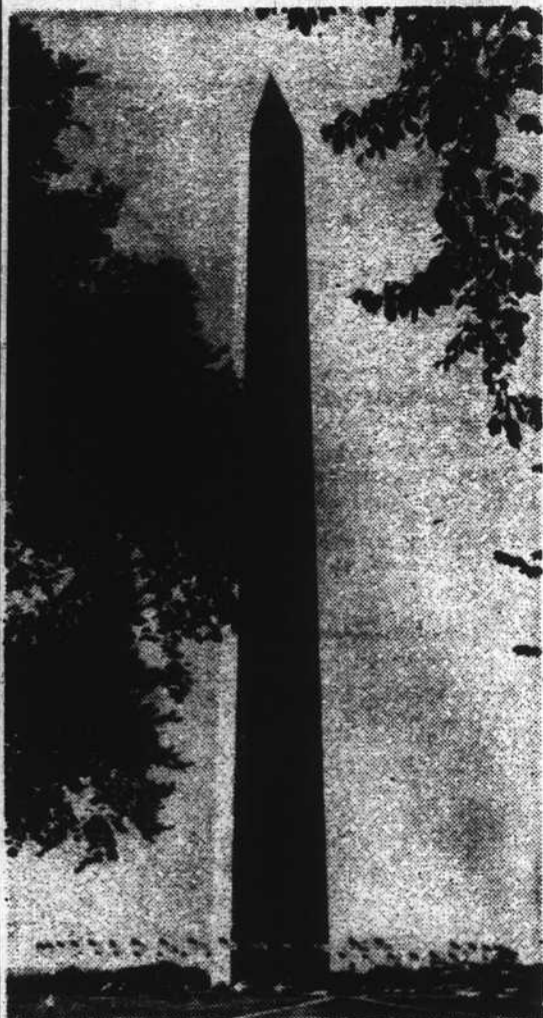


Story of the Monument



WASHINGTON

One landmark of the nation's capital that every visitor sees is the Washington Monument.

Towering 555 feet and 5 1/2 inches, the monument is one of the most popular attractions for the more than one million visitors who come to Washington each year. To those who arrive by air, it is a thrilling sight, whether viewed from a passing air liner or from the ground according to American Airlines.

The great marble obelisk has a capstone made of aluminum. According to one report it cost more than \$1 an ounce when it was placed on the monument in 1884.

As early as the 1780s the Continental Congress considered establishing a memorial to the country's first President, but nothing happened. Then in 1833, a group was organized to undertake the building of a great monument to George Washington. After considerable discussion, a design submitted by a Robert Mills was selected and in 1848 the cornerstone was laid.

But political arguments developed, and by the middle of the 1850s barely 150 feet of the monument had been completed. For more than two decades, no work was done on the project. Then the Federal government took over, and the monument finally was completed.

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