



. *Pilgrimage*
. *Memory*
. *Reflection*
. *Healing*
. *Education*

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER

SITE SELECTION STUDY ENVIRONMENT ANALYSIS Public Comment Draft

Prepared for:

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND

by:

James Cummings, AIA
Washington, DC

Arnold Associates
Princeton, New Jersey

George Dickie, AIA ASLA
State College, Pennsylvania

STV, Inc
Dougllassville, Pennsylvania

26 January 2005



*Read the names,
Remember them all,
Sacrifice, Courage,
They answered the call.
- anonymous*

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The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund created the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, dedicated in 1982, and has worked in partnership with the National Park Service since then to care for the Memorial. The Fund has recently developed a vision for a center to be built near the Memorial that would allow the Memorial to remain a vibrant and important commemorative work into the foreseeable future.

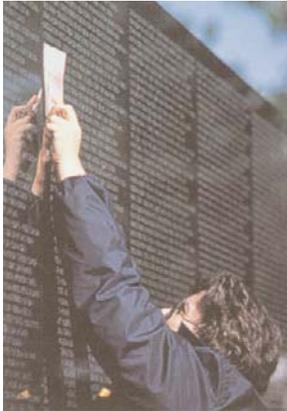
Congress approved of that vision, and enacted legislation authorizing the installation of a center to educate the public about the Memorial and the Vietnam War. The legislation stipulates that the Center be underground and be designed in a way that preserves the setting of the Memorial and the unique qualities of the National Mall.

In compliance with the Commemorative Works Act, the Fund has commissioned this site study prepared by James Cummings, AIA, the current Architect-of-Record for the Memorial; Arnold Associates, the original Landscape Architects for the Memorial; George Dickie, AIA ASLA, the Architect for the Women's Vietnam Memorial; and, STV Inc, Consulting Engineers.

A thorough process of analysis, with recommendation, was enacted and is recorded in this report, including:

1. Development of overall Program Principles
(page 3)
2. Development of Site Selection Criteria
(page 12)
3. Consideration of the seven available sites
(page 9)
4. Analysis of compliance with the Site Selection Criteria
(page 30)
5. Recommendation of the only site in compliance with the Criteria: Site A, at Henry Bacon Drive
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Vision

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund is dedicated to the mission of preserving the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and its legacy of commemoration, inspiration and healing. Working in partnership with the National Park Service for nearly 25 years, the Fund has been serving that mission. In recent years, the Fund has developed a vision for a center to be established near the Memorial to enhance the visitor experience that would preserve the legacy of the Memorial and allow it to remain a vibrant and important commemorative work on the National Mall into the foreseeable future.

Authorization

On 17 November 2003, the legislation authorizing the creation of a Vietnam Veterans Memorial Center was signed into Law (Appendix A: PL 108-126). The legislation requires that the Center be at or near the Memorial, and be established to better inform and educate the public about the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the Vietnam War. The law requires that the building be built underground, not encroach on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the open space and visual sightlines on the National Mall, and constructed in a manner harmonious with the site of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and consistent with the special nature and sanctity of the National Mall.

Partnership

Working in consultation with the National Park Service, and in compliance with the authorizing legislation, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund has accepted the challenge to design and develop the Center. The Fund has convened an Advisory Board of veterans, historians, authors, educators and scholars to consider the nature of the exhibit to be housed at the Center. At the same time, the Fund has initiated the process required by the Commemorative Works Act to determine a suitable site for the Center.

In January of 2004, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund asked James Cummings, AIA, the current Architect-of-Record for the Memorial, to assemble a team to evaluate and recommend a potential location. The team includes Arnold Associates, who were the original Landscape Architects for the Memorial, and George Dickie, AIA ASLA, the Architect of the Vietnam Women's Memorial. Henry Arnold and George Dickie were members of the original design team for Constitution Gardens, in which the Memorial is located. The assembled study team provided the site study and design of the In Memory Plaque, recently added to the Memorial grounds. STV, Inc has provided consultation regarding matters of structural, civil and mechanical engineering.

Purpose

It is the Purpose of this Study to recommend the most suitable location for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Center, closely related to the Memorial experience, to support the stated vision for the Center.

The site must be closely related to the Memorial to provide an experience that would be extended, related, informative and supportive of the commemoration present at the existing Memorial. The site must also be sufficiently independent so that any impact of the Center would not become harmful to the Memorial it supports.

The following process was used to determine the most suitable site for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Center:

1. Program Principles for the overall project were developed, while working in consultation with the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund and the National Park Service, and including the limitations of the authorizing legislation.
2. The objectives for the Center were stated in the form of a Preliminary Design Program (Appendix B) for the project. It is understood that the program for the Center will be adjusted as part of the building design process, and as knowledge of the Center, its site, and its exhibit unfold.
3. Site Selection Criteria were developed in response to the Preliminary Design Program (the Program) requirements.
4. All potential sites were identified, using the guidance of the Program to limit the area of study to the western half of the National Mall.
5. The potential sites were tested against the Site Selection Criteria. Sites clearly not meeting these criteria were eliminated from further consideration.
6. The remaining potential sites were each analyzed in detail.
7. Design Guidelines for each site were formulated to improve conformance with the Site Selection Criteria. Not all sites could be brought into compliance with the Site Selection Criteria.
8. The sites were evaluated on the basis of which Site Selection Criteria they met to determine a recommendation.

After consultation with the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund and the National Park Service, the following Program Principles were established for the Center, when considering the overall project. These six Principles are stated in order of priority.

1. Preserve the existing Vietnam Veterans Memorial

The highest priority is clear. The existing Memorial and its profound visitor experience must be preserved. It is not possible to achieve any of the objectives stated below if this first Principle is not met.

2. Enhance the Visitor Experience

The second priority is also clear. A visit to the Center cannot be a competing or distracting experience. It must improve a visitor experience of the Memorial.

3. Comply with the Authorizing Legislation

Congress weighed the potential benefit of the Center on the National Mall against its potential intrusion. The authorization for the Center is stipulated, with clearly stated limitations.

4. Preserve the National Mall

The preservation of the National Mall is a simple requirement of good design and planning. This Principle is also explicitly required by the authorizing legislation, and is intrinsic in preserving the Memorial by preserving its setting.

5. Consider the Impacts of the Functional Requirements of the Center

A Center designed to accommodate an active visitation, even if principally underground, will have an impact on its surroundings. These potential impacts must be considered.

6. Consider the Practical Concerns of Construction

As a final priority, the environment of the National Mall presents certain restrictions on construction options. These options, and the potential disruption by construction itself, should be considered.

