

= General John A. Rawlins =

General John A. Rawlins is a statue depicting John Aaron Rawlins , a United States Army general who served during the Civil War and later as Secretary of War . The statue is a focal point of Rawlins Park , a small public park in the Foggy Bottom neighborhood of Washington , D.C. It was installed in 1874 , but relocated several times between 1880 and 1931 . The statue was sculpted by French @-@ American artist Joseph A. Bailly , whose best known work is the statue of George Washington in front of Independence Hall in Philadelphia .

The bronze statue , which rests on a granite base , is one of the city 's eighteen Civil War monuments that were collectively listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978 . The monument and park are owned and maintained by the National Park Service , a federal agency of the Interior Department . The statue is considered by historians to be one of the better portrait statues in Washington , D.C.

= = History = =

= = = Background = = =

John Aaron Rawlins ( 1831 ? 1869 ) was a lawyer and native of Illinois who organized the 45th Illinois Infantry for the Union Army during the Civil War . He served as a confidant and the closest advisor to General Ulysses S. Grant during the war and served as Grant 's Secretary of War after Grant was elected president of the United States . Rawlins died of tuberculosis five months into his term as secretary . During his short term in office , Rawlins spoke passionately about the plight of recently freed slaves and tried to protect Native Americans from military officers who were cruel to them . He also tried to protect Grant from men who would " lead him away from the straight and true . " One of Rawlins ' colleagues said " he had blunt , wrathful words of objurgation for those who put in Grant 's way temptations that he knew to be dangerous . "

Soon after Rawlins ' death in 1869 , efforts were under way to erect a statue honoring him . Interest in the project waned until 1872 when Grant wrote a letter to Congress to address the delay . On June 10 , 1872 , a congressional bill sponsored by Illinois Senator John A. Logan , who had served under Grant and admired Rawlins , was approved with \$ 10 @,@ 000 appropriated for the erection of the statue . The legislation included instructions for a committee to be created that would solicit models and select an artist . The committee consisted of General Orville E. Babcock , Architect of the Capitol Edward Clark , and Librarian of Congress Ainsworth Rand Spofford . Sculptors that submitted designs included Theophilus Fisk Mills , son of Clark Mills , and Lot Flannery , sculptor of the 1868 Abraham Lincoln statue . The artist chosen was Joseph A. Bailly ( 1825 ? 1883 ) , a French @-@ born American sculptor whose best known work is the 1869 statue of George Washington in Philadelphia . Bailly 's other works in Washington , D.C. include sculptures of Benjamin Hallowell and Alexander " Boss " Shepherd . The statue was founded by Robert Wood & Company . The bronze used for the statue was cast from Confederate cannons captured during the Civil War .

The total cost of the statue and its installation was \$ 13 @,@ 000 . The original planned site for the statue was Franklin Square , though the site where it was installed was Rawlins Park , a small park in what was then an unkept and remote area . There was no formal dedication ceremony when it was installed in November 1874 . The following year , the statue was placed atop a granite base constructed by the Westham Granite Company of Richmond , Virginia .

= = = Later history = = =

In 1880 , members of the Grand Army of the Republic visited the statue and were dismayed by the park and its surroundings . They petitioned to have the statue moved to a more prominent location , 10th and D Streets NW , where it stood until a newspaper plant was built on that site . It was then

moved to the north side of Pennsylvania Avenue between 7th Street and 9th Street NW , but a public restroom was built on the site in 1886 and the statue was moved across the street . In 1931 , construction began on the National Archives Building and the statue was moved for the last time to its original location , Rawlins Park . Rawlins Park was greatly improved with the addition of walkways and a reflecting pool in 1938 . In 1963 , Wyoming Representative William H. Harrison unsuccessfully attempted to have the statue moved to Rawlins , a town named after the general .

The statue is one of eighteen Civil War monuments in Washington , D.C. that were collectively listed on the National Register of Historic Places on September 20 , 1978 , and the District of Columbia Inventory of Historic Sites on March 3 , 1979 . It is one of the few Civil War monuments that is not an equestrian sculpture . The others are the Dupont Circle Fountain , Stephenson Grand Army of the Republic Memorial , Nuns of the Battlefield , the Peace Monument , and statues of Admiral David G. Farragut and Brigadier General Albert Pike . The statue and surrounding park are owned and maintained by the National Park Service , a federal agency of the Interior Department . Historian James M. Goode , author of *Outdoor Sculpture of Washington , D.C.* , considers it one of the better portrait statues in Washington , D.C. , and thinks the statue has a " certain elegance and spirit . "

= = Design and location = =

The statue is sited on the eastern end of Rawlins Park , a small public park located between 18th Street , 19th Street , E Street and New York Avenue NW in the Foggy Bottom neighborhood of Washington , D.C. The Main Interior Building lies to the south of the park , General Services Administration Building is on the north side of the park , and The Octagon House is on the northeast corner of the park .

The bronze statue measures 8 ft ( 2 @. @ 4 m ) tall and the light gray , pedestal @-@ style granite base measures 12 ft ( 3 @. @ 7 m ) high and 4 ft ( 1 @. @ 2 m ) wide . The statue depicts Rawlins standing while wearing his Civil War military uniform : a hat , long belted jacket , tall boots , and gloves . His left leg is slightly forward and his right hand is holding a pair of field glasses by his side . His left hand is holding the sword handle which rests at his side . Rawlins is depicted with a beard and moustache . The inscription " RAWLINS " is on the front of the base . The inscriptions " R. WOOD & CO / BRONZE FOUNDERS / PHILA " and " A. BAILLY , sculpt / 1873 " are on the sculpture .