Carl Schurz), and the Harlem River Driveway, as well as private commissions such as Trinity Cemetery (1881), the grounds of Wilderstein (1890), Rhinebeck, N.Y., New York University (1894), and New York Botanical Garden (1895). After Vaux's death in 1895, Parsons was appointed Landscape Architect in 1898 of the newly-consolidated City's parks, in which capacity he served until 1911. Among his New York works were the design and construction of DeWitt Clinton (1905), Thomas Jefferson (1905), St. Nicholas (1906-09), and John Jay Parks. Parsons had developed a reputation for fighting to preserve the design integrity of Central Park against encroachments, as well as for increasing the variety of its horticulture. He was a founding member of the American Society of Landscape Architects in 1899, and served as president in 1902 and 1906-07. Commissions of Parsons & Co. outside New York included the community of Albemarle Park (1890s), Asheville, N.C. and Balboa Park (1903-08), San Diego. Parsons was dismissed from his New York job in 1911, due to city politics and his stances on park matters.

Early Twentieth-Century History of Morningside Park⁶⁵

The early twentieth-century history of Morningside Park was characterized by the addition of sculptures and structures to the park, warding off threats to its integrity, and issues of its maintenance and condition. A "women's cottage and refreshment room" was authorized for the park in July 1901 with an \$8250 appropriation, and in 1902 an extravagant toilet house in a French Gothic style with a tower (including space for tools storage and bandstand) was proposed, to a design by architects Barney & Chapman; in 1903-04, a less ornate one-story stone structure was built, instead, at the site originally proposed for the "Restawhile" opposite West 114th Street, having three elliptical openings to an "open

shelter,” with toilets to the west, and stairs to the south, and an upper plaza. Three sculptures were placed in the park [see below]: *Lafayette and Washington* (1890, Frederic-Auguste Bartholdi, sculptor), located in 1900 at the park triangle at Manhattan Avenue and West 114th Street; *Carl Schurz Monument* (1909-13, Karl Bitter, sculptor, and Henry Bacon, architect), unveiled in 1913 atop the 116th Street overlook bay on Morningside Drive; and *Bear and Faun (Seligman) Fountain* (c. 1910, Edgar M. Walter, sculptor), donated in 1914 for a site near the eastern side of the park at 114th Street. An oval athletic stadium was proposed for the eastern side of park, between 118th and 120th Streets, in 1909; greatly opposed by neighborhood residents and others in the city, including the City Club, which objected to “the erection of buildings of any description in any public park... the construction of a stadium in Morningside Park would destroy its beauty,”⁶⁶ the proposal was defeated. Seventeen plane trees were planted along the park’s eastern sidewalk and around the *Lafayette and Washington* Park triangle in 1911.

Complaints about the park’s condition increased. As early as 1905, vandalism (stealing greenery, etc.) was reported. By 1911, neighbors began to complain about its long neglect and deterioration, as well as crimes committed in park. A petition, signed by Columbia University faculty members and others in 1911, declared that

*the park has been practically ruined by its promiscuous use as a playground and ball park. ... Morningside Park was, when wiser counsel prevailed, one of the most beautiful parks in the city, its foliage and lawns enjoyed daily by many thousands of men, women, and children from the vicinity or from a distance, and its beauties were greatly admired by the multitude of passers-by on the elevated and surface cars. Particularly was it a daily resort for hundreds of mothers with their infants and small children, a safe, healthful, and much-needed breathing place for the dense population living near it. All these facilities and services were practically destroyed or greatly diminished by its illegitimate use as a field for ball games and rough sports to which half-grown youths or adults were admitted or invited, and even gangs of hoodlums from a distance crowded in. All enjoyment of these grounds as a park for its ordinary visitors was thus prevented or marred...*⁶⁷

Reported park problems included paths created along the hillside, leading to erosion, and damage to the greenery and lawns. Parks Commissioner Stover acknowledged that the southern section of the park *has never been properly completed, owing partly to the steep grades to the west from which, after a severe rain, volumes of water pour down the hillside, washing out the paths in many places and creating an appearance of disorder. To remedy this we hope to lay some larger pathways provided with drains.*⁶⁸

The park’s hillside was further damaged by large crowds at a July 4th celebration in 1912. Part of the rocky cliff by the 1814 blockhouse at the park’s northwestern corner fell in 1913, and some of the cliff’s overhanging rock was blasted off in 1915.

In 1914-15, a six-foot wrought-iron picket fence on concrete coping was installed along Manhattan and Morningside Avenues and West 123rd Street, with “artificial granite” entrance piers. The same year, a request was made for \$94,500 toward the park’s restoration:

*Lack of landscape treatment and sufficient funds for maintenance have allowed the successive storms of many years to wash away the soil from this hillside park, so that deep gullies now exist along its entire length. The washing away of this soil has loosened the roots of the trees and shrubs, exposing them to the weather, and causing their death and destruction.*⁶⁹

A 1916 protest over the neglected and deteriorated condition of the park led to its reported “complete restoration.”

Catskill Aqueduct Pumping Station Controversy⁷⁰

From January to July 1916, a citywide controversy erupted over the construction by the Board of Water Supply of a 40-by-100-foot pumping station structure in the meadow area of the park at 121st Street, for use in construction of, and control of water of, the Catskill Aqueduct system pipeline. A

temporary structure had been placed at the site sometime after 1911, and Parks Commissioner Cabot Ward had raised the question of its removal. Construction began in January 1916 on a steel-framed structure, the plans for which were not previously known to the public. Consulting architects York & Sawyer had produced a neo-Classical design, which they later modified for a structure reduced in size. After the structure's framework was completed, significant opposition was mounted by prominent civil engineers, Samuel Parsons, Jr., the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society, the *New York Times*, architect Alfred C. Bossom, the Merchants' Association, Parks and Playgrounds Association, and Fine Arts Federation. In February 1916, sculptor Gutzon Borglum initiated a taxpayers' lawsuit to halt construction of the "temporary" structure, which had proceeded without the authorization of the Parks Dept., Municipal Art Commission, or Board of Aldermen.⁷¹ Justice Edward R. Finch, of the New York Supreme Court, issued an injunction in March 1916, pending approval by the Parks Dept. and Municipal Art Commission, stating that

*It is of great public importance that the parks be preserved for the enjoyment and recreation of the people of the city, and any act, official or otherwise, which causes an illegal encroachment on a park tends to imperil the public interests and is calculated to work a public injury. Where congestion is as great as in this city park spaces are necessary to the public welfare, and if the act threatened is also imminent and substantial so as to imperil the integrity of the park a taxpayer has the right to invoke the court's aid.*⁷²

The Board of Water Supply decided to apply for a permanent structure designed by York & Sawyer. The matter was referred to the Board of Estimate, which voted in July 1916 to have the pumping station placed underground.⁷³

Morningside Park, 1920s-60s⁷⁴

The Parks Department's *Annual Report* of 1929 noted that, due to vandalism and neglect, a campaign was underway to remove dead trees and shrubs, and to re-plant the park, particularly along the northern hillside. The *New York Times* reported in 1935 that there were concerns about the park's safety, attributed in part to "the unemployed destitute who habitually haunt the parks."⁷⁵ An oval playground and comfort station, on the east side of the park at 113th - 114th Streets, opened in November 1935 (the comfort station was apparently replaced in 1945); these were removed in the 1950s.⁷⁶ In 1941, a playground at the northeastern corner (also dating from 1935) was reconstructed, and the comfort station there was remodeled and reopened. According to the *Times*,

*The old playground, a pear-shaped enclosure, surfaced with bluestone screenings, consisted of a few pieces of overworked play apparatus, one basketball and four horseshoe courts, while the expanded recreational area comprised one and three-fourths acres for adults as well as children. Equipment in the new playground includes two handball, three shuffleboard, and three basketball courts, wading pool, pipe-frame exercise unit, swings, two slides and comfort station for larger children and adults; and in the kindergarten area, two irrigated sand pits and sitting areas, swings, three slides and six see-saws.*⁷⁷

By 1941, the south lawn was converted into two softball fields, with rock outcroppings on the site having been removed by this time.

In 1952, the toilet structure of 1903-04, located near 114th Street, was demolished, with its western "existing wall to remain." By this period, stone walls with jagged tops were being constructed along some of the paths. The historic bronze railings of the parapet walls along Morningside Drive and Cathedral Parkway were removed in 1954, and replaced by sections of iron picket fence with intermediate iron posts; contract drawings indicated that "the existing bronze or iron fence to be removed shall be the property of the contractor."⁷⁸ A rectangular playground along the park's eastern side at 116th to 119th Streets, first proposed in 1949 and built in 1955-56, included swings, slides, wading pool, sandpit, comfort station, shuffleboard and basketball courts, stairs at 118th Street, and a ramp at 117th Street. Sand pits were placed in the overlook bays along Morningside Drive in 1957. In 1962, the 6-foot wrought-iron fence along Manhattan and Morningside Avenues was replaced, and the park's hillside was rehabilitated.

Columbia University Gymnasium Controversy⁷⁹

By 1955, the *New York Times* opined that “the park was virtually off-bounds to [Columbia University] students and faculty as ‘too dangerous.’”⁸⁰ Discussions were held between Columbia’s president, Grayson Kirk, and Parks Commissioner Robert Moses over the potential use by the university of a portion of the park. After a resolution adopted by the Board of Estimate on December 15, 1955, and a permit from the Department of Parks on December 29, Columbia was permitted to “lay out, construct and operate an athletic field, with the necessary buildings, facilities and improvements”⁸¹ at the south end of Morningside Park, commencing January 1, 1956. The *Times*, reporting the “unusual arrangement,” stated that Columbia would have exclusive use of the \$200,000 ballfield on weekdays from June through October, while the “community” would be allowed to use it on weekends and the remainder of the year.⁸² Plans included two softball fields, three football fields, a soccer field, a fieldhouse/comfort station, and storage building; opened in May 1957, the facilities proved immediately popular with residents of Harlem.

In January 1960, however, the university announced plans to construct (contingent upon legislative approval) a large recreation center on a two-acre park site north of these athletic fields, which would include a university gymnasium on the upper portion, and a neighborhood community center on the lower level (about 12% of the building). The project had the consent of Mayor Robert Wagner, Moses, and the City Council, and the Legislature approved a 50-year lease (renewable for another 50) in March 1960. The lease was signed on August 30, 1961, by the new Parks Commissioner, Newbold Morris, and Grayson Kirk, for a nominal \$3000 per year, and was approved unanimously by the Board of Estimate. The *New York Times* editorialized in favor of the project in August 1961:

*This newspaper ordinarily disapproves the taking of any park land for non-park purposes. ... But once in a while the community need for specialized use of a fragment of park property – elsewhere than Central Park, which should be inviolate – can outweigh the need for purely park use.*⁸³

Francis S. Levien, a businessman and Columbia Law School graduate, donated \$1 million in May 1962 towards the \$9 million gymnasium fundraising effort.

By 1964, the *Times* reported growing opposition within the Morningside Heights community to Columbia’s expansions and rapidly growing building ownerships, as well as its park “land grabs.”⁸⁴ Commissioner of City Planning William F. R. Ballard noted in January 1964 that the Columbia gym proposal had never been presented to his commission. Suki Terada Ports and Christiane Collins, on behalf of neighborhood groups, led a tour of the park with Manhattan Borough President Edward R. Dudley and other officials, to show its deteriorated conditions and the need for reinstated funding, as well as to counter perceptions that the park was dangerous. By January 1966, then Parks Commissioner Thomas P.F. Hoving announced that he was “pretty damned upset” over the Columbia gym deal, saying that “this is the most puzzling example of the use of public space for a private institution that I have ever seen. ... The more I saw the community’s slice of this particular pie, the more disturbed I was at the thinness of the slice.”⁸⁵ Columbia’s Student Council passed a resolution in March 1966 urging the university to suspend gymnasium construction and to meet with opposing community groups, and in May, two Harlem legislators, Senator Basil A. Patterson and Assemblyman Percy E. Sutton, introduced bills to prevent its construction.⁸⁶

In May 1967, with John Lindsay as Mayor and Percy E. Sutton as Borough President attempting to resolve the dispute, Columbia officials discussed the possible alteration of its plans. Kirk’s home was picketed in July 1967 by community groups outraged by Columbia’s building demolitions and conversions, and its Morningside Park plans. Columbia proudly announced the addition of a swimming pool to the community’s portion of the proposed gym building, but Harlem leaders, including Assemblyman Charles Rangel, immediately denounced the proposal and its racial implications of separate and unequal facilities. In October 1967, the Board of Estimate voted unanimously, despite Sutton’s reservations, to allow Columbia to proceed, with the university promising to increase the community’s facility usage. Community groups again picketed in November, led by Robert McKay of the West Harlem Community Organization. In February 1968, Columbia began construction in the park; twenty-five

people were arrested in two park demonstrations, including McKay and a Harlem minister.