Each of these six Program Principles are elaborated and explained in more detail in the Preliminary Design Program located in Appendix B to this report. The final Program for the exhibit and building will be determined as the understanding of the exhibit unfolds and after the site has been selected and approved. This recognizes that the final Program will be informed by the site.



ANALYSIS: EXISTING SITE FEATURES



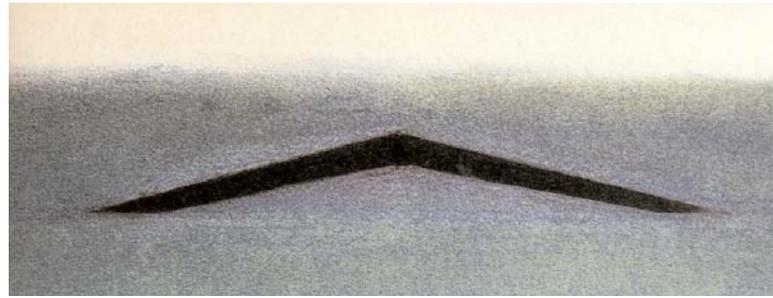
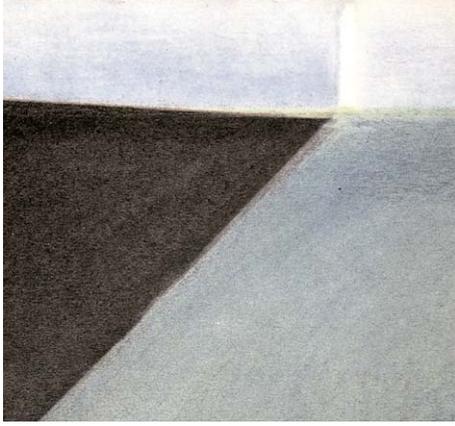
Walking through this park-like area, the memorial appears as a rift in the earth—a long, polished black stone wall, emerging from and receding into the earth. Approaching the memorial, the ground slopes gently downward and the low walls emerging on either side, growing out of the earth, extend and converge at the origin. As the walls rise into the air, they are surrounded by the walls of this memorial. We can barely make out the carved names upon the memorial's walls. These names, seemingly infinite in number, convey the sense of overwhelming numbers, while unifying the individuals into a whole. For this memorial is meant not as a monument to the individual, but rather as a memorial to the men and women who died during this war, as a whole.

The memorial is composed not as an unchanging monument, but as a moving composition, to be understood as we move into and out of it; the passage itself is gradual, the descent to the origin slow, but it is at the origin that the meaning of this memorial is to fully understood. At the intersection of these walls, on the right side, at this wall's top is carved the date of the first death. It is followed by the names of those who have died in the war, in chronological order. These names continue on this wall, appearing to recede into the earth at the wall's end. The names resume on the left wall, as the wall emerges from the earth, continuing back to the origin, where the date of the last death is carved, at the bottom of this wall. Thus the war's beginning and end meet; the war is "complete", coming full circle, yet broken by the earth that bounds the long walls. As we approach the origin, and as we begin to leave, we see these walls stretching into the distance, directing us to the Washington Monument to the left and the Lincoln Memorial to the right, thus bringing the Vietnam Memorial into the context of the city's life and bringing to a private remembrance of each death.

Brought to a quiet place, such a loss, it is up to each individual to resolve or come to terms with this loss. For death is in the end a personal and private matter, and the area contained within this memorial is a quiet place meant for personal reflection and private reckoning. The black granite walls, each 200 feet long, and 10 feet below ground at their lowest point (gradually ascending towards ground level) effectively act as a sound barrier, yet are of such a height and length so as not to appear threatening or enclosing. The walls, at their ends, are designed to provide privacy and the sunlight from the memorial's southern exposure along with the grassy park surrounding and within it will contribute to the serenity of the area. Thus this memorial is for those who have died, and for us to remember them.

The memorial's origin is located approximately at the center of this site; its legs each extending 200 feet towards the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial. The walls, contained on one side by the earth, are 10 feet below ground at their point of origin, gradually lessening in height, until they finally recede totally into the earth at their ends. The walls are to be made of a hard, polished black granite, with the names to be carved in a simple Trajan letter, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch high, allowing for nine inches in length for each name. The memorial's construction involves recontouring the area within the wall's boundaries so as to provide for an easily accessible descent, but as much of the site as possible should be left untouched (including trees). The area should be made into a park for all the public to enjoy.

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL



Maya Lin, the designer of the original Memorial, conceived of the Wall as a “rift in the earth, found in a park-like setting.” The wings of the Wall anchor the Memorial in the context of the National Mall, pointing toward the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument.

She envisioned people approaching the Wall from the southeast in a way that the list of names would be “seemingly infinite in number” and “convey the sense of overwhelming numbers while unifying those individuals into a whole.”

Her concept for the area of the Memorial grounds visually engaged by the Wall would be “a quiet place meant for personal reflection and private reckoning,” where “its walls contribute to the serenity of the area.”

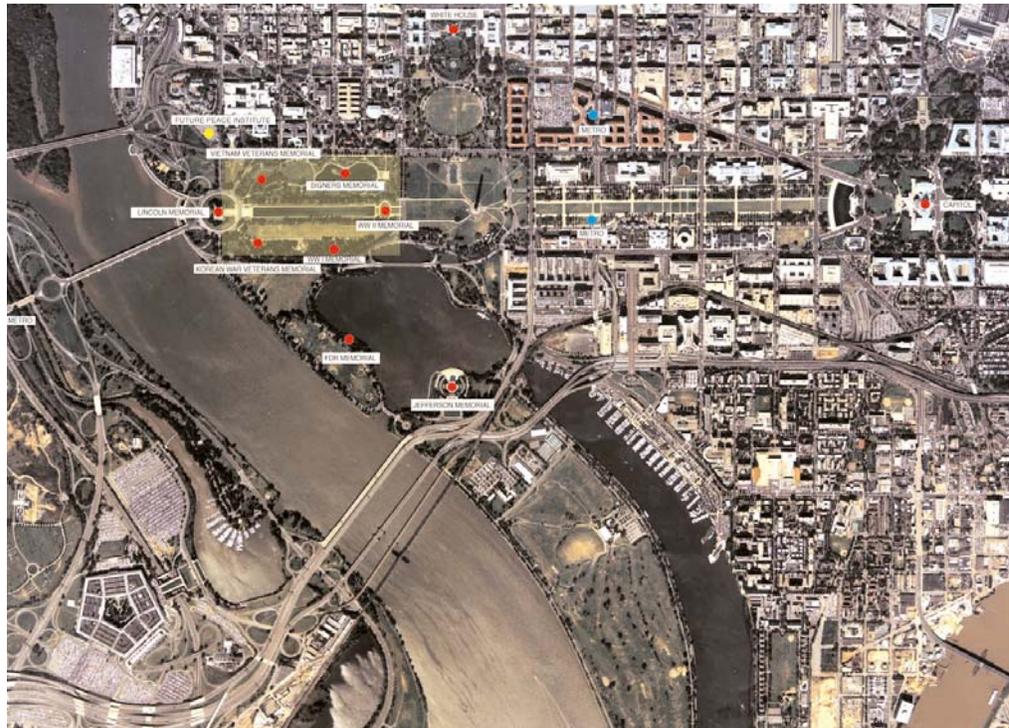


When the Three Servicemen Statue and flag were added in 1984, the site design solution proposed by the Cooper-Lecky Partnership created a more structured entrance experience for the Memorial, but retained Maya’s vision that the Wall should be perceived as a whole, approached from the south.

