

= Brevet Lt. General Winfield Scott =

Brevet Lt. General Winfield Scott is an equestrian statue in Washington , D.C. , that honors career military officer Winfield Scott . The monument stands in the center of Scott Circle , a traffic circle and small park at the convergence of 16th Street , Massachusetts Avenue and Rhode Island Avenue NW . The statue was sculpted by Henry Kirke Brown , whose best @-@ known works include statues of George Washington in New York and Nathanael Greene in Washington , D.C. It was the first of many sculptures honoring Civil War generals that were installed in Washington , D.C. ' s traffic circles and squares and was the second statue in the city to honor Scott .

The sculpture is one of the city 's 18 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 bronze statue rests on a granite base that at the time was the largest stone ever quarried in the United States . Much criticized for its depiction of Scott and the proportions of the horse , it is considered one of the worst equestrian sculptures in the city by authors and historians .

= = History = =

= = Background = = =

Winfield Scott (1786 ? 1866) , nicknamed " Old Fuss and Feathers " and the " Grand Old Man of the Army " , served on active duty as general longer than any other American officer . During his 53 @-@ year career , he led forces during several wars , including the War of 1812 , Black Hawk War , Mexican ? American War , Seminole Wars , and Civil War . He served under every president from Thomas Jefferson to Abraham Lincoln . His twenty @-@ year service as Commanding General of the United States Army was the longest in that post 's history . His popularity following the Mexican ? American War resulted in Scott being nominated the Whig Party candidate in the 1852 presidential election .

Following Scott 's death in 1866 , veterans and other citizens began lobbying for a monument to honor the general . On March 3 , 1867 , Congress authorized \$ 35 @, @ 000 for the erection of an equestrian statue . The monument was reauthorized by Congress on July 15 , 1870 , and on June 10 , 1872 . The artist selected was Henry Kirke Brown (1814 ? 1886) , a sculptor from New York whose 1856 equestrian statue of George Washington in Union Square , Manhattan , had been well received by critics . His other works in Washington , D.C. include Major General Nathanael Greene in Stanton Park and busts of Vice Presidents George Clinton and John C. Breckinridge , poet William Cullen Bryant , Major General Philip Kearny , and Senators Henry Clay and Richard Stockton .

The model of the statue was completed around 1872 . The federal government contributed bronze cannons captured by Scott during the Mexican ? American War to use for casting the statue . Before the casting began , descendants of Scott saw the model and protested the design . Brown had designed the horse to be a small mare , which Scott preferred to ride , instead of a stallion . The descendants argued that no other general had been portrayed riding a mare and that a horse with flared nostrils and arched neck would be more suitable . Brown was annoyed by the requests and only made minimal modifications to the design , resulting in Scott , a tall and heavy man measuring 6 @. @ 5 ft (2 @. @ 0 m) and weighing 300 lb (140 kg) , riding a small mare with the external genitalia of a stallion . The statue was founded by Robert Wood & Company , whose other works in Washington , D.C. include Major General Nathanael Greene , Major General James B. McPherson and General John A. Rawlins .

The architect selected to design the base is disputed . Historian James M. Goode , author of Outdoor Sculpture of Washington , D.C. , cites General Orville E. Babcock of the Corps of Engineers as the architect , while a 1985 report by the National Park Service credits George Edward Harney . The stonework was completed by Jonas French of the Cape Ann Granite Company . The base was

carved from a single block of granite weighing more than 150 tons . It was the largest single stone ever quarried in the United States at the time .

The original planned site for the statue was present @-@ day McPherson Square . Scott Circle , a tract of land previously known as Jamaica , was renamed in honor of Scott when the monument was installed in 1874 at a total cost of \$ 77 @,@ 000 . Although there was no formal dedication , the park surrounding the site was landscaped with trees and ornamental flowers before the monument was installed . The monument was the first of many memorials to Civil War generals in Washington , D.C. ' s traffic circles and squares , although Scott is the only Civil War official to be represented by two statues in the nation 's capital . The second statue , by sculptor Launt Thompson , was erected on the grounds of the United States Soldiers ' Home in 1873 .

= = = Reception = = =

The statue received much criticism after it was installed . Critics said Scott was being portrayed as " too old , too fat , too stiff , too short @-@ legged . " He was described as looking like " an old sack of flour " and irritated because his hand was resting on his hip . The horse was ridiculed even more . One reporter said the horse looked like it was " suffering slightly from ringbone lameness and not daring to travel faster than a walk . " The proportions of the horse received the greatest amount of criticism , with observers calling it " too light , too delicate , too thin , too timid , and dreadfully proportioned . " Upon seeing the monument , General Philip Sheridan reportedly told his wife to never let him be immortalized in such a manner . Kathryn Allamong Jacob , author of Testament to Union : Civil War Monuments in Washington , D.C. , considers it one of the worst equestrian monuments in the city , especially when compared to the nearby Major General George Henry Thomas statue , considered one of the city 's best . A 2000 article in The Washington Post described it as the city 's oddest equestrian statue .

= = = Later history = = =

The introduction of the monument spurred development around Scott Circle and the immediate area . Soon after the monument was installed , notable individuals including Secretary of the Treasury William Windom and The Washington Post founder Stilson Hutchins built mansions around the circle . The area continued to be a desirable location for wealthy Washingtonians until most of the mansions were demolished in the 1940s . In 1941 , the monument was temporarily removed when a four @-@ lane tunnel was built beneath the circle .

The statue is one of eighteen Civil War monuments in Washington , D.C. that were collectively listed on 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 monument and surrounding park are owned and maintained by the National Park Service , a federal agency of the Interior Department .

= = Design and location = =

The Scott monument is located in the center of Scott Circle , a traffic circle and park at the convergence of 16th Street , Massachusetts Avenue and Rhode Island Avenue NW , on the border of the Dupont Circle and Logan Circle neighborhoods . Scott Circle is considered the southeastern terminus of Embassy Row with the Embassy of Australia overlooking the circle and statue . The statue faces south down 16th Street towards the White House . The park is flanked by two small , triangular reservations . The Daniel Webster Memorial , listed on the NRHP , is on the west reservation and the Samuel Hahnemann Monument , also listed on the NRHP , is on the east reservation . The statue and park are not intended for pedestrian use as there are no sidewalks on or around the circle . Pedestrians use the side reservations to maneuver around the circle .

The bronze statue is 15 ft (4 @.@ 6 m) tall and 10 ft (3 @.@ 0 m) long while the granite base it rests on is 24 ft (7 @.@ 3 m) wide and 30 ft (9 @.@ 1 m) long . The inscription " SCOTT " is on the south side of the base . The statue depicts Scott wearing a field uniform of a lieutenant general ,

including a hat and long jacket with fringed epaulets and decorative sash . He is riding his horse while holding the reins in his left hand . Scott 's right hand is holding a pair of field glasses and resting on his hip . His sword is on his left side . The tiered base is adorned with architectural decoration .