The *Times*' architecture critic, Ada Louise Huxtable, wrote of Columbia in March 1968 that it was "a definitive demonstration of an institutional failure to comprehend and react to the human and urban attitudes and feelings that surround it," commenting that "the huge masonry bulk will never blend with its rustic setting. It is in conflict just by being there," and that "the real tragedy of the whole Columbia gym affair is that this dubious and even harmful project has been carried out in good faith."⁸⁷ In April 1968, the faculty of the School of Architecture passed a unanimous resolution (drafted by professor George R. Collins) calling for the president and trustees to reconsider the gym proposal.

The situation soon escalated into one of the most prominent of the many American student-university confrontations of the 1960s. Students for a Democratic Society, led by student Mark Rudd, joined with the Student Afro-American Society, among a variety of issues, to oppose the gym, and protests that lasted for weeks began on April 23. Though bulldozers had continued excavation in the park, work was suspended during the protests at the request of Mayor Lindsay. After an estimated 2500 people demonstrated on April 30, during which time five university buildings were occupied and clashes occurred with hundreds of police, a faculty committee formed to attempt to intervene and exert itself in university decision making, a strike was begun (reportedly half of students were said to be supportive), and the university closed for the rest of the semester.

In May 1968, Parks Commissioner August Heckscher announced that, if Columbia abandoned its plans, "this is potentially one of the most beautiful parks in Manhattan, and I will do everything in my power to keep its naturalistic features while making it useful to the community it serves."⁸⁸ A \$500,000 allocation was proposed to be spent on park rehabilitation, including stairways, paths, fences and an addition to the comfort station/recreation building at the northeastern corner. A taxpayer's lawsuit was initiated over the improper use of parkland, sponsored by the new Morningside Park Preservation Committee, while Sutton attempted to convince Columbia to relocate its gymnasium, and Paterson and Rangel in Albany were plotting legislative rescission. The *Times* reported the park's damage as "the excavators have already dynamited and hacked away tons of exposed rock."⁸⁹

Grayson Kirk resigned as Columbia president in August 1968. The Architects Renewal Committee in Harlem (J. Max Bond, Jr., executive director) advocated in October a "natural amphitheater," skating rink, and pool structure on the Columbia gym site. By March 1969, acting president Andrew W. Cordier indicated that the university was considering other options, and on March 3, Columbia's trustees officially abandoned the plan (a gymnasium was opened in 1974 on the northwest corner of the campus).

Public School 36 (Margaret Douglas Elementary School)⁹⁰

Similar to Columbia's taking of part of the park, in April 1963, the Legislature authorized the City to construct a public school on the rocky site at the northwestern corner of Morningside Park. This effort was initiated by Manhattan Borough President Dudley, with the support of Mayor Wagner. Though the Art Commission pointed out that the site was the location of the War of 1812 blockhouse, Dudley was quoted as calling it "rubbish-strewn and a danger spot for children."⁹¹ The City Planning Commission proposed an alternative site at Riverside Drive and Tiemann Place to "avoid the onus of taking park land,"⁹² but a controversy ensued over segregation in Harlem vs. Morningside Heights, and the related issue of location of neighborhood schools. The Citizens Union, Park Association of New York City, Adult Youth Association, and Morningside Citizens Committee came out against the Morningside Park site, most contending that the park should be used solely for recreation purposes. A January 1964 report signed by City Planning Chairman Ballard stated that

*the Commission is opposed to pre-empting park lands in densely developed residential communities for other than park purposes. We believe that appropriate sites for public improvements can be found without taking park land, although at times it seems a difficult task. It is no less difficult to find appropriate sites for parks that are so sorely needed, and parks are certainly no less an important element in community development than are schools or other public improvements.*⁹³

Further noting that “Morningside Park has already been encroached upon severely” through the Columbia gym proposal, which had never been presented to City Planning, Ballard recommended that the mapping change for the school be disapproved. The Board of Estimate, however, on February 6, 1964, overruled City Planning, and the site (1.35 acres) was de-mapped as parkland and assigned to the Board of Education. The *New York Times* editorialized against the decision, opining that “a non-park site should and could have been found in the neighborhood for the school.”⁹⁴ Public School 36 (1965-66), called “the city’s first public school building designed entirely for the early elementary grades,”⁹⁵ was designed by Frederick G. Frost, Jr. & Associates, as four concrete- and brick-clad pavilions connected by bridges, set on a random-stone-clad base on top of the surviving natural rock outcroppings.

Later History of the Park⁹⁶

By 1971, the Parks Department had designed a “Proposed Rehabilitation of Columbia Gym Site,” with walks on the western portion of the site and a rectangular playground to the east. An agreement was reportedly in place for Columbia University to help pay for the repair of the damage that it had caused to the park. The West Harlem Coalition for Morningside Park was formed to bring attention to the needs of the entire park. The Olmsted Sesquicentennial in 1972 brought renewed focus nationally to the parks designed by Olmsted and Vaux, and the amendment of the New York City Landmarks Law in 1973 allowed for the designation of Scenic Landmarks. In 1973, the West Harlem Coalition obtained funds to retain Lawrence Halprin Associates as consultants to the Architects Renewal Committee. During the city’s fiscal crisis of the 1970s, however, maintenance in Morningside Park was abandoned, causing Ada Louise Huxtable in the *New York Times* in 1975 to state “Morningside Park may now be the city’s most crime-ridden, underutilized and dangerous spot.”⁹⁷

By 1978, the New York State Department of Parks was negotiating a contract with the firm of Bond, Ryder and Associates (later Bond Ryder Wilson) for a “redevelopment design” of the park, with the City applying for federal grants to pay for the project. Working for the re-design of the park were the West Harlem Community Organization and Morningside Park Coalition. The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission’s Olmsted Project in 1981 culminated in the publication of *Art of the Olmsted Landscape* and an exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, both of which included the park. Morningside Park was heard for designation at public hearings by the Commission on August 11 and November 10, 1981, though there was considerable opposition from neighborhood activists involved with the park over the years, some of whom favored re-design over preservation and were wary of another city agency’s involvement. The Friends of Morningside Park, mostly Columbia students led by founder/director Tom Kiehl, formed in 1981 in favor of the restoration of the historic park, rather than a re-design, and launched a major cleanup effort. As expressed by Kiehl, “There is nothing wrong with the design of the park. They are imposing a design solution on what is basically a maintenance problem.”⁹⁸

In 1987-89, the Parks Department planned a \$12 million restoration of Morningside Park. The \$5 million Phase I, launched in the spring of 1989, included repair of the Columbia gym site, through the creation of a waterfall and pond with an island, removal of boulders and landfill, removal of vegetation and new landscaping, new stairs and entrance at 113th Street and Morningside Drive, restoration of the ballfields, and re-design of the 1956-57 fieldhouse (with arches and cast stone details). Completed in 1993, the work was executed by Quennell Rothschild Assocs./Bond Ryder James Partnership. In July 1996, the Parks Department began a \$650,000 reconstruction of the stairway at the 116th Street overlook bay, completed in 1998. After Dr. Thomas Kiel died in an accident in 1996, an arboretum (from the base of the 116th Street stairs north to 121st Street) was created in his memory and dedicated in September 1998. Among the paths and steps (some with concrete, others with new bluestone) that have been reconstructed are: the east-west path and steps from 114th (east) -116th (west) Streets; steps northeast of the 122nd Street west entrance; steps near the southwest corner entrance; paths and steps to the northeast of the 116th Street overlook bay stairway; and steps northeast of the 120th Street overlook bay. The stairway south of the 120th Street overlook bay was rebuilt with new granite steps and cheekwalls and iron railings (c. 2004). New playground equipment was inserted at the south end of the ballfields, near 113th Street east, and at the northeastern corner. In 2006, the ballfields were again renovated, a security booth

was installed at 116th Street and Morningside Drive, and the park's upper paths saw vegetation removal and new landscaping. Currently under construction, after groundbreaking in August 2007, is a \$2.8 million ovaloid-shaped playground on the park's eastern side north of 116th Street, designed by Alex Hart of the Parks Department.

Significant Features of Morningside Park

Morningside Drive and Retaining Wall, Parapet, Overlook Bays, and Stairways

One of the dominant features of the park is the massive buttressed rockfaced-gneiss masonry retaining wall along the western side, having gneiss piers with granite caps, and a gneiss and pink-grey granite parapet and pink-grey granite posts, rising above the sidewalk. There were originally bronze double railings, which were removed in 1954, and replaced by sections of iron picket fence. There are nine overlook bays (eight are polygonal, while that at 116th Street is rounded), at each cross street between West 111th and 121st Streets, except for West 113th Street (destroyed in 1968) and 114th Street; these are paved with concrete and many have sand pits which were placed in 1957. The bays at 111th and 119th Streets have Gothic-arched openings (they were originally used as shelters from foul weather),⁹⁹ now covered. The monumental bay at West 116th Street features the *Carl Schurz Monument* [see below], and has a major stairway on the south side that descends to a landing platform, with stairs to the north and south, leading to a plaza (now paved with asphalt). Entrances to the park occur at 112th and 113th (dating from 1989-93), 114th, and 122nd Streets, and stairways descend into the park from the overlook bays at 116th, 118th, and 120th Streets (original bronze double railings were replaced by sections of iron fence). The gneiss and granite stairways originally had granite platforms and steps. The stairway at 116th Street was rehabilitated with new handrails (1996-98), and the stairway south of the 120th Street overlook bay was rebuilt with new granite steps and cheekwalls and iron railings (c. 2004). The Morningside Drive sidewalk was originally asphalt (1895); by 1911, it was planted with elm trees, in a continuous tree lawn along the drive. In 2006, a security booth was installed at 116th Street. The sidewalks are currently paved with concrete and Belgian block.

Cathedral Parkway (West 110th Street)

Cathedral Parkway has a similar parapet wall and railings as that along Morningside Drive. The southwest entrance at Morningside Drive has a rounded overlook bay (paved with asphalt) and a broad gneiss and granite stairway. The southeast entrance at Manhattan Avenue has a low granite stairway with curved cheekwalls and gneiss piers. The square southeast entrance plaza had different previous configurations with grassy area, path, and trees; it currently has Belgian block and hexagonal asphalt paving and trees. By 1911, the sidewalk along the parkway was planted with elm trees, around which were rectangular metal guard rails; today the sidewalk is paved with concrete and Belgian block, with a tree lawn.

Manhattan Avenue/ Morningside Avenue

Entrances to the park occur at West 112th, 113th, 114th, 116th, 117th-118th, 120th, and 123rd Streets. The sidewalks along Manhattan and Morningside Avenues were originally asphalt (1895). By 1904, the sidewalks were planted with trees, in a continuous tree lawn section alongside the roadbed. In 1911, seventeen London plane trees were planted along the sidewalk and around the *Lafayette and Washington Park* triangle [see below]. A 6-foot wrought-iron picket fence set on a concrete base, with "artificial granite" entrance piers, was installed in 1914-15; the fence was replaced in 1962 with another iron one. Today the sidewalks are paved with concrete and Belgian block.

West 123rd Street

A 6-foot wrought-iron picket fence set on a concrete base, with concrete entrance piers, was installed in 1914-15; the fence was replaced in 1962 with another iron one. The entrance plaza at the northeast corner of the park has two sets of posts and is currently paved with concrete. The sidewalk was planted with London plane trees, and is paved with concrete and Belgian block.