The addition of the Woman’s Vietnam Memorial extended the sense of discovery established in the original Memorial design, and has been well integrated into the informal arrangement of elements in the park.

The intentional concepts of presenting the list of names to be discovered as seemingly infinite, while the south-facing Memorial resides in a serene park that shelters the visitor for a moment of quiet reckoning, are important elements of the visitor experience and must be preserved.





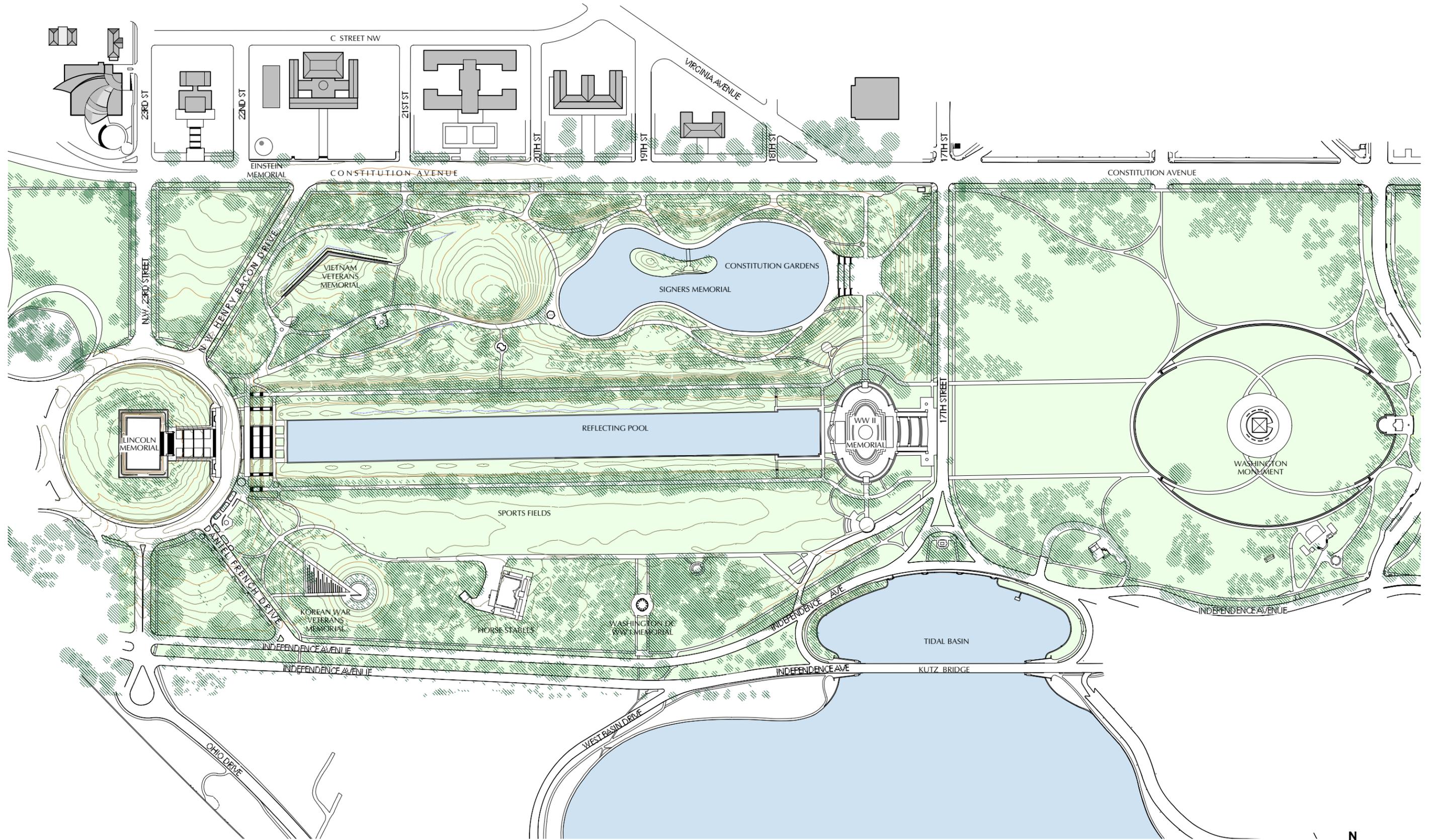
The Vietnam Veterans Memorial is located in northwest corner of the National Mall in the western end of Constitution Gardens close to the Lincoln Memorial.

The National Mall is a wide, cruciform park with limits that are generally defined by the presence of the Capitol Building, the Lincoln Memorial, the White House and the Jefferson Memorial. The Washington Monument, set on a significant rise at the crossing of the major axes in the park, acts as a central, unifying element while the hill on which it resides effectively divides the park at eye level into large quarters.

The perimeter of the park is defined on several sides by structures that create a unified “urban wall.” On the west, and to the south, the park opens to the Potomac River.

The center of the park is reserved for quiet pedestrian circulation, while the perimeter is bounded by busy arterial roadways. Public transportation is limited to the several Metro stations indicated on the photograph. Vehicular parking is also limited, so most visitors to the western end of the National Mall arrive by private bus service.

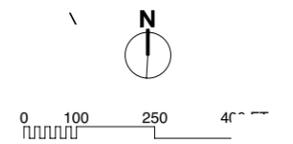
The authorizing legislation for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Center stipulates that the Center should be at or near the Memorial. With that requirement, and the existing constraints of the overall site, the principle area of study of this report has been limited to the park west of 17th Street and bounded by Constitution Avenue on the north and Independence Avenue on the south. This area is shown highlighted in yellow.



VICINITY PLAN

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER
26 January 2005

James Cummings, AIA Washington, DC • Arnold Associates Princeton, NJ



Location

The Vicinity Plan indicates the location of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in the western end of the National Mall. The presence of two of the five major memorials, the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument, is indicated. The plan also shows how Maya Lin's organizing design concept of directing the arms of the Memorial at these two major monuments "anchors" the Memorial in the park.

