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Monument to Six Million Jewish Martyrs

By Kristin Hankins

Monument to Six Million Jewish Martyrs, at Sixteenth and Arch Streets at the start of the jamin Franklin Parkway, is an 18-foot, 5-ton bronze sculpture by Nathan Rapoport (1911-1987). Dedicated on April 26, 1964, it was the first public monument memorializing victims of the Holocaust in North America and the only such monument in Philadelphia. In 2018, the surrounding triangular site, previously populated by several trees, was reimagined as the Horwitz-Wasserman Holocaust Memorial Plaza. Although the plaza formally marked the space around Monument to Six Million Jewish Martyrs as a site of remembrance, reflection, and education, the sculpture has been an educationally and culturally significant landmark since its installation.