Rock Outcroppings and Designed Rockwork

Olmsted and Vaux's park design retained the high rocky ledge of the site, which featured a large plateau extending from 112th to 116th Streets, and a continuous rocky ridge northward close to the retaining wall, to a rocky cliff section at the northwest corner. A significant surviving geological feature is the "glacial

groove” at 121st Street, noticed by the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society in 1916. Much of the plateau area was destroyed by Columbia University by blasting in 1968; in 1989-93, this area was re-designed with new landscaping and a waterfall and pond. Public School 36 (1965-66) was placed atop the cliff at the northwest corner of the park. This had been the site of the remains of 1814 stone Blockhouse No. 4. In 1893, a guidebook described the site as “the walls of the block-house have crumbled at the sides, but the ruins are picturesque,” noting that “the neighbors found them an easy quarry of ready-cut stone. This has been stopped since the Park lines have been thrown around the old block-house, which is now under careful guardianship of the Park Commissioners,”¹⁰⁰ though an 1899 letter still decried the vandalism.¹⁰¹ Samuel Parsons, Jr., had observed that the remains were “carefully preserved... and the walks so contrived as to keep the immense mass of rock on each side unmarred by blasting and other deforming influence.”¹⁰² In 1904, the Women’s Auxiliary of the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society placed a tablet on the blockhouse (later stolen), and in 1915 part of the overhanging cliff was blasted off. Parsons credited Calvert Vaux with a careful and skillful scheme of “designed” rockwork, or “fitting rocks to rocks and adding to or changing the rocky topography”¹⁰³ throughout the park.

Meadows

The original park design featured grassy meadows at the southern and eastern sides: the largest at the south end, from West 110th to 114th Streets; a narrow one along Morningside Avenue between West 116th and 120th Streets; and at the northeast corner. The central and northern meadows had playgrounds inserted in the 1930s-50s [see below]. The southern meadow was converted to softball fields by 1941, by which time several rock outcroppings had been removed. Columbia University converted this area to softball, soccer and football fields and constructed a fieldhouse/comfort station (1956-57). The ballfields were renovated and the fieldhouse was re-designed in 1989-93, with the ballfields renovated again in 2006.

Paths

Curvilinear paths originally extended along the length of the park, including those around the southern meadow, around the plateau, through the middle of the park, along the base of the retaining wall, around the northern meadow, and along the northwest corner’s rocky cliff. Because of the steep topography, stone steps connected the various levels, with major cross pathways at 114th (east) -116th (west) Streets and 120th Street. Samuel Parsons, Jr., commented that “the walks were hidden from general view and found their way up on the easiest grades, coming out in full view on such points as would give the best opportunity to dwell on the most beautiful effects of the Park. Many of these walks, in order to seclude them as much as possible, were hidden by the use of rocks, artificially placed at certain points,” though he bemoaned that “the construction even of the walks and steps has been cheap and inferior.”¹⁰⁴ Paths were originally asphalt, concrete and gravel, with bluestone steps and carefully cut rockwork flanking the steps (some of which survives). Paths were altered in the twentieth century with installation of benches, lampposts, concrete edging, pipe railings and chainlink fencing (later removed), and stone walls with jagged tops (by 1950s). Much of the rockwork edging has been re-worked over the years. In 1940-41, the paths around the former northern meadow, replaced by a playground, were reconfigured. Ramps were placed in the vicinity of the 122nd Street stairs and P.S. 36 on the west side (c. 1966). Paths that were destroyed at the Columbia gym site in 1968 were partly restored in 1989-93. Among the paths and steps (some with concrete, others with new bluestone) that have been reconstructed are: the east-west path and steps from 114th (east) -116th (west) Streets; steps northeast of the 122nd Street west entrance; steps near the southwest corner entrance; paths and steps to the northeast of the 116th Street overlook bay stairway; and steps northeast of the 120th Street overlook bay.

Plantings

While engineer Montgomery A. Kellogg wrote in 1871 that “the few plants existing on this barren piece of ground are being located on the topographical survey preparatory to the plan of improvement,”¹⁰⁵ Samuel Parsons, Jr., stated that “a considerable amount of native growth existed in Morningside Park in its original development. This was all retained and supplemented by planting of a similar character. The basis of the design was the same as that of Central Park, strict attention and respect being paid to the original beauties of the landscape.”¹⁰⁶ An early photograph of the park under construction indicates

extensive new planting.¹⁰⁷ Parsons further observed that “The plants in Morningside Park are especially interesting, as they have been limited to the sort of growths that love hillsides and walls, creeping vines and native shrubs being scattered about everywhere, but always with a carefully studied design, shielding the walks and retaining the little open meadows which are interspersed in the Park and constitute one of its great charms.”¹⁰⁸ The extensive number of historic photographs of Morningside Park show a density of plantings and trees: framing the meadows, lower deciduous trees along the plateau to the southwest, and taller poplar trees along the ridge to the northwest. However, Parsons also identified problems that fairly early on affected the original planting scheme of the park, which “on account of the extremely poor soil used for its construction, has never developed any fine trees. A few shrubs, herbaceous plants and vines have flourished, but the grass has been poor and, because it was not protected by fences around its outer boundaries, it has been exposed to continual injury from the depredations of boys and those who cross it going back and forth to work.”¹⁰⁹ He mentioned that the Lombardy poplars originally planted along the park’s southern end, to assist in screening out the elevated railroad, were compromised by poor soil.¹¹⁰ Park accounts in the 1910s mentioned significant erosion and plant damage from vandalism and crowds. Plant removal and re-landscaping occurred in 1929, 1941, 1962, and 2006. An arboretum (from the base of the 116th Street stairs north to 121st Street) was dedicated in memory of Thomas Kiel in 1998.

*Public Sculptures:*¹¹¹

Lafayette and Washington (1890, Frederic-Auguste Bartholdi, sculptor; F. Barbedienne, founder, Paris; dedicated 1900), Lafayette and Washington Park triangle, Manhattan/ Morningside Avenues and West 114th Street. This work commemorated the friendship between the United States and France, as represented by the alliance during the American Revolution. A bronze sculptural group, depicting General George Washington and the Marquis de Lafayette, uniformed and heroically clasping hands in front of the flags of both countries, is placed on a white Hauteville marble pedestal with a foliate band and a bronze plaque, atop a grey granite base. Bartholdi (1834-1904) is best known in the United States as the sculptor of the *Statue of Liberty* (1875-86). *Lafayette and Washington* is a reproduction of a similar statue commissioned by Joseph Pulitzer, publisher of the *New York World* (who was also pivotal in raising American funds for construction of the base of the *Statue of Liberty*), and located in the Place des Etats-Unis in Paris. The New York statue was presented to the City in 1900 by Charles Broadway Rouss, a flamboyant, blind SoHo mercantile millionaire. A Marylander and Confederate Army veteran, Rouss had reputedly slept on this spot when he arrived penniless in New York at the end of the Civil War. The pedestal was re-surfaced and re-carved in 1934. The park triangle is currently paved with concrete and Belgian block, with a planting strip.

Carl Schurz Monument (1909-13, Karl Bitter, sculptor, Henry Bacon, architect; Piccirilli Studios, relief sculptural panels; dedicated 1913), West 116th Street overlook bay. Carl Schurz (1829-1906), born near Cologne, Germany, escaped imprisonment following the European political upheavals of 1848-49 and immigrated to the United States in 1852, settling first in Philadelphia and later in Wisconsin. He became noted as an orator, Abraham Lincoln’s ambassador to Spain (1861-62), a Civil War general (1862-64), journalist, U.S. Senator from Missouri (1869-75), Secretary of the Interior (1877-81), abolitionist, and reformer. Moving to New York City in 1881, Schurz became editor of the *New York Evening Post* (1881-84) and an editorial writer for *Harper’s Weekly* (1892-98), as well as president of the National Civil Service Reform League (1892-1901). A Schurz Memorial Committee was founded after his death in 1906, by prominent lawyer Joseph H. Choate. Commissioned in 1908, this monument is considered one of the finest works of Austrian-born architectural sculptor Karl Bitter (1867-1915), who immigrated in 1889. Bitter, who also designed the *Pomona* figure on the Pulitzer Fountain (1913-16) beside the Plaza Hotel, developed a style during the period 1906-15 that combined elements of Greek archaic sculpture and the Austrian Secessionist movement. At the *Carl Schurz Monument*, a central bronze statue of Schurz, dressed in a long overcoat and cloak, is placed on a dark grey granite pedestal with a relief sculptural panel with the inscription “a Defender of Liberty and a Friend of Human Rights.” This is flanked by a dark grey granite exedra (which acts as the parapet for the overlook bay) with benches, ending in walls bearing large relief sculptural panels. These panels, depicting Schurz as a champion of liberty, opponent of slavery, and advocate for improved treatment of Native Americans, are considered among the earliest American

examples displaying the influence of the flat Greek archaic style. Bitter personally selected this site in Morningside Park for the monument, and chose, as collaborator, architect Henry Bacon (1866-1924), later noted for his Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. The Schurz Monument was presented to the City in May 1913 by the Carl Schurz Memorial and National Association. The monument is approached by low steps, and the bay is paved with buff-colored, herringbone-pattern brick and is flanked by granite benches. The monument was conserved in the late 1930s, at which time incised lettering replaced the original bronze letters, and flanking lampposts were replaced.

Bear and Faun (Seligman) Fountain (c. 1910-11, Edgar M. Walter, sculptor; Roman Bronze Works, founder; dedicated 1914), near Morningside Avenue and West 114th Street. This bronze sculpture/fountain, placed upon natural rocks, depicts a young seated faun (next to whom are musical pipes) beside a small pool, hiding under a boulder above which is a bear peering over the edge. The *New York Times* reported in 1911 that the fountain was to be presented to the City and placed in Morningside Park by Alfred Lincoln Seligman, a wealthy retired banker, musician/artist, and arts patron, but Seligman was killed in an automobile crash on the Upper West Side in June 1912. The fountain was dedicated in Seligman's memory in 1914 and presented to the children of New York City by the National Highways Protective Society, with which Seligman had been associated. Edgar Melville Walter (1877-1938), a San Francisco sculptor and art teacher, had been a student in Paris of Auguste Rodin. This sculpture was conserved in 1997.

Playgrounds and Comfort Stations

The park's first comfort station (1903-04), placed on the planned "Restawhile" site at the base of the 114th Street steps, was demolished in 1952, though its western wall remains. In 1941, a playground at the northeastern corner (dating from 1935) was reconstructed with handball, shuffleboard, and basketball courts, wading pool, pipe-frame exercise unit, swings, slides, sand pits, see-saws, and sitting areas; the comfort station was remodeled in 1941, and received an addition (post-1968). This playground received new equipment in 1992 and 2000. A playground at Morningside Avenue and 116th - 119th Streets (1955-56) had shuffleboard and basketball courts, swings, slides, wading pool, sand pit, comfort station. Playground equipment was inserted at the south end of the ballfields and near 113th Street east. Currently under construction, after groundbreaking in August 2007, is a \$2.8 million, ovaloid-shaped playground on the park's eastern side north of 116th Street, designed by Alex Hart of the Parks Department, which replaces part of the 1955-56 playground.

*Potential Archaeological Resources*¹¹²

As most of Morningside Park has been subject to extensive ground-disturbing activities during its creation and subsequent development, it is unlikely to contain significant archaeological resources. However, there are two exceptions that should be considered if future construction is proposed in their vicinity: 1) the sites of the War of 1812 blockhouses, that were located east of Morningside Drive between West 114th and 115th Streets, and in alignment with West 121st Street (the third was impacted by the construction of P.S. 36), and 2) Native American rock shelters that might remain in the bedrock outcrops.

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NOTES

1. The park had been previously heard by the Commission on August 11 and November 10, 1981 (LP-1255).
2. R.P. Bolton, *New York City in Indian Possession* (N.Y.: Museum of the American Indian, Heye Fdtn., 1975); Robert S. Grumet, *Indians of North America: The Lenapes* (N.Y.: Chelsea House Publr., 1989),

and *Native American Place Names in New York City* (N.Y.: Museum of the City of New York, 1981), 36; Bruce C. Trigger, ed., *Handbook of North American Indians*, v. 15 (Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Inst., 1978); James Riker, *Revised History of Harlem (City of New York): Its Origin and Early Annals* (N.Y.: New Harlem Publ. Co., 1904); William P. Toler and Harmon D. Nutting, *New Harlem: Past and Present* (N.Y.: New Harlem Publ. Co., 1903); I.N. Phelps Stokes, *The Iconography of Manhattan Island* (N.Y.: Robert H. Dodd, 1926), vol. 6; Andrew S. Dolkart, *Morningside Heights: A History of its Architecture & Development* (N.Y.: Columbia Univ. Pr., 1998), 362, n. 1; *British Headquarters Map* (1782); NYC, Common Council, *Minutes of the Common Council of the City of New York 1784-1831*, vol. viii (N.Y.: City of New York, 1917), 8, 10, 18, 23, 28-30, 34, 39-40, 95, and 340; John Randel, Jr., *The City of New York as Laid Out by the Commissioners Appointed by an Act of the Legislature* (c. 1819), available in the Manhattan Borough President's office; U.S. Census, New York (1790, 1800, 1810); Historic American Buildings Survey, *Block House, Morningside Park* (1936); "Blockhouse of Morningside Heights," Sarah Comstock, *Old Roads From the Heart of New York* (N.Y.: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1915), 353; Edward Hagaman Hall, "A Brief History of Morningside Park and Vicinity (Appendix C)," *American Scenic & Historic Preservation Society, 21st Annual Report* (1916), 539-562; "Andrew H. Green," *NYT*, Mar. 7, 1897; New York County, Office of the Register, Liber Deeds and Conveyances; NYC, Dept. of Parks and Recreation, Morningside Park files. Amanda Sutphin, LPC Director of Archaeology, assisted on this section.