There are several other existing and planned memorials indicated on the plan. Similar to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, these are located near the edges of the park where the perimeter roadways make them accessible. This arrangement diminishes the number of visitors that cross the center of the park allowing it to remain quiet and peaceful.

Vegetation

The National Mall is a park with many trees and limited understory planting. The trees are occasionally arranged in formal ranks, as in the grand Elm Allée in the center of the park, or in informal groupings, but they always feature a ground-level transparency that supports an overall sense of openness with vistas.

Topography

The western end of the National Mall was created as landfill and features little topographic variation. The major memorials are raised on hills, and there are limited flood control barriers. Constitution Gardens features carefully sculpted topography, unlike the majority of the park, and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was carefully conceived to take advantage of this quality of the park.

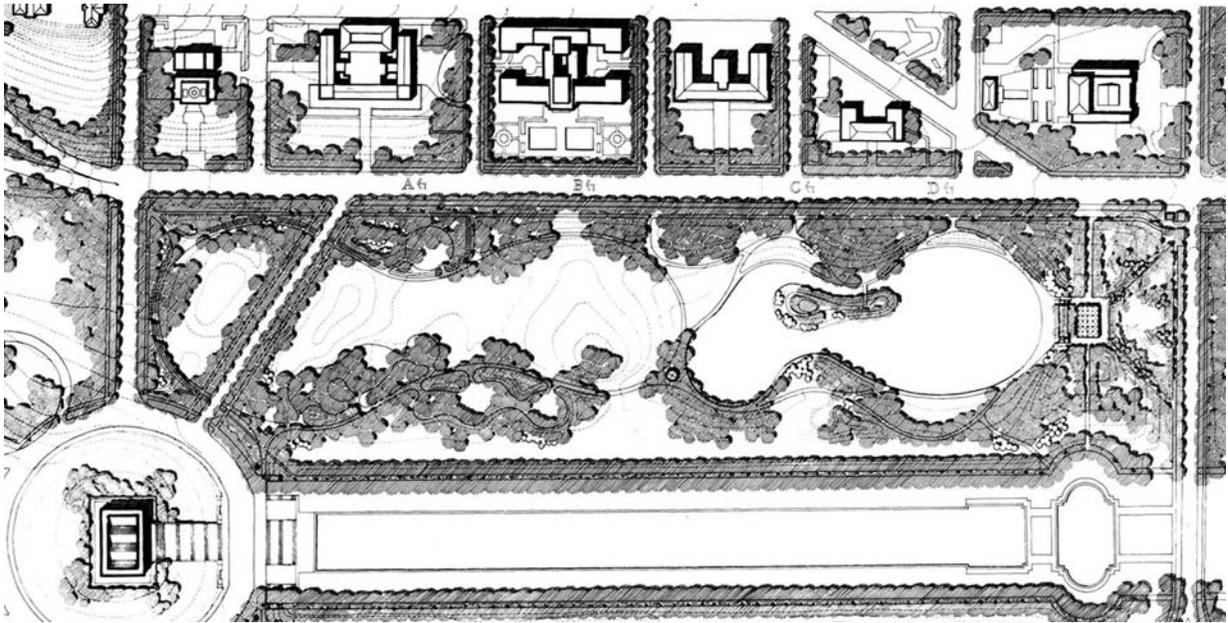
Lighting

The nighttime character of the National Mall is dramatic. The daytime experience of large memorials raised above the pedestrian levels of the park is heightened when these buildings are brightly illuminated over the shadowy tree canopy.

At night, the great expanse of the park is provided with low levels of lighting, sufficient for pedestrian traffic and safety. These pedestrian areas of the park are generally under the tree canopies, so the presence of walkway lighting is subtle and limited to the immediate area of the path system. The effect of the light-colored memorials, seen in bright contrast to their surroundings, whether in axial vistas or through the darkened understory of the trees, is striking.

Flood protection

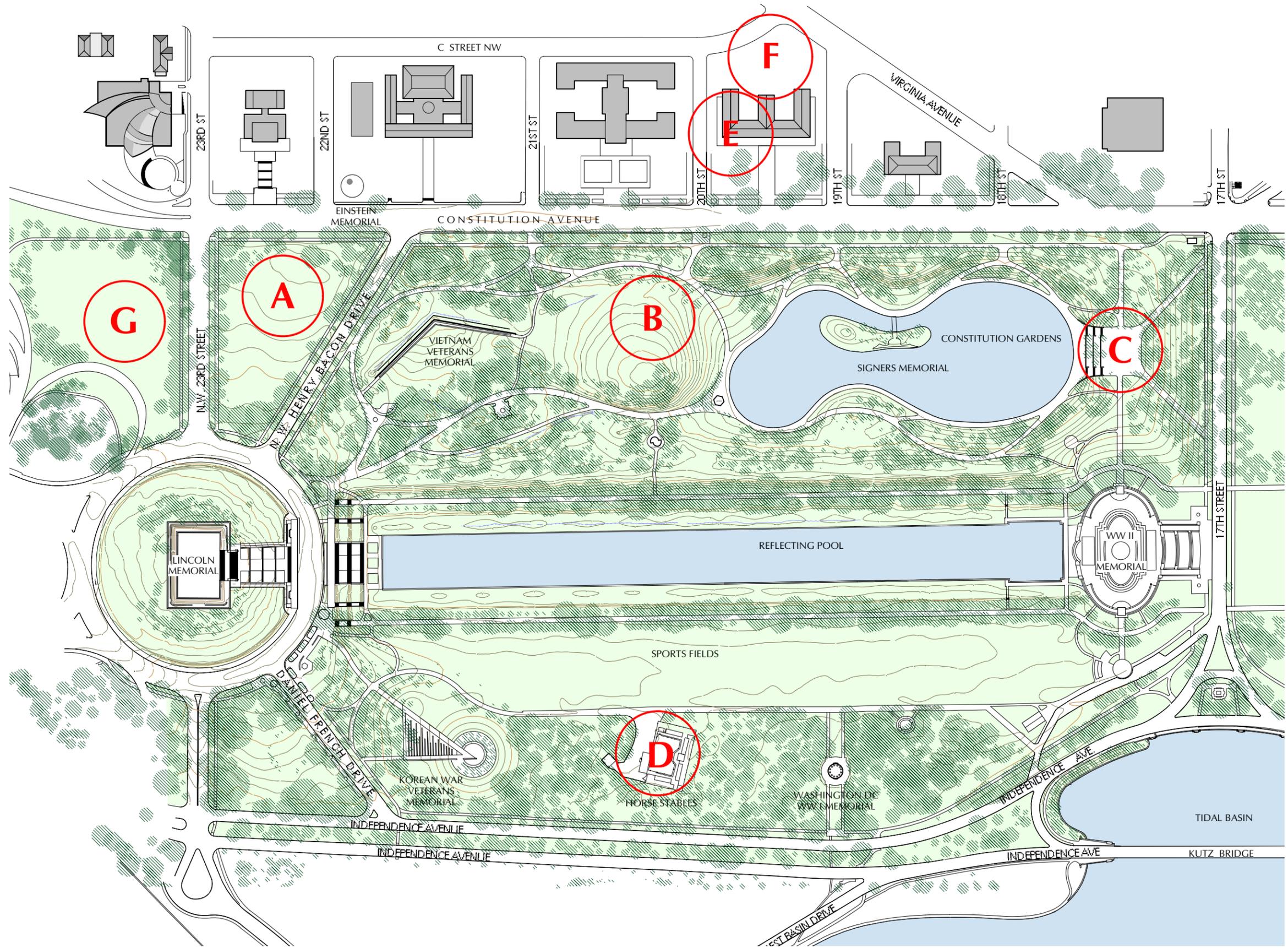
Large areas of the National Mall exist in either the 30-year or 100-year flood plains. Close to the river, and constructed as landfill, there is also a relatively shallow water table. All sites considered in this report are affected by one, or both, of these issues. Current construction techniques exist to accommodate these conditions, so they have not been made a priority in site consideration.



