

= General Philip Sheridan =

General Philip Sheridan is a bronze sculpture that honors Civil War general Philip Sheridan . The monument was sculpted by Gutzon Borglum , best known for his design of Mount Rushmore . Dedicated in 1908 , dignitaries in attendance at the unveiling ceremony included President Theodore Roosevelt , members of the President 's cabinet , high @-@ ranking military officers and veterans from the Civil War and Spanish ? American War . The equestrian statue is located in the center of Sheridan Circle in the Sheridan @-@ Kalorama neighborhood of Washington , D.C. The bronze statue , surrounded by a plaza and park , is one of eighteen Civil War monuments in Washington , D.C. , which were collectively listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978 . The sculpture and surrounding park are owned and maintained by the National Park Service , a federal agency of the Interior Department .

= = History = =

= = = Background = = =

Philip Sheridan was a career United States Army officer who was instrumental in securing Union successes during the Valley Campaigns of 1864 , most notably the Battle of Cedar Creek . Many of the Union generals would eventually be memorialized in Washington , D.C. , with statues spread throughout the city . While looking at one of his comrade 's equestrian sculptures , Sheridan was not impressed with the depiction of the man and horse . He reportedly told his wife " Whatever you do after I 'm gone , don 't put me on a horse like that . " Following her husband 's death in 1888 , when an equestrian sculpture of her husband was being planned , Irene Sheridan insisted the horse be as " proud and courageous as its rider . "

On March 2 , 1889 , Congress authorized the erection of a memorial to Sheridan and appropriated \$ 50 @,@ 000 for its construction . The original sculptor chosen to complete the project was Sheridan 's friend John Quincy Adams Ward , who had completed other works in Washington , D.C. , including Major General George Henry Thomas and the James A. Garfield Monument . Ward signed a contract with the Sheridan monument commission in 1892 which called for the equestrian statue to be completed by 1898 . He submitted a sketch of the model in 1892 , but that design was not approved . Not only did Ward not complete the work by 1898 , he had only completed a life @-@ size study of Sheridan 's head by 1903 . Ward finally completed a model of Sheridan , but when Irene and her son , Philip Sheridan Jr . , visited Ward 's studio in New York to see the model , they both hated it . He was depicted as a stout older officer atop a stilted horse . The commission eventually cancelled the contract with Ward in 1905 . His model of Sheridan was eventually cast in 1916 and stands in front of the New York State Capitol .

Gutzon Borglum had closely followed the events surrounding Ward 's procrastination and firing as the two men had an argumentative past . Borglum was convinced he could do a better job with the design and he also needed the money . He set out to study as much as possible about Sheridan 's life by reading his memoirs and biographies . Borglum was able to secure an invitation to a Washington , D.C. party that Irene attended . He sat next to her and invited Irene to his studio in New York . Borglum set out models of horses throughout the studio before she arrived and surprised Irene by how much he know about her husband . At the behest of Irene , on July 2 , 1907 , Borglum received a contract to sculpt the memorial . He was a Danish American artist who was greatly influenced by French sculptor Auguste Rodin . Borglum is best known for his carvings at Mount Rushmore and Stone Mountain . The Sheridan sculpture is his only equestrian monument in Washington , D.C. Borglum 's other works in Washington , D.C. include Rabboni at Rock Creek Cemetery and several statues in the National Statuary Hall Collection in the United States Capitol .

On January 17 , 1908 , Borglum 's design received approval by the Sheridan monument commission , including then @-@ Secretary of War William Howard Taft , General Henry C. Corbin , and Brigadier General Michael V. Sheridan , Philip Sheridan 's brother . Irene also approved the

design and chose the memorial site . She lived at 2211 Massachusetts Avenue NW (currently offices for the Embassy of Greece) , a short distance from Sheridan Circle and the sculpture . As Borglum worked on the sculpture , he would talk to Sheridan 's friends , sketch Sheridan 's artifacts , and visit Irene . Since Philip Jr. bore a very close resemblance to his father , Borglum used him as a model for the sculpture . When the artwork was completed , Irene , Philip Jr . , and Sheridan 's three daughters loved the finished result . The sculpture depicts Sheridan riding his horse , Rienzi , as he assembles his troops during the Battle of Cedar Creek on October 19 , 1864 . He had raced 20 miles (32 km) from Winchester , Virginia , to reach the battle . Following the Union victory , Sheridan renamed the horse Winchester . After Winchester died in 1878 , Sheridan had him preserved and mounted . The horse is now on display at the National Museum of American History . Congress paid for the plaza , base , and preparation of the memorial site , while veterans of the Army of the Cumberland paid for the statue . Architect Henry Winslow designed the base and setting . The stonework was provided by the Mohegan Granite Company of New York while the Malnati Stone Company of Washington , D.C. set the stones in place .

= = = Dedication = = =

The Sheridan memorial was dedicated on November 25 , 1908 . A large crowd was present with many dignitaries in attendance , including President Theodore Roosevelt , military officers , diplomats , and veterans of the Civil War and Spanish ? American War . A processions of troops led by Brigadier General J. Franklin Bell paraded past the crowd and dignitaries while the United States Marine Band played music . Secretary of War Luke E. Wright presided over the dedication ceremony and Denis J. O 'Connell , rector of The Catholic University of America , delivered the invocation . Roosevelt , Brigadier General Horace Porter , and Wright gave eulogies of Sheridan . Roosevelt gave a short speech praising Sheridan 's valiant acts while Porter 's speech was an in depth review of Sheridan 's life , including his days at West Point and his campaigns during the Civil War and American Indian Wars . After Irene and Philip Jr. removed the covering of the statue , the crowd cheered loudly and many began to recite Thomas Buchanan Read 's poem , Sheridan 's Ride .

= = = Historic designation = = =

Along with seventeen other Civil War monuments , General Philip Sheridan was added to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) on September 20 , 1978 , and the District of Columbia Inventory of Historic Sites on March 3 , 1979 . The Sheridan monument is also designated a contributing property to the Massachusetts Avenue Historic District , listed on the NRHP in 1974 , and the Sheridan @-@ Kalorama Historic District , listed on the NRHP in 1989 . The sculpture and the surrounding park are owned and maintained by the National Park Service , a federal agency of the Interior Department .

= = Design and location = =

The bronze equestrian sculpture is at the center of Sheridan Circle , a traffic circle located at the intersection of 23rd Street , R Street and Massachusetts Avenue NW within the Embassy Row section of the Sheridan @-@ Kalorama neighborhood . It measures 10 feet (3 @. @ 0 m) high and 12 feet (3 @. @ 7 m) long while the rectangular granite base measures 3 feet (0 @. @ 91 m) high . The horse is slightly reared back while standing on a rocky surface . Sheridan is turned to his right with his right arm extended behind him . The right hand is holding his hat while his left hand holds the horse 's reins . Sheridan is wearing a military uniform with a long coat belted at the waist and is portrayed with a moustache and wavy hair . The sculpture is surrounded by a plaza measuring 37 feet (11 m) long with five steps on the front and back leading to the sculpture . Curved benches run along the interior of the plaza facing the sculpture while the exterior of the plaza features two pairs of lion head fountain spouts . Water poured from the spouts into square basins , but this feature is

no longer working .

Inscriptions on the monument include the following :

GUTZON BORGLUM 1908 (left side of the sculpture)

GORHAM CO FOUNDERS (right side of the sculpture near the base)

SHERIDAN (front side of the base)