3. Cited in Hall, 557.
4. Hall, 561.
5. Hall, 562-572; David Schuyler and Jane T. Censer, eds., *The Papers of Frederick Law Olmsted, Volume 6: The Years of Olmsted, Vaux & Co.* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Univ. Pr., 1992), 658-660; NYC, Bd. of Commissioners, Dept. of Public Parks (DPP), *Minutes and Documents (M&D)*, May 2, 1871, Apr. 9 and 24, June 26, and Sept. 18, 1872, Mar. 10, June 21, and Oct. 11 and 16, 1873; "Our Pleasure Grounds," *New York Times (NYT)*, Sept. 14, 1870, 2; "Decisions," *NYT*, Jan. 10, 1871, 3; "The West Side," *NYT*, Feb. 4, 1872, 6; "City Improvements," *NYT*, Sept. 5, 1872, 2; "A New 'Ground-Picture'," *NYT*, Nov. 2, 1873, 4; Elizabeth Barlow, *Frederick Law Olmsted's New York* (N.Y.: Praeger Publr., 1972), 47-48; Francis R. Kowsky, *Country, Park & City: The Architecture and Life of Calvert Vaux* (N.Y.: Oxford Univ. Pr., 1998), 227-231; Robert A.M. Stern, Thomas Mellins, and David Fishman, *New York 1880* (N.Y.: Monacelli Pr., 1999), 826-828.
6. Hall, 562.
7. DPP, *Annual Report* (May 1871).
8. Hall, 563.
9. DPP, Engineer in Chief's Report, *M&D*, Oct. 16, 1871.
10. Feb. 4, 1872.
11. DPP, *M&D*, June 26, 1872.
12. Sept. 5, 1872. With no action taken (in part because of the city's financial state after the plunderings of "Boss" Tweed), adjacent property owners petitioned DPP requesting that it proceed immediately with the park's improvement.
13. DPP, *M&D*, June 21, 1873.
14. Hall, 565.

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15. DPP, *M&D*, Document 50, Oct. 11, 1873.
 16. Schuyler and Censer, 660, n. 7.
 17. DPP, *M&D*, Doc. 50.
 18. DPP, *M&D*, June 4, Sept. 22, Oct. 6, and Nov. 17, 1880, Apr. 12, and Aug. 3 and 15, 1881, May 3, Sept. 6 and 13, Oct. 18, and Dec. 6, 1882, Jan. 24, Feb. 7, Mar. 21, Apr. 2, June 6, July 11, and Nov. 14, 1883, Jan. 16, May 21, and Oct. 15, 1884, Feb. 4, May 25, June 26, and Nov. 18, 1885, Feb. 17, Apr. 7, May 8, and Aug. 9, 1886, Jan. 26, and Feb. 18, 1887; "Albany. The Riverside and Morningside Parks Bills," *NYT*, Mar. 5, 1874, 1; "Board of Aldermen," *NYT*, Apr. 9, 1875, 4; "Aldermanic Measures," *NYT*, July 9, 1875, 2; "Park Department Matters," *NYT*, Sept. 23, 1880, 3; "Park Department Affairs," *NYT*, Aug. 4, 1881, 8; "Morningside Park," *NYT*, Aug. 16, 1881, 8; "In and About the City," *NYT*, May 22, 1884, 5; "An Appeal for the Parks," *NYT*, Mar. 8, 1887, 8.
 19. DPP, *Annual Report* (Dec. 31, 1873), 59.
 20. Olmsted to Stebbins, July 24, 1875, vol. 40, Olmsted Papers, Library of Congress (LOC).
 21. "Morningside Park," (*New York Daily Graphic*, June 25, 1877, 806.
 22. New York State, *Laws of New York*, Chapter 565 (June 16, 1880), 819-821.
 23. DPP, *M&D*, Document 89, April 12, 1881.
 24. "The Morningside Park," *Real Estate Record & Builders Guide*, Aug. 20, 1881, 817.
 25. "Many Millions Asked For," *NYT*, Dec. 4, 1884, 2.
 26. "Policemen Capture Cows," *NYT*, July 1, 1885, 8.
 27. DPP, *M&D*, Aug. 17, 1885. A February 1886 proposal to remove the nursery and propagating houses from Central Park – to a location at the north end of Morningside Park – was rescinded in August, after protests from the Morningside Park Association.
 28. Olmsted to Beekman, May 20, 1886, manuscript copy, NYC, Dept. of Parks, Morningside Park files. An optimistic depiction of the future park was published in "Illustrations of Morningside Park, New York City," *Scientific American, Architects and Builders Edition*, Sept. 1886.
 29. DPP, *M&D*, Feb. 18, 1887; "Park Improvements," *NYT*, Feb. 19, 1887, 8.
 30. Mar. 8, 1887.
 31. Mar. 8, 1887.
 32. Record and Guide, *A History of Real Estate, Building and Architecture in New York City* (N.Y.: Arno Pr., 1967), reprint of 1898 edition, 311-312.
 33. "A New Pleasure Ground," *New-York Daily Tribune*, Aug. 1, 1887, 8.
 34. DPP, *M&D*, June 20, July 8 and 11, Aug. 2 and 24, Sept. 7, Oct. 15, 19, and 22, and Dec. 22, 1887, and Jan. 1, 1888; "Park Improvements," *NYT*, Feb. 19, 1887, 8; "A Vigorous Onslaught," *NYT*, Aug. 3, 1887, 8; "Morningside Park," *NYT*, Aug. 4, 1887, 4, Aug. 25, 1887, 4, and Oct. 2, 1887, 4; "Morningside Park," *New-York Daily Tribune*, Aug. 25, 1887, 4; "Plans for the New Park," *NYT*, Oct. 2, 1887, 4; "The

Morningside Reservation,” *New-York Daily Tribune*, Oct. 16, 1887, 4; Barlow, 48; Elizabeth Stevenson, *Park Maker: A Life of Frederick Law Olmsted* (N.Y.: Macmillan Publ. Co., 1977), 372; Albert Fein, ed., *Landscape into Cityscape: Frederick Law Olmsted’s Plans for a Greater New York City* (Ithaca: Cornell Univ. Pr., 1967), 388-389; Kowsky, 302-304; *New York 1880*, 828.

35. Olmsted to John D. Crimmins, Commr. of Parks, July 2, 1887, vol. 22, Olmsted Papers, LOC.
36. Olmsted to Vaux, July 5 and 9, 1887, vol. 22, Olmsted Papers, LOC. Vaux had previously written to Olmsted in June 1885, commenting that “I had nothing to do with the execution of Morningside which was excluded from my responsibilities when last employed by the City – the original plan I believe we made together but I was never much identified with it and certainly am not desirous to take it up now except as something that one had to take up with other regular business in which case I should do the best I could.” Vaux to Olmsted, June 15, 1885, vol. 37, file 36, Olmsted Papers, LOC. The board laid over action on Olmsted’s proposal, as well as a resolution directing Supt. of Parks Samuel B. Parsons, Jr., and engineer Kellogg to prepare revised plans for Morningside Park.
37. Olmsted, writing to Commr. John D. Crimmins, observed that “it would be a very strange thing if after such development of the city and modification of its customs and social spirit as have occurred in the last fourteen years, no new light should have come as to what is desirable in a park situated as Morningside is. ... [Of] Mr. Parsons... I have seen no original work of his except on the smallest scale and know nothing of his ability as a designer or an artist. Mr. Kellogg is purely an engineer without the slightest profession of competency for the duty.” Olmsted to Crimmins, July 15, 1887, vol. 40, Olmsted Papers, LOC.
38. Aug. 4, 1887.
39. In an August letter to Dwight W. Olmstead, of the Morningside Park Association, Olmsted was clearly exasperated at the thought of working on the park again: “I have been played with longer than is agreeable to me. I do not mean to be churlish but Vaux, Kellogg and Parsons are on the ground; they are more familiar than I am with the conditions to be considered and I think that you can get what you want from them better than you can from me. You give a great deal too much importance to a piece of paper which you call a plan. It is but a very imperfect memorandum of such particulars of what lies in a designer’s mind. When you have got such a plan for Morningside there will remain any number of rocks under its lee and so long as the Commissioners think it is their business with regard to any of their work to play the part of navigators and seamen as well as that of owners, directors, providers, comptrollers, auditors and paymasters, the danger that Morningside will be wrecked is about as great as if you had no plan. I have no wish to have anything to do with the New York parks so long as the Commissioners can learn nothing from the experience of their predecessors for ten years past in this respect and their yielding a point exceptionally because of a pressure of private and local interests and newspaper urgency will not be reassuring.” Olmsted to Olmstead, Aug. 7, 1887, vol. 40, Olmsted Papers, LOC.
40. Olmsted to Vaux, Sept. 3, 1887, vol. 40, Olmsted Papers, LOC.
41. Olmsted to Vaux, Sept. 3, 1887.
42. Vaux to Olmsted, Sept. 8, 1887, vol. 40, Olmsted Papers, LOC.
43. Olmsted to Vaux, Sept. 9, 1887, vol. 40, Olmsted Papers, LOC.
44. DPP, *M&D*, Document 110, Oct. 1, 1887.
45. DPP, *M&D*, Apr. 5 and 25, May 16, July 6 and 25, Aug. 8, Sept. 5, Nov. 14, and Dec. 26, 1888, Mar. 7 and 20, June 12 and 26, July 10 and 24, Aug. 28, Sept. 18, 23, and 25, Oct. 16 and 23, Nov. 9, and Dec. 31, 1889, Jan. 8, 23, and 31, April 23, and June 27, July 1, Aug. 27, Sept. 24, and Oct. 8, 1890, March 25 and 31, Aug. 12, Oct. 21, and Nov. 20, 1891, Feb. 16 and 24, and Dec. 31, 1892, June 27, and Oct. 5 and

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- 29, 1894, March 17 and 20, 1895; "No More Drawbridges," *NYT*, June 14, 1888, 8; "Work on the Parks," *NYT*, July 26, 1888, 8; "Before the Park Board," *NYT*, July 2, 1890, 8; "The Park and the Speedway," *NYT*, Dec. 22, 1892, 4; Mabel Parsons, ed., *Memories of Samuel Parsons* (N.Y.: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1926), 58-66.
46. Vaux to J. Hampden Robb, president of DPP, Dec. 24, 1888, vol. 38, file 37, Olmsted Papers, LOC. Olmsted objected to Vaux's proposed decrease of the width of the "Promenade" (the eastern sidewalk of Morningside Avenue [West]), which he termed "the dominant and most essential feature of the entire situation," and commented that "the retaining wall and its parapets and balconies have since been treated in a much more formal, artificial and showy way than was then intended." Olmsted to Waldo Hutchins, the new president of DPP, June [26], 1889, vol. 40, Olmsted Papers, LOC.
47. Olmsted to Hutchins, June [26], 1889.
48. Morningside Park was briefly under consideration as part of the proposed site for the World's Columbian Exposition in September-October 1889, during New York's unsuccessful bid (the Exposition was held in Chicago in 1893).
49. In July, Kellogg reported on the abandonment of work by the contractor paving the walks, platforms, and esplanades, and the contractor was ordered to discontinue work (the *Times* reported that H.F. Clark was in jail). Kellogg recommended that bids be re-opened for the work in August, but the contractor requested in September that, since the special asphalt was unavailable, he be allowed a substitute; the DPP Board then asked for counsel.
50. "An Important Improvement Opposite Morningside Park," "'West Side' Number" of the *Real Estate Record & Builders Guide*, Dec. 20, 1890, 51.
51. As reported in the *New York Times* at the end of 1892, the flat eastern side of Morningside Park was considered as a site by those advocating for a speedway for racing horses in Upper Manhattan (ultimately, a Speedway was constructed along the Harlem River).
52. "Advantages of the Great West Side," *NYT*, Mar. 17, 1895, 20.
53. Parsons, 58-60.
54. Parsons, 61.
55. For the development of the neighborhood, see: Dolkart, *Morningside Heights*.
56. St. Luke's Hospital, *Annual Report* (1892), 8.
57. The pavilions are a designated New York City Landmark.
58. At Columbia, Low Memorial Library, St. Paul's Chapel, and Casa Italiana are designated New York City Landmarks, and Low Library is also a designated New York City Interior Landmark. A portion of Union Theological Seminary and the Eglise de Notre Dame and Rectory are designated New York City Landmarks.
59. "Frederick Law Olmsted," *Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects* 3, Adolf F. Placzek, ed. (N.Y.: Free Pr., 1982), 319-324; Charles A. Birnbaum and Robin Karson, *Pioneers of American Landscape Design* (N.Y.: McGraw Hill, 2000), 277-281; LPC, architects files.
60. "Calvert Vaux," *Dictionary of American Biography* 10, Dumas Malone, ed. (N.Y.: Chas. Scribner's Sons,