The design concept for Constitution Gardens, as it was conceived 30 years ago, defined a sweeping vision for the western end of the National Mall that resulted in the existing park, which is recognized today as a Cultural Landmark. As the setting for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, it is an essential part of the Memorial experience.

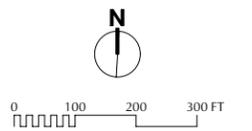
The original plan drawing, shown above, illustrates the design concepts. The landscape of Constitution Gardens provides an informal experience with an intimate scale, in contrast with the more monumentally-scaled formal geometry east of the Washington Monument and along the center east-west axis of the park.

Constitution Gardens features an intentional sculpting of the ground plane and the plantings to form smaller-scale outdoor spaces. Some spaces are visually placid and acoustically isolated, giving the park an irregular and varied atmosphere. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial was designed to merge well with this sequence of spaces, as Maya Lin took advantage of this “park-like setting” to use her memorial to “contribute to the serenity of the area” and enhance this “quiet place meant for personal reflection and private reckoning.”



SITE LOCATION PLAN
 VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER
 12 January 2005

James Cummings, AIA Washington, DC • Arnold Associates Princeton, NJ



A review of the overall area and its context resulted in the identification of seven potential sites that might meet the requirements of the program for the Center. The sites, shown on the Vicinity Plan, were designated with the letters A through G, without any intended order of priority, and are described as follows:

Site A : The open land in the roughly triangular land area between Henry Bacon Drive, 23rd Street, Constitution Avenue and the Lincoln Memorial.

Site B : The knoll between the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Constitution Lake, Constitution Avenue and the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool.

Site C : The terraced area at the east end of Constitution Lake, near 17th Street.

Site D : The site of the temporary US Park Police Stables, east of the Korean War Veterans Memorial.

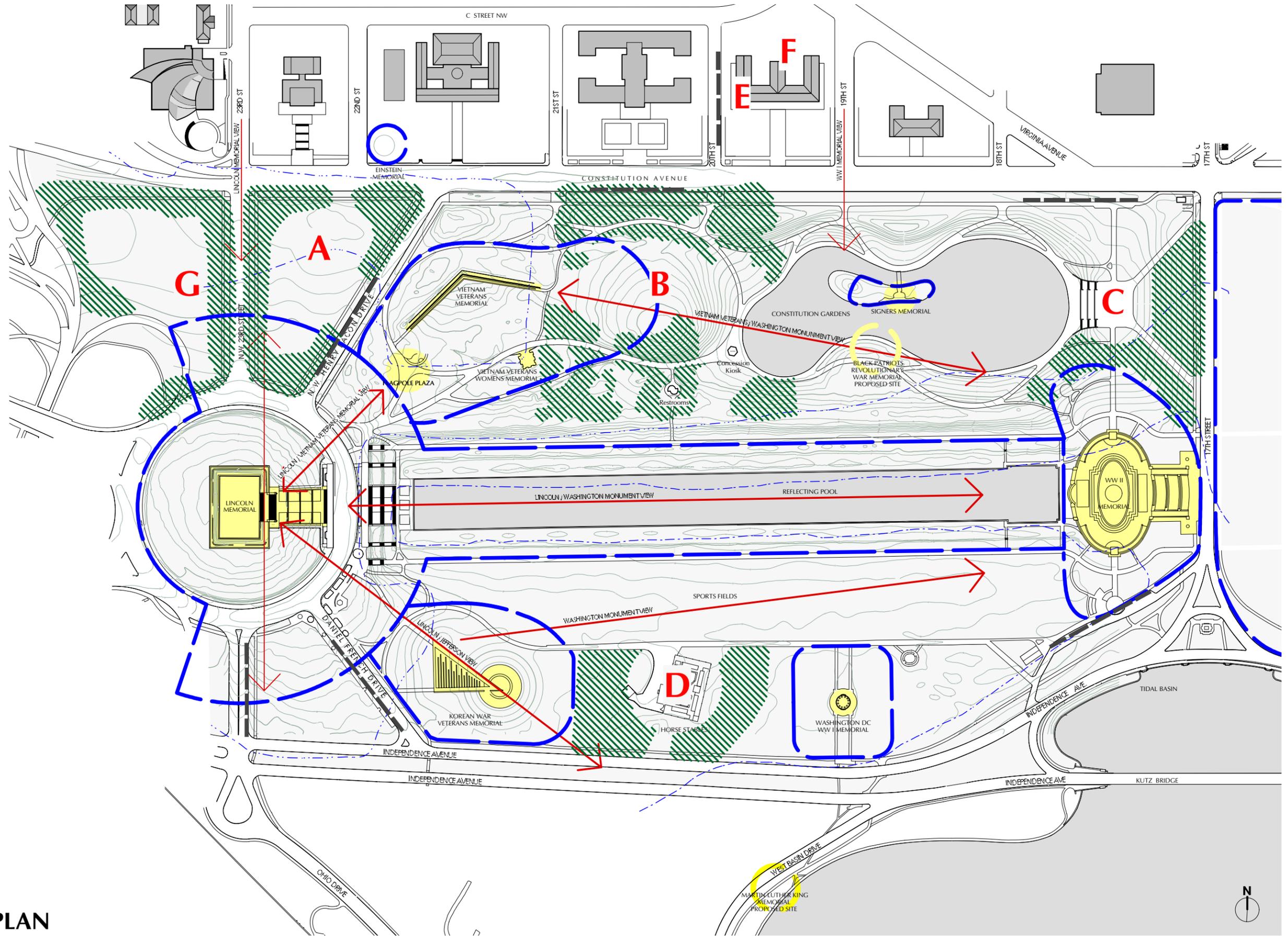
Site E : The Department of Interior South Building, north of Constitution Avenue at 20th Street.

