



GRAND ARMY PLAZA

HOLIDAY SALUTE BY WHISKEY BRAVO

Grand Army Plaza, located at the Park's southeast entrance, is actually two symmetrical plazas bisected by 59th Street, a design inspired by the Place de la Concorde in Paris. In the southern plaza is the opulent Pulitzer Fountain, and standing proudly in the northern plaza is a dazzling gold-coated monument to Union General William Tecumseh Sherman.

Of the four corners of Central Park, Grand Army Plaza is the only one that is officially part of the Park's 843-acre landscape. Originally, Park designers Calvert Vaux and Frederick Law Olmsted preferred a modest tree-lined design. But in 1899, Karl Bitter, an Austrian-born architectural sculptor, proposed a new plaza and fountain in the Beaux-Arts style of sweeping Parisian avenues, gold, and splendor. Twelve years later, his vision was funded by journalist and publisher Joseph Pulitzer, who left \$50,000 in his will for the express purpose of building Bitter's majestic design.

The plaza was finished in 1916. The style may be inspired by Paris, but the name and spirit are distinctly American. The name comes from the Grand Army of the Potomac, a fraternal organization comprised of Union Army veterans. After the Civil War, General Sherman moved to New York City and could be spotted taking his daily horse and carriage ride through Central Park.

The area offers visitors plenty of benches and stunning tulip displays each spring, which are tended by Conservancy staff.

Taken from: centralparknyc.gov

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