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- 1936), 237-238, and *Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects* 4, 303-304; LPC, architects files; Kowsky; Morrison H. Hecksher, *Creating Central Park* (New Haven: Yale Univ. Pr., 2008); American Society of Landscape Architects, *Transactions 1899-1908*, 105-110; Birnbaum and Karson, 404-409.
61. "Jacob Wrey Mould," *Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects* 3, 246-247, and *Barnes & Noble Complete Illustrated Map and Guidebook to Central Park* (N.Y.: Silver Lining Bks., 2003), text by Raymond Carroll, 44-45; Mould obit., *NYT*, June 16, 1886, 5; LPC, architects files; David T. Van Zanten, "Jacob Wrey Mould: Echoes of Owen Jones and the High Victorian Styles in New York, 1853-1865," *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* (Mar. 1969), 41-57.
 62. "Julius Munckwitz," Passenger and Immigration Lists, New York (1850), and U.S. Census, New York (1860 and 1880); "The Park Department," *NYT*, Dec. 16, 1880, 2; "Mr. Green the Chairman," *NYT*, Dec. 24, 1880, 3; "Park Department Affairs," *NYT*, July 21, 1881, 8, and Nov. 20, 1881, 13; "City and Suburban News," *NYT*, July 2, 1885, 8; Munckwitz obit., *NYT*, Nov. 12, 1902, 9; LPC, architects files; *New York 1880*, 817.
 63. "The Public Parks," *NYT*, May 21, 1870, 2; "Montgomery A. Kellogg," U.S. Census, New York (1880); "Park Engineer Kellogg Criticised," *NYT*, May 4, 1894, 9; Kellogg obit., *NYT*, Apr. 20, 1898, 7; John C. Crandall, *Elder John Crandall of Rhode Island and Descendants* (New Woodstock, N.Y.: 1949), 196; LPC, architects files.
 64. Charles A. Birnbaum, *Samuel Parsons, Jr.: The Art of Landscape Architecture* (Bronx, N.Y.: Wave Hill, 1995); Parsons obit., *NYT*, Feb. 4, 1923; Birnbaum and Karson, 287-291.
 65. Hall, 572-574; "Should Be 50,000 Seats..." *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, July 8, 1901, 3; "Park Vandals at Work," *NYT*, May 20, 1905, 10; "Fix Up Morningside Park," *NYT*, Dec. 2, 1913, 10; "Injured Parks," *NYT*, May 20, 1914, 12; NYC, Dept. of Parks, *Annual Report* (1911), 47, and (1914), 102, and Morningside Park files.
 66. "Athletic Field Project Hearing," *Real Estate Record & Builders Guide*, Mar. 20, 1909, 545.
 67. "Urge City Against Popularizing Parks," *NYT*, Mar. 23, 1911, 6.
 68. "Want Repairs Made in Morningside Park," *NYT*, Mar. 10, 1912, 6.
 69. NYC, Dept. of Parks, *Annual Report* (1914), 59.
 70. Hall, 575-598; "Fight Building in Morningside Park," *NYT*, Jan. 25, 1916, 6; "Morningside Park Pump Station Grows," *NYT*, Jan. 26, 1916, 5; "Park Pump Station Will be Permanent," *NYT*, Jan. 29, 1916, 11; "Park Pump House May be Beyond Law" and "The Pumping Station," *NYT*, Jan. 30, 1916, S5 and 16; "Park Pump Station Opposition Growing," *NYT*, Feb. 2, 1916, 20; "Says Pump Station Must Stay in Park," *NYT*, Feb. 3, 1916, 12; "Park Pump Station Hurts Open Meadow," *NYT*, Feb. 4, 1916, 20; "Calls Hidden Pump Station Impossible," *NYT*, Feb. 5, 1916, 20; "Park Pump House to Look Like Tomb," *NYT*, Feb. 6, 1916, 10; "Cabot Ward Defied by Aqueduct Board," *NYT*, Feb. 9, 1916, 20; "Pump House Work Continues in Park," *NYT*, Feb. 10, 1916, 20; "Ward Stops Work on Pump Station," *NYT*, Feb. 12, 1916, 18; "Engineers Oppose Park Pump House" and "The Morningside Invasion," *NYT*, Feb. 13, 1916, 8 and 14; "Debris of Building Soils Morningside," *NYT*, Feb. 14, 1916, 20; "Cold Halts Work on Pump Station," *NYT*, Feb. 15, 1916, 22; "Willing to Change Pump House Plans," *NYT*, Feb. 16, 1916, 22; "Might Place Pumps in Aqueduct Branch," *NYT*, Feb. 17, 1916, 22; "Call Floating Pump a Complicated Plan" and "The Pumping Station," *NYT*, Feb. 18, 1916, 20 and 10; "Favors Air System for Pump in Park," *NYT*, Feb. 19, 1916, 12; "Kunz Enters Fight to Save the Parks," *NYT*, Feb. 20, 1916, 5; "Urges Civic Council on Pump House Site," *NYT*, Feb. 21, 1916, 18; "Experts Offer Aid in Park Difficulty," *NYT*, Feb. 22, 1916, 20; "Park Pumps Arouse Federation of Arts," *NYT*, Feb. 23, 1916, 4; "Can't Move Pumps, Water Board Says," *NYT*, Feb. 24, 1916, 22; "Sues to Stop Work on New Pump House" and "The Morningside

Dispute,” *NYT*, Feb. 25, 1916, 20 and 10; “Pump House Suit Delayed” and “The Contest for a Park,” *NYT*, Feb. 26, 1916, 9 and 8; “Invite Submission of Park Pump Plan,” *NYT*, Feb. 27, 1916, 18; “Experts to Discuss Park Pump System,” *NYT*, Feb. 28, 1916, 18; “Want Water Board to Obey the People,” *NYT*, Feb. 29, 1916, 20; “Park Pump Suit Up on Argument Today,” *NYT*, Mar. 1, 1916, 22; “Park Pump Called a Violation of Law” and “The Pumping Station,” *NYT*, Mar. 2, 1916, 7 and 10; “Park Pump Problem Nearing a Solution,” *NYT*, Mar. 3, 1916, 12; “Park Pump House Found Not Needed,” *NYT*, Mar. 4, 1916, 4; “Designer Explains Aqueduct Air Pump,” *NYT*, Mar. 5, 1916, 19; “Forbids Park Pump Till City Approves,” *NYT*, Mar. 7, 1916, 7; “Action on Pump Deferred” and “Parks to be Preserved,” *NYT*, Mar. 8, 1916, 14 and 10; “Hot Protest Over Morningside Park,” *NYT*, May 11, 1916, 7; “Ward Prevents Use of Park Pump House,” *NYT*, June 17, 1916, 6; “Against Park Invasion,” *NYT*, June 18, 1916, E2; “Board Never Means to Move Park Pump,” *NYT*, June 19, 1916, 20; “Morningside Plans Were Never Filed,” *NYT*, June 20, 1916, 8; “Refers Park Pumps to Estimate Board,” *NYT*, July 13, 1916, 6; “Hearing on Pumphouse,” *NYT*, July 14, 1916, 6; “City Glad Pumps Won’t Mar Park” and “No Park Pump Building,” *NYT*, July 19, 1916, 9 and 8; “Citizen Committee to Protect Parks,” *NYT*, July 20, 1916, 11; “Park Pump Danger Finally Eliminated,” *NYT*, July 28, 1916, 12; “People’s Long Battle Against Park Seizure,” *NYT*, Mar. 22, 1918, 8.

71. Alternative underground schemes were proposed by the American Institute of Consulting Engineers.
72. *NYT*, Mar. 7, 1916.
73. The controversy was covered by Edward Hagaman Hall, of the American Scenic & Historic Preservation Society, in “A Brief History of Morningside Park and Vicinity” (1916).
74. NYC, Dept. of Parks, *Annual Report* (1929), 25-27, and Morningside Park files; “Beauties of the Parks Make Cover for Crime,” *NYT*, Sept. 6, 1936, E10; “Park Name Change Vetoed by Moses,” *NYT*, Jan. 16, 1943, 15.
75. “Forces of City Unite to Make Parks Safe,” *NYT*, Aug. 18, 1935, E10.
76. In 1936, a polygonal Gothic Revival style comfort station, with a conical roof with a lantern, was proposed for the southeastern corner of the park, but not built.
77. “Playground is Rebuilt,” *NYT*, Sept. 29, 1941, 12.
78. NYC, Dept. of Parks, M56-254.
79. NYC, Bd. of Estimate, Resolution No. 359, Dec. 15, 1955; “City Board Wary of Aid to Parents,” *NYT*, Dec. 16, 1955, 31; NYC, Dept. of Parks, Permit to the Trustees of Columbia University, Dec. 29, 1955; “Columbia Plans Public Play Area,” *NYT*, Dec. 30, 1955, 21; “Playfield Director Named,” *NYT*, Dec. 5, 1956, 28; “Columbia Students and Teen-age Neighbors Get New Athletic Field,” *NYT*, May 11, 1957, 23; “Teen-agers Flock to Sandlot Ball,” *NYT*, Aug. 12, 1957, 13; “Columbia to Build Sports Center It Will Share With Neighborhood,” *NYT*, Jan. 14, 1960, 20; New York State, Assembly Bill No. 3465/4984, Feb. 2, 1960; “Assembly Approves Group to Form State’s Plans -- Columbia Lease Set,” *NYT*, Mar. 23, 1960, 39; “Lawyer Named Head of Park Association,” *NYT*, May 11, 1961, 29; “Morningside Park to Get New Lights,” *NYT*, June 9, 1961, 66; “Helping Morningside,” *NYT*, Aug. 3, 1961, 22; “\$1,000,000 Given to Help Columbia Build Gymnasium,” *NYT*, May 24, 1962, 37; “Neighbors Assail Columbia Growth,” *NYT*, Jan. 18, 1964, 25; “Officials Tour a Rundown Park,” *NYT*, Mar. 3, 1964, 28; “Gym-in-Park Deal ‘Upsets’ Hoving,” *NYT*, Jan. 25, 1966, 38; “Columbia Scores Gym-Plan Critics,” *NYT*, Feb. 15, 1966, 31; “Columbia to Begin Gym Next October,” *NYT*, Feb. 24, 1966, 31; “Columbia Students Ask Reconsideration of Gym,” *NYT*, Mar. 11, 1966, 16; “State Bills Fight Columbia U. Gym,” *NYT*, May 17, 1966, 49; “Columbia Delays Morningside Gym,” *NYT*, Oct. 23, 1966, 113; “Columbia May Alter Plans for Gym,” *NYT*, May 14, 1967, 75; “50 Picket Kirk Home to Mourn Buildings ‘Killed’ by Columbia,” *NYT*, July 9, 1967, 44; “Columbia Offers Harlem a Pool, But Gym Proposal is Assailed,” *NYT*, July 30,