Site F : The open land north of the Department of the Interior South Building, on Virginia Avenue and C Street.

Site G : The open land west of 23rd Street and south of Constitution Avenue.

KEY

-  Tree to preserve
-  Existing memorial
-  Water
-  Limit of Influence
-  Future memorial
-  Critical view shed / vista
-  Significant view shed / vista



Visitor Circulation

Primary visitor access to the west end of the National Mall is by private bus service. Bus drop-off points are shown on the plan and currently result in a pedestrian traffic pattern that is primarily from south to north, and is focused on the east end and west end of the study area.

Vegetation

Tree groves critical to preserve at each of the considered sites are shown. These areas of trees are significant because they are historic, include specimen-quality trees, or are intrinsic to the experience of adjacent protected areas of the park. They become a serious consideration in defining the maximum useable area of each considered site.

Vistas

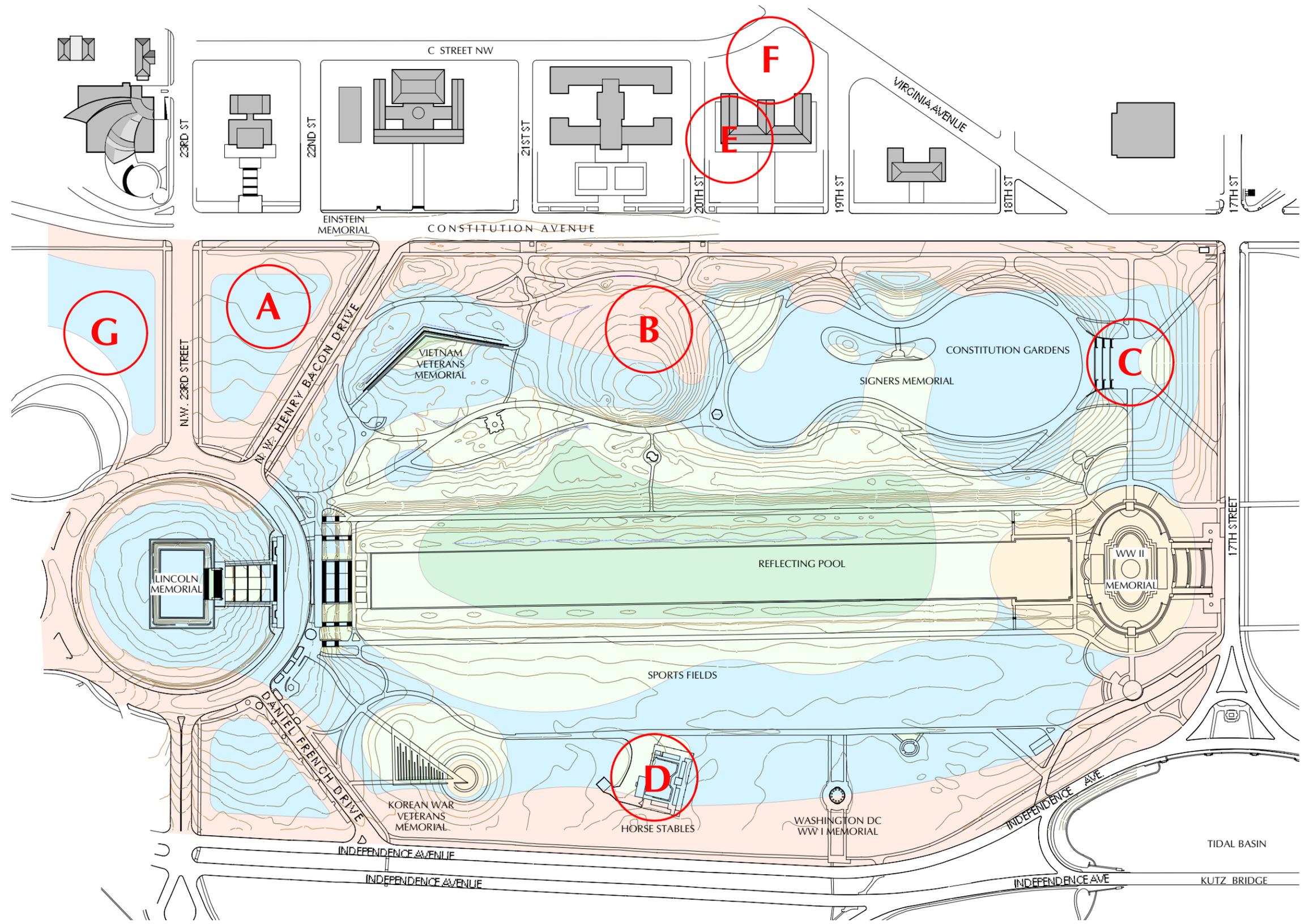
In the study area, several critical view sheds and vistas deserve recognition, notably the views in and out of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, as well as the vistas among the major memorials. Views down 23rd Street and 17th Street are historically significant while connecting the National Mall and its memorials to the City to the north. The view down 19th Street reaches from the city to the DC World War Veterans Memorial near Independence Avenue. These lines of sight must be protected from intrusion because they are integral links in the visual experience of the National Mall.

Memorial Limits of Influence

Areas of the park, which surround existing memorials, and are required to protect their integrity, are indicated. Each zone is identified as a "Limit of Influence" and represents the area where a visual intrusion or sound intrusion would distract from a visitor's experience of the memorial.

KEY

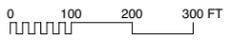
	Traffic louder than conversation
	Conversation louder than traffic
	Park sounds louder than traffic
	Park sound (no traffic noise)
	Fountain louder than traffic



SOUND DIAGRAM

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER
26 January 2005

James Cummings, AIA Washington, DC • Arnold Associates Princeton, NJ



GENERAL SITE FEATURES

Sound Analysis

A sound analysis of the park was made in an effort to quantify the sound levels within the study area as they relate to the tranquility of the park and the need to preserve the quiet setting of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Four distinct levels of ambient sound were identified for the purpose of this analysis, and are shown on the plan diagram.

