

Hahnemann Monument Restoration Project • Sixteenth Report

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On January 9, 2009, I sent digital photos of the large walnut donor plaque as an email attachment to the American Institute of Homeopathy Board of Directors, as well as to the Board of the AIHF. Currently, this plaque remains in my office. I have brought it with me today so that our Board members could see it in person.

While the Hahnemann Monument Restoration Project is substantially completed, there are two areas that still require attention. The first is the grounds of the park on which the monument rests, and the second is the inactivated fountain at the rear of the

memorial itself. November 17, 2008, I had sent an email to Jennifer Talken-Spaulling, Cultural Resources Program Manager, National Mall and Memorial Parks of the National Park Service, inquiring about these matters. An email reply from her of 11/25/2008 and a subsequent telephone conversation prompted her to renew conversations with the original project personnel and the Resource Management Staff that have been involved in this project since 2004 when the Project Agreement was signed. However, further work was deferred until the spring of 2009. My 03/23/2009 email to Ms. Talken-Spaulling having been stymied by their email filters, I followed up with a telephone call. The result of our exchanges is the resolution of the first matter with the replacement of the oak sapling depicted in this photograph. Its placement and its prior existence in that place is illustrated in the plat that the NPS has for the monument's triangular park.



The final piece of the Hahnemann Monument Restoration Project is the most knotty. From my original onsite meeting with NPS officials, November 26, 2003, it had been made clear that the fountain at the rear of the memorial (pictured at left) would present the biggest challenge. Washington, DC, would no longer agree to the activation of a fountain that did not re-circulate its water. Further, even if such an alteration were possible, the presence of a working fountain would prove to be an attractive nuisance, which could damage the memorial due to misuse. The alternative plan raised even at that initial meeting was to replace the circular concrete slab (see photograph at right) resting on top of the fountain basin with some more attractive alternative. Having made Ms. Talken-Spaulling aware of the history of the restoration, including providing historic correspondence,

she has come to understand that this is part of the original restoration plan. However, in the current economic climate, there is no room in the NPS budget for this final restoration in the next two years. When I informed her that there were further monies in the HMRP funds that could be used to expedite and facilitate the completion of the project, Ms. Talken-Spaulling called for another onsite meeting with myself and other NPS officials, including Karen Cucurullo, who manages their public/private contracts and with whom I had worked earlier in this project. This onsite meeting is not likely to happen until later in May due to Ms. Talken-Spaulling's other responsibilities. At that time, I will go down to the monument to meet with the National Park Service principals.