1967, 64; NYC, Bd. of Estimate, Resolution Nos. 26 and 224, Oct. 25, 1967; "Columbia is Given Approval for Gym," *NYT*, Oct. 26, 1967, 72; "Anti-Gym Pickets at Columbia Burn Trustee Hogan in Effigy," *NYT*, Nov. 12, 1967, 66; "Furey to Leave Columbia Athletic Post in June," *NYT*, Dec. 13, 1967, 59; "12 Arrested at Site of Gym in Morningside Park," *NYT*, Feb. 21, 1968, 37; "13 Held in Protest Over Columbia Gym," *NYT*, Feb. 29, 1968, 44; "Community Discontent and an Increase in Protests Sow the Seeds of Concern at Columbia University" and "Protesters Boo Shriver at Talk on 'Struggle for Urban Power'," *NYT*, Mar. 3, 1968, 51 and 50; Ada Louise Huxtable, "How Not to Build a Symbol," *NYT*, Mar. 24, 1968, D23; "New Columbia Gym is Opposed," *NYT*, Apr. 16, 1968, 49; "Hoodlumism at Columbia" and "Sit-In Spectrum Has a Wide Range," *NYT*, Apr. 25, 1968, 46 and 40; "Gym Controversy Began in Late '50's," *NYT*, Apr. 26, 1968, 50; "Text of Resolution Voted at Columbia," *NYT*, Apr. 29, 1968, 28; "A Calm Follows Night of Tension," *NYT*, May 1, 1968, 35; "Columbia Faculty Group Seeks to Restore Peace..." "Negroes Keep Up Campaign on Gym," and "Parks Chief Has Plans for Gym Site," *NYT*, May 2, 1968, 41 and 43; "Harlem Leaders Foresee Harmony," *NYT*, May 5, 1968, 35; "Texts of Statements by Kirk and Faculty Group," *NYT*, May 9, 1968, 40; "Morningside Park: Its Calm Beauty is Deceptive" and "Students' Leader Calls Kirk Inert," *NYT*, May 13, 1968, 45 and 47; "Columbia Board Rebuffs Strikers," *NYT*, May 15, 1968, 34; A.L. Huxtable, "Strike at Columbia Architecture School Traced to Anger Over Exclusion From Planning," *NYT*, May 20, 1968, 70; "Columbia Trustee Assails Hoving as Foe of Gym," *NYT*, May 21, 1968, 51; "Columbia Softens Stand on Disciplining Students," *NYT*, May 28, 1968, 31; "2 Factions Define Aims at Columbia," *NYT*, May 31, 1968, 60; "The Columbia Gymnasium Remains a Problem After 10 Years of Planning," *NYT*, June 2, 1968, 47; "Columbia Rebels Schedule a March," *NYT*, June 3, 1968, 50; "Boycott Balking Columbia Inquiry," *NYT*, June 26, 1968, 47; "Hoving Denies He 'Stimulated' Columbia Unrest," *NYT*, July 24, 1968, 38; "Columbia Weighs Dr. Kirk's Future," *NYT*, Aug. 21, 1968, 21; "New Head of Columbia Seeks Campus Harmony," *NYT*, Aug. 25, 1968, 88; "Harlem Architects Urge Amphitheater for Morningside Park," *NYT*, Oct. 29, 1968, 18; "Columbia to Decide Whether to Build Gym in Morningside Park..." *NYT*, Feb. 16, 1969, 46; "2 Groups Protest Columbia's Move to Revive Plans for Gym," *NYT*, Feb. 26, 1969, 22; "Columbia Studies New Site for Gym," *NYT*, Mar. 1, 1969, 16; "Columbia Trustees Scrap the Gym-in-Park Plan," *NYT*, Mar. 4, 1969, 28; "Columbia Opens New Gymnasium," *NYT*, Dec. 8, 1974, 65; "'68 Passions Replayed at Columbia," *NYT*, Apr. 22, 1988, B1 and 4; "A Friend of Morningside Park is Recalled by Those He Inspired," *NYT*, June 12, 1994, 43.

80. "Rebirth of a Community," *NYT*, Sept. 25, 1955, SM26.

81. NYC, Bd. of Estimate, Resol. No. 359, Dec. 15, 1955.

82. *NYT*, Dec. 16, 1955.

83. *NYT*, Aug. 3, 1961.

84. *NYT*, Jan. 18, 1964.

85. *NYT*, Jan. 25, 1966.

86. Architects Eggers & Higgins completed building plans in September 1966.

87. Mar. 24, 1968. Landmarks Preservation Commission chairman Harmon H. Goldstone was quoted as saying that "from the start, Columbia's plans have struck me as financially astute, legally impeccable, administratively stupid, architecturally monstrous and morally indefensible." Goldstone obit., *NYT*, Feb. 23, 2001, A17.

88. "Parks Chief..." *NYT*, May 2, 1968.

89. "Morningside Park," May 13, 1968.

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90. "Bill Voted on Use of Park for School," *NYT*, Apr. 4, 1963, 56; "Morningside Citizens" Unit to Consider School Site," *NYT*, May 26, 1963, 35; "Segregation Charges Mark School Site Dispute," *NYT*, May 28, 1963, 25; "Use of Part of Park for School Argued," *NYT*, Jan. 16, 1964, 30; NYC, City Planning Comm., Calendar, Jan. 29, 1964; "Park Site Barred for a New School," *NYT*, Jan. 30, 1964, 31; "Parks are for Park Purposes," *NYT*, Feb. 8, 1964, 22; "New Harlem School is Designed for Early Grades," *NYT*, Oct. 29, 1964, 29.
 91. *NYT*, Apr. 4, 1963.
 92. *NYT*, May 28, 1963.
 93. NYC, City Planning Comm., Jan. 29, 1964.
 94. *NYT*, Feb. 8, 1964.
 95. *NYT*, Oct. 29, 1964.
 96. NYC, Dept. of Parks, website and Morningside Park files; "Friends of Park Admire Trees and Old Buildings at Columbia," *NYT*, Nov. 8, 1970, 29; "Olmsted Will be Honored Around Country," *NYT*, Jan. 15, 1972, 33; "2 Shows Celebrate Olmsted's Talent," *NYT*, Oct. 19, 1972, 54; "Morningside Park Renovation Set," [*Columbia Spectator*], Sept. 14, 1978; "Landscape as Design: 2 Shows Focus on Olmsted," *NYT*, Oct. 13, 1981, C21; Friends of Morningside Park, newsletters (1982-83); "A Preservationist Group Enters Long Battle of Morningside Park," *NYT*, Mar. 2, 1983, B1, 6; "The Little Park That Can't," *New York Daily News*, Aug. 9, 1983, 49; NYC, Dept. of Parks, "It Happened at Morningside Park," *Leaflet* (Oct.-Nov. 1983); "Morningside Park Just Might Make It," *Columbia College Today*, Summer 1985, 8-11; "Morningside Park Revival?," *West Side Spirit*, Dec. 16, 1985, 8; "Morningside Park is to be Rehabilitated," *NYT*, Sept. 7, 1988, B5; "It's Morning in This Park," *Newsday*, Oct. 12, 1988, 62; NYC, Dept. of Parks, "Morningside Park Gets a \$12 Million Facelift" press release, May 31, 1989; "Pond Springs Where Gym Fouled Out," *NYT*, June 5, 1989, B3; "Getting Respect from City Hall," *NYT*, Oct. 10, 1993; NYC, Dept. of Parks, "Groundbreaking Ceremony Morningside Park" program, July 18, 1996; "Building a Stairway Between Columbia and Harlem," *NYT*, Sept. 21, 1997, C6; NYC, Dept. of Parks, "Ribbon Cutting, West 116th Steps in Morningside Park" press release, Sept. 8, 1998, and "Remembering a Parks Prodigy," *The Daily Plant*, Sept. 15, 1998; "Heights Filled With Grand Visions," *NYT*, Sept. 10, 1999, E33, 39; "A Park Emerging From a Nightmare," *NYT*, Aug. 1, 2001, B1, 7; "A Site of Battles, A Piece of Paradise," *NYT*, Apr. 20, 2003, C1; NYC, Dept. of Parks, "Parks Breaks Ground on New Ballfields at Morningside Park," *The Daily Plant*, May 8, 2006; "A Park's Flowering Future," *amNY*, Apr. 9, 2007, 2; NYC, Dept. of Parks, "Parks Breaks Ground on Playground at Morningside Park" press release, Aug. 30, 2007; "Morningside Park," in Jeffrey Simpson and Mary Ellen W. Hern, eds., *Art of the Olmsted Landscape: His Works in New York City* (N.Y.: LPC, 1981), 19-20; Bond Ryder Wilson and Quennell Rothschild Assocs., *Morningside Park: A Conceptual Master Plan* (1985).
 97. Ada Louise Huxtable, "Urban Progress Doesn't Always Make Things Better," *NYT*, Mar. 16, 1975, X34.
 98. *NYT*, Mar. 2, 1983.
 99. "Doors to Nowhere," *NYT*, Oct. 17, 1999.
 100. John Flavel Mines, *A Tour Around New York...* (N.Y.: Harper & Bros., 1892), 332-333.
 101. "Spare the Old Fort," *NYT*, Nov. 18, 1899, 6.
 102. Parsons, 62.

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103. Parsons, 60.
 104. Parsons, 61 and 63.
 105. Hall, 563.
 106. Parsons, 60-61.
 107. The c. 1886 photograph is in the collection of the Museum of the City of New York..
 108. Parsons, 61.
 109. Parsons, 62.
 110. Parsons, 65-66.
 111. J. Sanford Saltus and Walter E. Tisne, *Statues of New York* (N.Y.: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1923), 104-105 and 110-111; NYC, Art Commission, *Catalogue of Works of Art Belonging to the City of New York 1909-20*; "Harlem and the Bronx," *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, Dec. 29, 1898, 8, and Feb. 17, 1900, 4; Margot Gayle and Michele Cohen, *Guide to Manhattan's Outdoor Sculpture* (N.Y.: Prentice Hall Pr., 1988), 307-310; NYC, Dept. of Parks, website; National Park Service, "Statue of Liberty National Monument" website; Smithsonian Inst., "Art Inventories Catalog" website; "Embellishing the City," *NYT*, Aug. 10, 1899, 6; "C.B. Rouss's Gift," *NYT*, Apr. 15, 1900, 15; "Charles B. Rouss Dead," *NYT*, Mar. 4, 1902, 9; "Edgar Melville Walter," www.aksart.com website; "News and Notes of the Art World," *NYT*, Apr. 30, 1911, sm15; Alfred L. Seligman Dead in Auto Crash," *NYT*, June 25, 1912, 1; "A.L. Seligman Left \$273,064 Estate," *NYT*, Feb. 7, 1913, 8; "Carl Schurz," Deutsch Amerikanischer Club, Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, and www.germanheritage.com websites; "Schurz Monument Plans," *NYT*, June 9, 1912, 10; "Schurz Monument Given to the City," *NYT*, May 11, 1913, 4; James M. Dennis, *Karl Bitter: Architectural Sculptor 1867-1915* (Madison: Univ. of Wisconsin Pr., 1967).
 112. This section was prepared by Amanda Sutphin, LPC Director of Archaeology.

FINDINGS AND DESIGNATION

On the basis of a careful consideration of the history, the architecture, and other features of this park, the Landmarks Preservation Commission finds that Morningside Park has a special character and a special historical and aesthetic interest and value as part of the development, heritage, and cultural characteristics of New York City.