Listening to the sound levels at mid-day, during August, when visitation at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial is high, it was found that the sound of street traffic is louder than casual conversation along the perimeter of the park. There is a zone, inside the park, where conversation is louder than street noise. Further in, or where protected from the street by the terrain or planting, the sound of rustling leaves is louder than traffic. At the center of the park, there is a zone where motor vehicle traffic can be seen but not heard.

Visual Activity Analysis

Similar to the effect of sound on the perception of tranquility, visual activity can be disruptive to the serenity of the setting of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Currently, distracting visual activity is focused at the edges of the park along Independence and Constitution Avenues, and 23rd Street. The steady, fast-moving traffic on these perimeter roadways creates visual boundaries for the park and psychological barriers for pedestrians.



Photographs of special events near the Vietnam Veterans Memorial show how the presence of large numbers of visitors in the park can become an intrusion in the more quiet areas around the Memorial. In these photographs, the groups are less than 50 people, but fill the capacity of the park. This emphasizes the need to plan any changes to the park to channel intensive pedestrian flows away from intentional quiet areas in order to preserve their serenity.



SITE SELECTION CRITERIA

MANDATORY CRITERIA

To meet a criterion the site must:

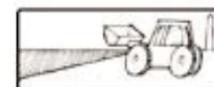
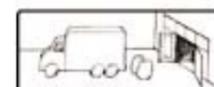
1. Not intrude on critical views of the National Mall, notably:
 - a. From the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument
 - b. From the Lincoln Memorial steps and from the Washington Monument
2. Allow the Memorial and the Center to be mutually supporting so that each can increase the other's use by:
 - a. Being within less than ten minutes aggregate walking time from the bus drop-off to the Flagpole Plaza, using an average walking speed of 264 feet per minute, or three miles per hour.
 - b. Visually connecting the Center entry and exit with the Flagpole Plaza.
 - c. Not crossing a busy arterial roadway.
3. Not impinge on the tranquility of the park's special quiet spaces within the Memorial's Limit of Influence.
4. Define a direct, continuous experience from the Center to the Flagpole Plaza, as a prelude to arriving at the Wall by way of the accepted entry point for the Memorial.



SUPPLEMENTARY CRITERIA

To meet a criterion the site must:

5. Allow appropriate visual identification of the entry for people to find the Center, within the constraints imposed by the other Criteria and in keeping with the limited use of signs and other graphics on the National Mall.
6. Avoid distractions from other memorials, and minimize conflicts with other memorial settings.
7. Not require above-grade mechanical equipment and other above-grade building elements within critical views and memorial Limits of Influence as depicted on the Site Analysis Plan.
8. Preserve the design quality, transparency of vegetation, gently curving contours, path alignments and plant groupings of Constitution Gardens as a Cultural Landmark, maintaining original concept for grading and planting.
9. Limit damage and prevent loss of all existing trees on the National Mall.
10. Protect views of the National Mall from visual intrusion, especially increased service vehicle use.
11. Allow effective skylights outside of critical views and memorial Limits of Influence as depicted on the Site Analysis Plan.
12. Provide outdoor paved gathering space, near the Center's entrance (preferably in tree shade) to allow queuing and gathering for anticipated large groups of people and for possible security screening. Allow gathering space near the Center exit.
13. Permit primary access and egress by accessible walks and ramps to accommodate intensive pedestrian traffic in each direction.
14. Allow accessibility for deliveries, service, emergency and security vehicles within the constraints imposed by the other Criteria.
15. Minimize impact and duration of disruption of the National Mall during construction.



SITE SELECTION CRITERIA

Before analyzing the available sites further, Site Selection Criteria were developed that support the Program Principles for the project and the Preliminary Design Program requirements for the Center. These criteria were then used to evaluate each of the sites to determine how well they could satisfy the Program.

The Criteria are developed from the Program Principles and have been weighted with a similar system of priority. Since not all of the Site Selection Criteria have equal weight, they are listed in approximate descending order of importance to simplify comparative evaluation.

Appendix C to this report shows the relationship of each criterion to the Preliminary Design Program objectives.

Mandatory Criteria

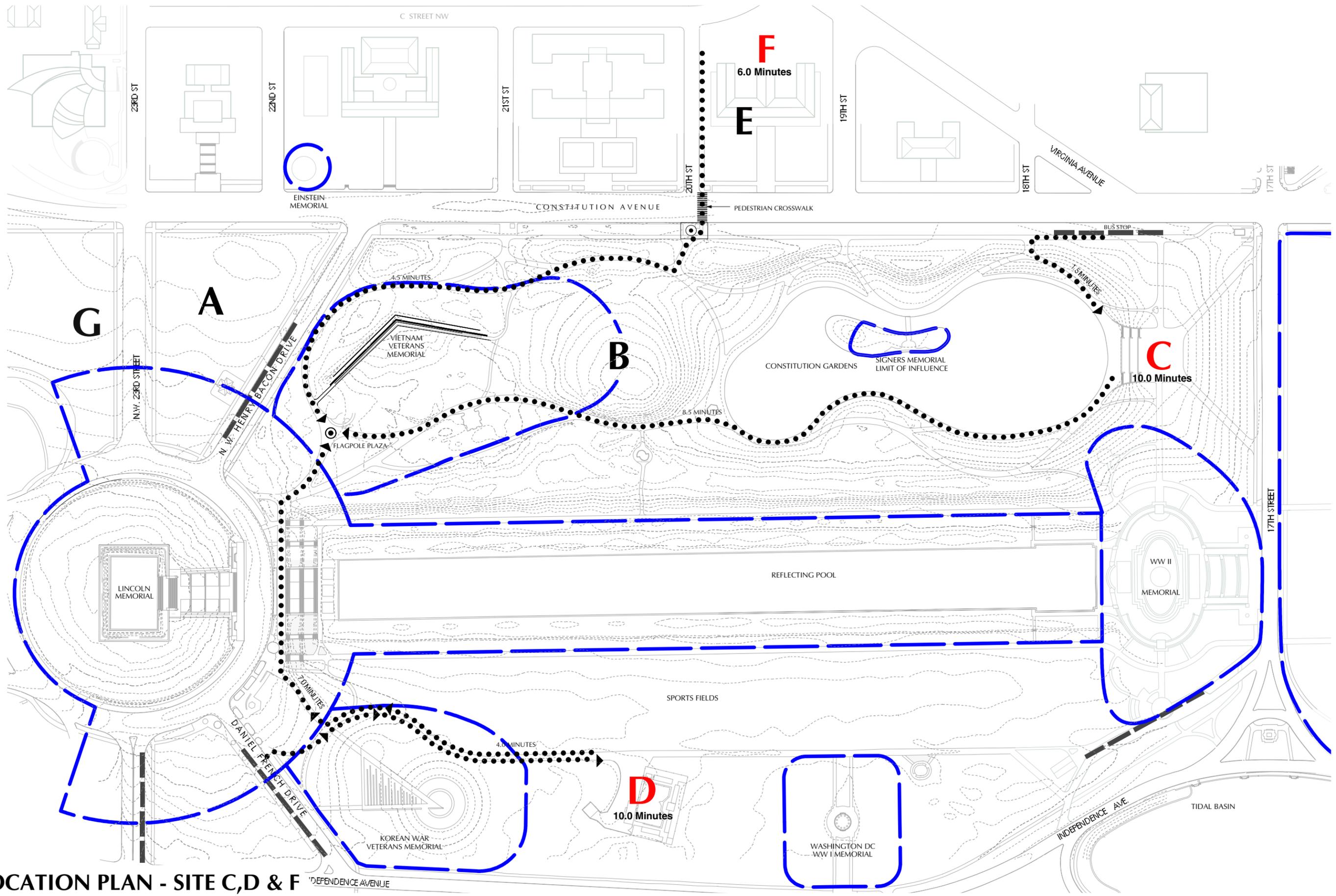
These are the four essential criteria that must be met for a site to be acceptable for detailed analysis.