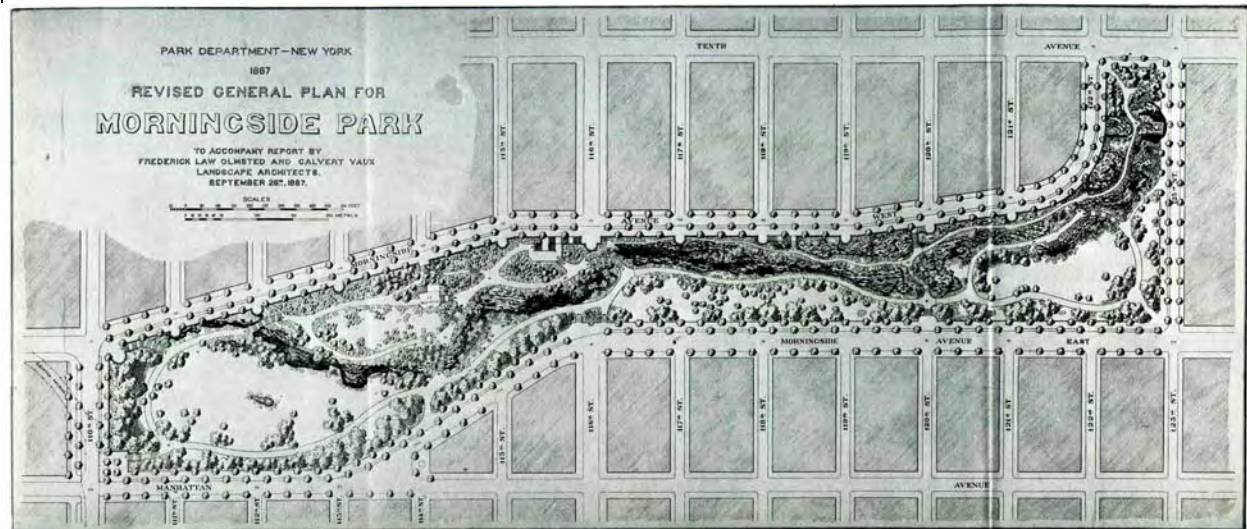
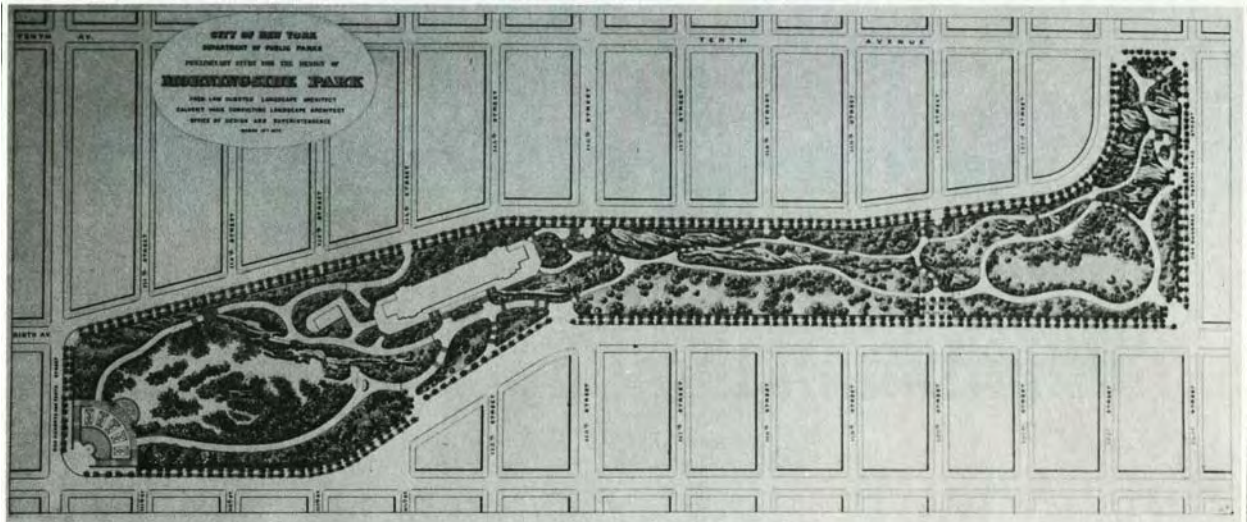
The Commission further finds that, among its important qualities, Morningside Park is a significant park in New York City by the renowned landscape designers Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux, whose work also included Central Park, Prospect Park, and Riverside Park and Drive, which Samuel B. Parsons, Jr., a partner of Vaux's and the Superintendent of Parks, called "perhaps [Vaux's] most consummate piece of art that he ever created"; that originally, the site was a rugged rocky ledge separating Morningside Heights from the Harlem Plain, and because of the terrain, Andrew Haswell Green in 1867 proposed that it be excluded from the Commissioner's Plan street grid; that Olmsted and Vaux, through their preliminary plan (1873) and later revised plan (1887), transformed the long, narrow, and rather difficult and unusual site into a picturesque park by respecting and enhancing its inherent beauties and possibilities, including the views both eastward and westward, and creating areas of varying character; that important features of Morningside Park, the initial construction of which lasted until 1895, include the massive buttressed masonry retaining wall with parapet, overlook bays, and entrance stairways (constructed 1883-92, under the plans and supervision of architects Jacob Wrey Mould, Julius Munckwitz, and Vaux, and engineer Montgomery A. Kellogg), natural rock outcroppings, carefully worked-out "designed" rockwork and plantings, curvilinear walk system, and small open meadows along the southern and eastern sides; that a number of important institutions selected locations facing the park along Morningside Drive on the Heights, including the Cathedral of St. John the Divine (planned 1887; built from 1892 on), St. Luke's Hospital (1893-1928), and Columbia University (1894 on); that three notable works of sculpture were placed within the Scenic Landmark, *Lafayette and Washington* (1890, Frederic-Auguste Bartholdi; dedicated 1900), *Carl Schurz Monument* (1909-13, Karl Bitter and Henry Bacon), and *Bear and Faun (Seligman) Fountain* (c. 1910, Edgar M. Walter; donated 1914); that the twentieth-century history of the park was characterized by threats to its integrity, as well as issues of its maintenance and condition, with a citywide debate emerging about intrusions within the park as early as 1909, when a stadium was proposed, and in 1916, when the Board of Water Supply attempted to construct a Catskill Aqueduct pumping station; that during the Robert Moses park era, playgrounds were inserted along the park's eastern side between 1935 and 1956, a controversial proposal (1960-69) by Columbia University to construct a gymnasium in the park was halted by community opposition and a student strike, though much park damage was inflicted by blasting on the site, and the Board of Education took the northwest corner of the park for a new Public School 36 building (1965-66); that since 1987, the City's Parks Department has conducted a number of park renovation projects and built several new playgrounds; and that, despite modifications to its original design over the years, Morningside Park, with its unique site and views, prominent retaining wall and high rock outcroppings, and varied character and topography, remains one of the nationally significant landscape works by America's most renowned landscape designers.

Accordingly, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 74, Section 3020 of the Charter of the City of New York and Chapter 3 of Title 25 of the Administrative Code of the City of New York, the Landmarks Preservation Commission designates as a Scenic Landmark Morningside Park, including the Lafayette and Washington Park triangle, consisting of the property bounded by the eastern curbline of Morningside Drive, the northern curbline of Cathedral Parkway (West 110th Street), the western curbline of Manhattan Avenue, the southern curbline of West 114th Street, the western curbline of Morningside Avenue, the southern curbline of West 123rd Street, the eastern curbline of Amsterdam Avenue, and the southern curbline of Morningside Drive, to the point of beginning, Borough of Manhattan, and designates Manhattan Tax Map Block 1850, Lots 1 and 2, and Block 1849, Lot 1, as its Landmark Site.

Robert B. Tierney, Chair

Stephen F. Byrns, Diana Chapin, Christopher Moore, Margery Perlmutter, Roberta Washington,
Commissioners

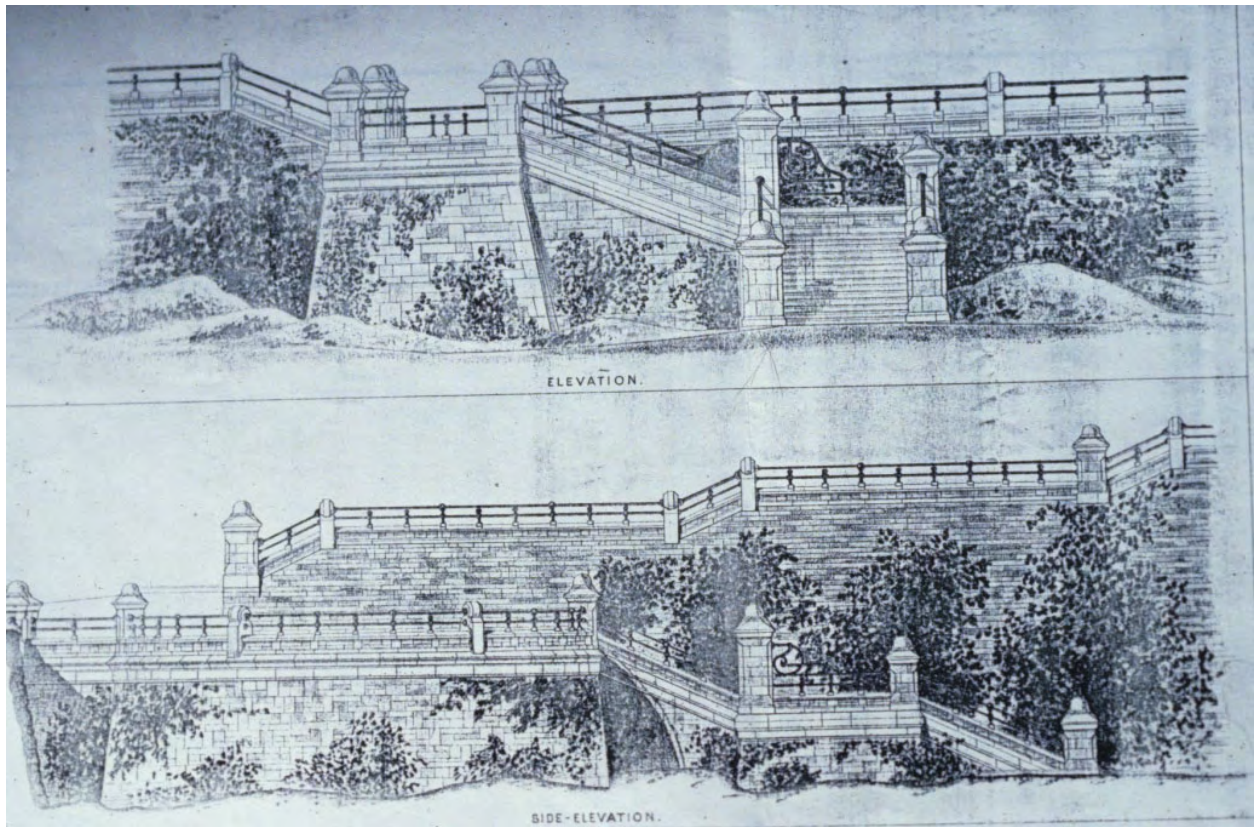




Morningside Park Plan (1873), Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux

Morningside Park Plan (1887), Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux

Source: New York City Dept. of Parks

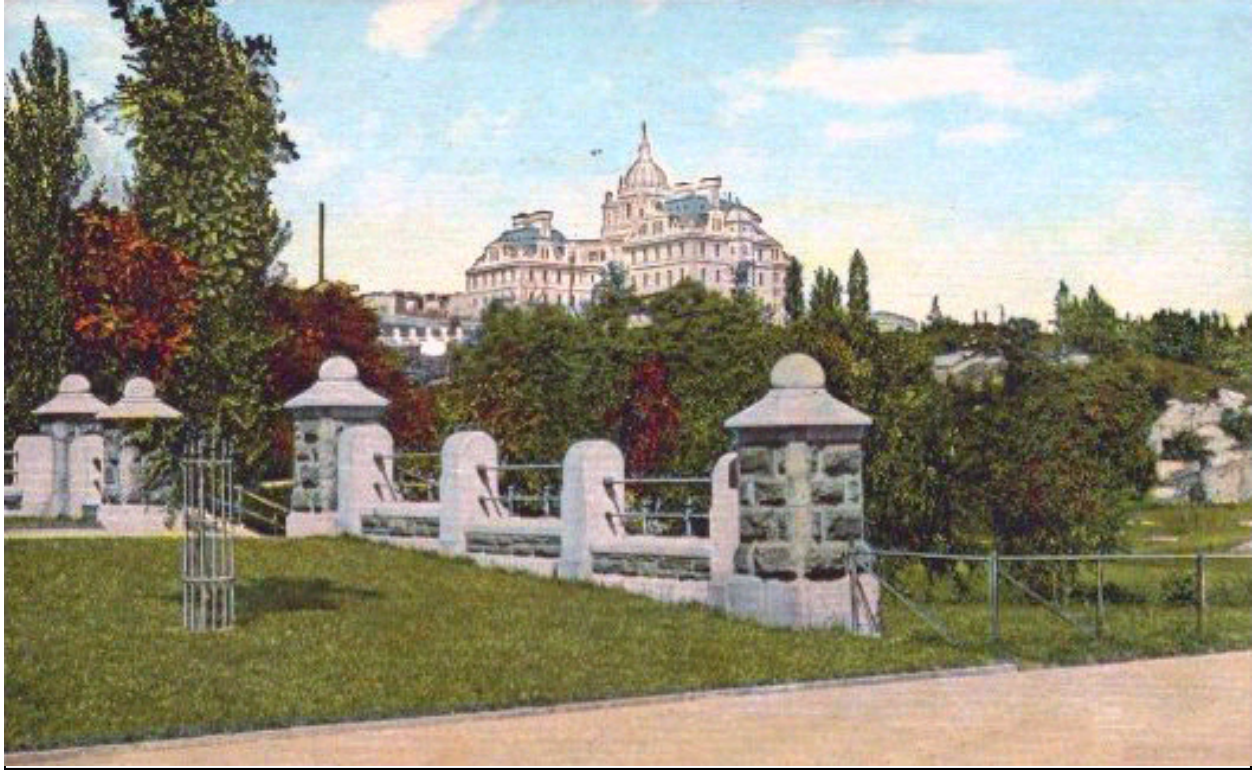


Preliminary Rendering of Treatment of Morningside Park Retaining Wall, Stairs and Railing

Source: *Real Estate Record & Builders Guide* (c. 1880s)

Detail of Morningside Park Parapet Bronze Railing, Morningside Drive (1940s)

Photo: Courtesy of Dorothy Marie Miner



Southeast Entrance at West 110th Street, Morningside Park (c. 1905)

Source: Postcard

Southwest Entrance at West 110th Street, Morningside Park

Photo: Christopher D. Brazee



Morningside Drive (1911)

Photo: Irving Underhill, Library of Congress

Morningside Park, Cathedral of St. John the Divine, and St. Luke's Hospital (1910)

Photo: Irving Underhill, Library of Congress



Morningside Park, South View at 116th Street Overlook Bay (1899)
Source: *Selected Views of Greater New York*, Library of Congress

Morningside Park Retaining Wall
Photo: Christopher D. Brazee



Morningside Park, South View (1901)

Photo: Postcard, Detroit Publishing Co., Library of Congress

Morningside Park Stairs, 116th Street

Photo: Christopher D. Brazee



Morningside Park, 116th Street Overlook Bay and Stairs (c. 1905)
Source: Postcard, Courtesy of Jay Shockley

Morningside Park, 116th Street Overlook Bay
Photo: Christopher D. Brazee



Morningside Park, Southern Section (c. 1906)
Photo: Irving Underhill, Library of Congress

Morningside Park, Southern Section
Photo: Christopher D. Brazee



Lafayette and Washington (1890, Frederic-Auguste Bartholdi)

Carl Schurz Monument (1909-13, Karl Bitter and Henry Bacon)
Photos: Christopher D. Brazee



Bear and Faun (Seligman) Fountain (c. 1910, Edgar M. Walter)

Morningside Park, 115th Street Overlook Bay

Photos: Christopher D. Brazee



Morningside Park, Rockwork and Stairs Near 112th Street

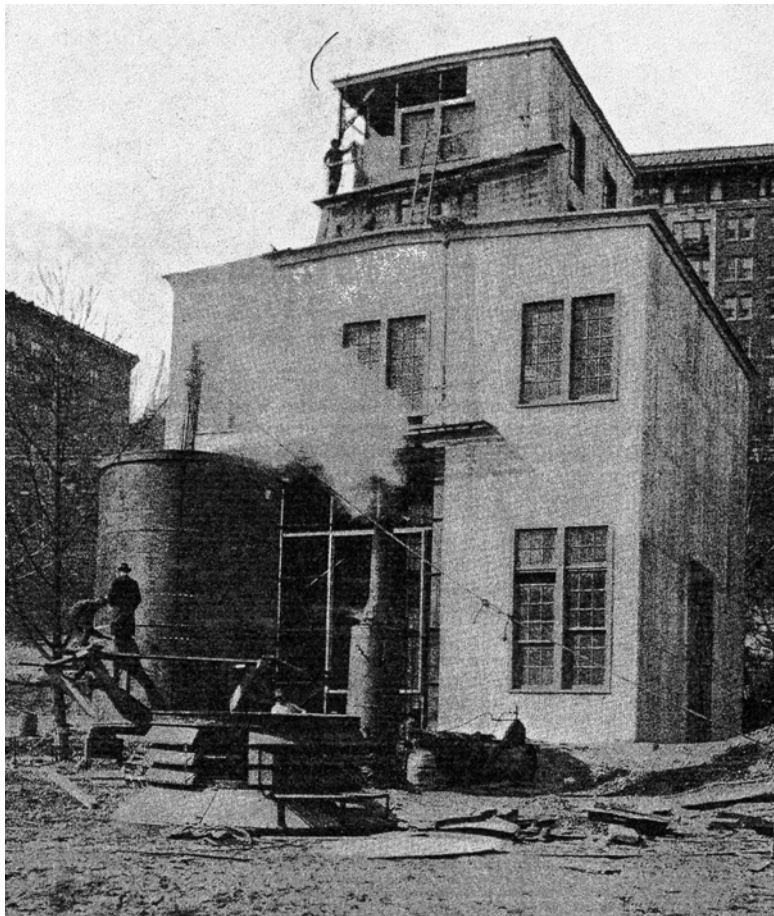
Morningside Park, Historic Rockwork Edging of Stairs Near 118th Street

Photos: Christopher D. Brazee



Morningside Park, Rockwork, Stairs, and Path Near 112th Street

Morningside Park, Rock Outcroppings and Path Near 114th Street
Photos: Christopher D. Brazee



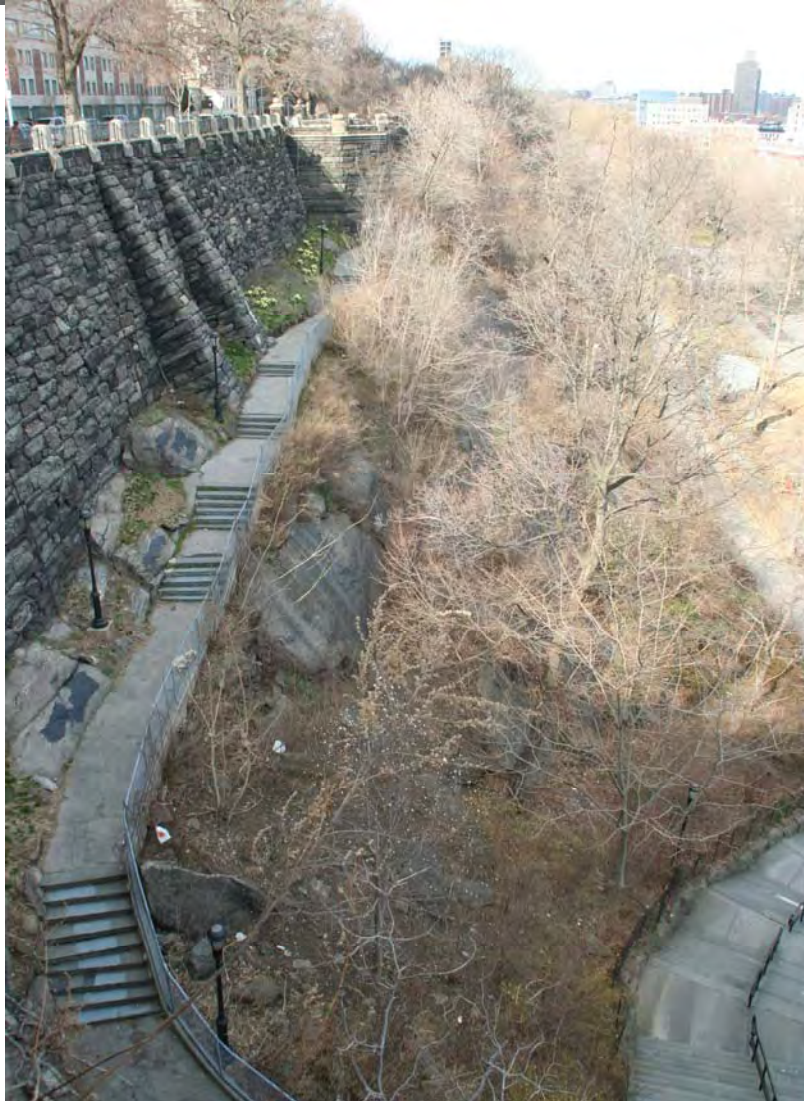
Catskill Aqueduct Pumping Station, Morningside Park (1916)
Source: American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society

Columbia University Gymnasium Site, Morningside Park (1968)
Photo: Bond Ryder Wilson, New York City Dept. of Parks



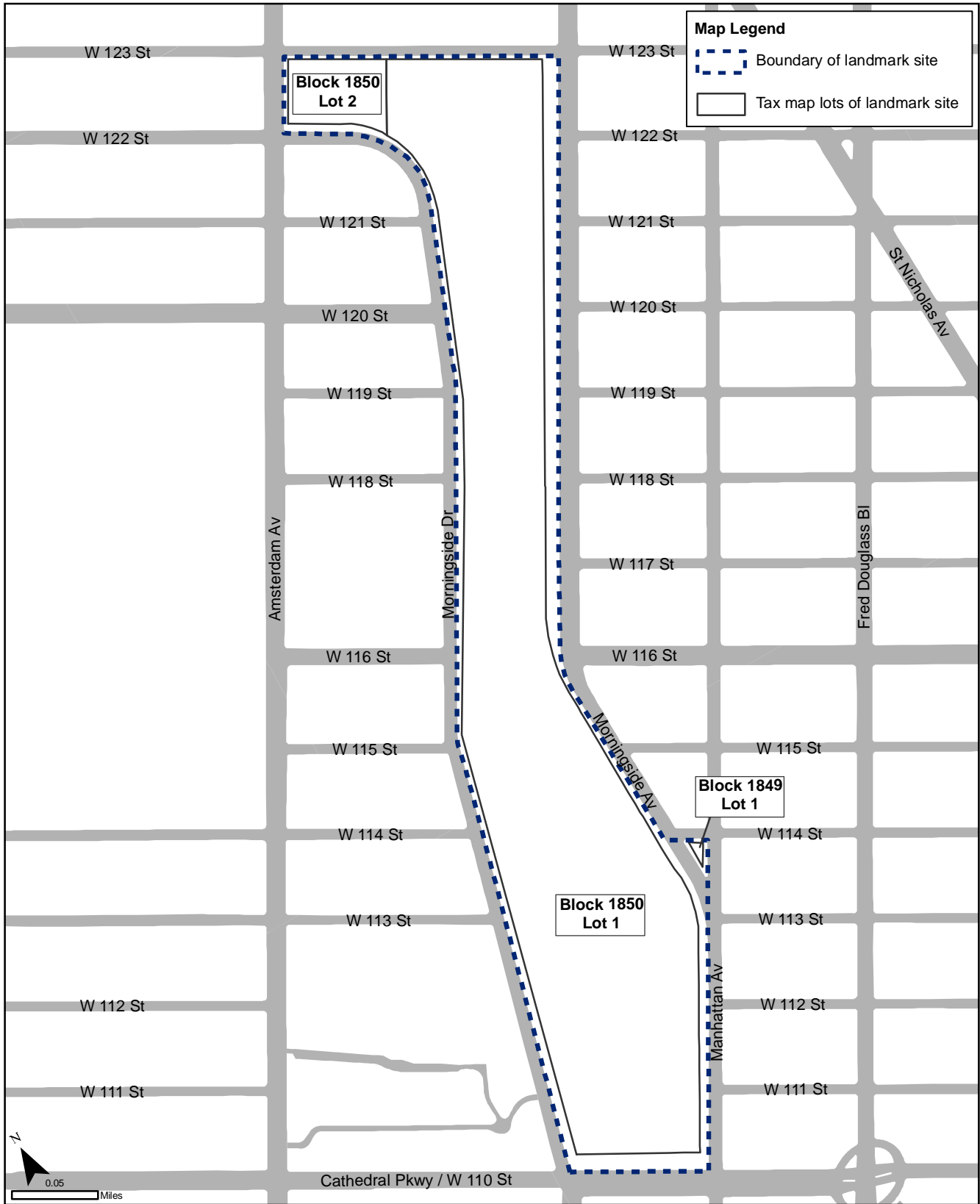
Morningside Park, Northwest Corner at Amsterdam Avenue (1948)
Photo: New York City Dept. of Parks

Public School 36, Morningside Park
Photo: Daniel Pagano



Morningside Park, Northeast Corner Playground (1941)
Photo: Rodney McCay Morgan, New York City Dept. of Parks

Morningside Park, North View Along Retaining Wall
Photo: Christopher D. Brazee



MORNINGSIDE PARK SCENIC LANDMARK [LP-2254], including the Lafayette and Washington Park triangle, consisting of the property bounded by the eastern curbline of Morningside Drive, the northern curbline of Cathedral Parkway (West 110th Street), the western curbline of Manhattan Avenue, the southern curbline of West 114th Street, the western curbline of Morningside Avenue, the southern curbline of West 123rd Street, the eastern curbline of Amsterdam Avenue, and the southern curbline of Morningside Drive, to the point of beginning. Borough of Manhattan, Tax Map Block 1850, Lots 1 and 2; and Manhattan Tax Map Block 1849, Lot 1.