Supplemental Criteria

Failing to meet one, or more, of these Supplemental Criteria may not eliminate a site from recommendation, but any deficiency would require careful review.



ANALYSIS: CONSIDERED SITES



LOCATION PLAN - SITE C, D & F

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER
26 January 2005

James Cummings, AIA Washington, DC • Arnold Associates Princeton, NJ

SITE ELIMINATIONS : SITES C, D, and F

The Location Plan indicates three of the seven sites identified in the first stage of the selection process which were not developed further. Each of these three sites has some advantages that required study before eliminating it.

Site C occupies an elevated landform with an attractive view across Constitution Lake. Site D could allow the Center to be unobtrusively located in an existing stand of trees at the south edge of the park. Site F, not in the park, easily meets the Site Selection Criteria for preserving the National Mall.

The plan diagram, which reflects a preliminary analysis of the Mandatory Criteria, shows how Sites C, D and F do not relate well to the Memorial, in terms of pedestrian circulation and views. The plan depicts the shortest composite routes from existing or proposed bus drop-off points to the Memorial by way of the Center. The duration of pedestrian travel is measured in walking time. The Plan also makes clear where the pedestrian traffic would enter the Limits of Influence of other memorials.

Site C is too far away, requiring more than ten minutes walking time. The pedestrian path to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial would enter the Limit of Influence of the future Black Revolutionary Patriots War Memorial, to be built along the edge of Constitution Lake, and the Vietnam Women's Memorial. Also, Site C is located in a well-used path between the World War II Memorial and a bus pick-up area.

Site D also exceeds the desired maximum walking distance. The visitor path from the Center to the Memorial would encounter significant interruptions when moving through both the Korean War Veterans Memorial and the Lincoln Memorial Limits of Influence.

Site F is completely separated from the National Mall visually, isolating it from any opportunity for casual connection with the Memorial, and making it difficult to find.

A primary requirement, both implicit and explicit, in the Program for the Center is that the visitor experience be almost continuous with a visitor experience of the Memorial. Sites C, D and F lack both convenient pedestrian access and visual connection to the Memorial. A Center in any of these locations could not become part of the Memorial experience. For these reasons Sites C, D, and F were eliminated from further consideration.

For the remaining sites under consideration, the following process was used to evaluate their potential to satisfy the Site Selection Criteria:

1. A detailed analysis was performed of the existing site.
2. Design Guidelines were developed.

Acknowledging that the design of the Center will be performed in the future, and after a thorough design program will be developed for the project, Design Guidelines have been generated that are specifically site-related. These Guidelines, if incorporated into the final project program, will enhance project compliance with the Site Selection Criteria.

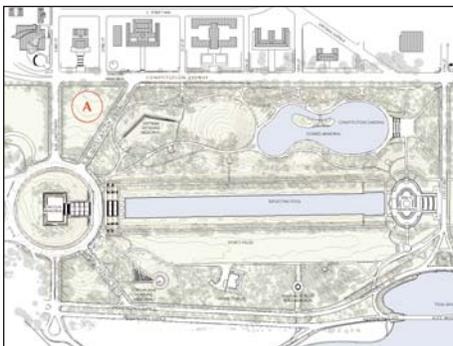
3. A feasibility statement was generated.

As part of the site analysis process, a feasibility statement was developed for each site that describes, in conceptual terms, how the Center could be developed on the site in optimized compliance with the Site Selection Criteria.

Following the complete analysis process, compliance with the Site Selection Criteria of the considered sites was compared in order to determine a recommendation for the location for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Center. The recommendation is included in the Study Conclusions section at the end of this report.

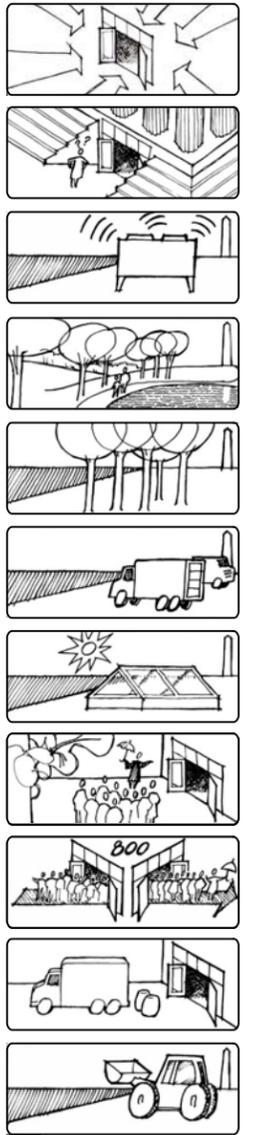
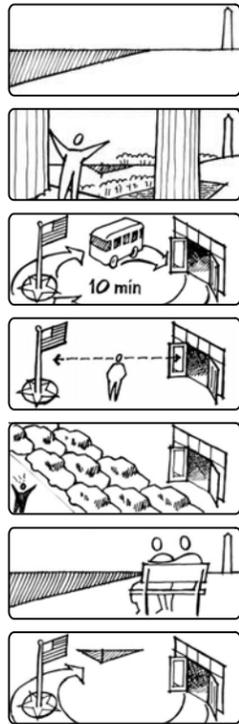


Site A is the roughly triangular area immediately west of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, between Henry Bacon Drive and 23rd Street, and between the Lincoln Memorial and Constitution Avenue. It is located near the Memorial, in the northwest corner of the National Mall.

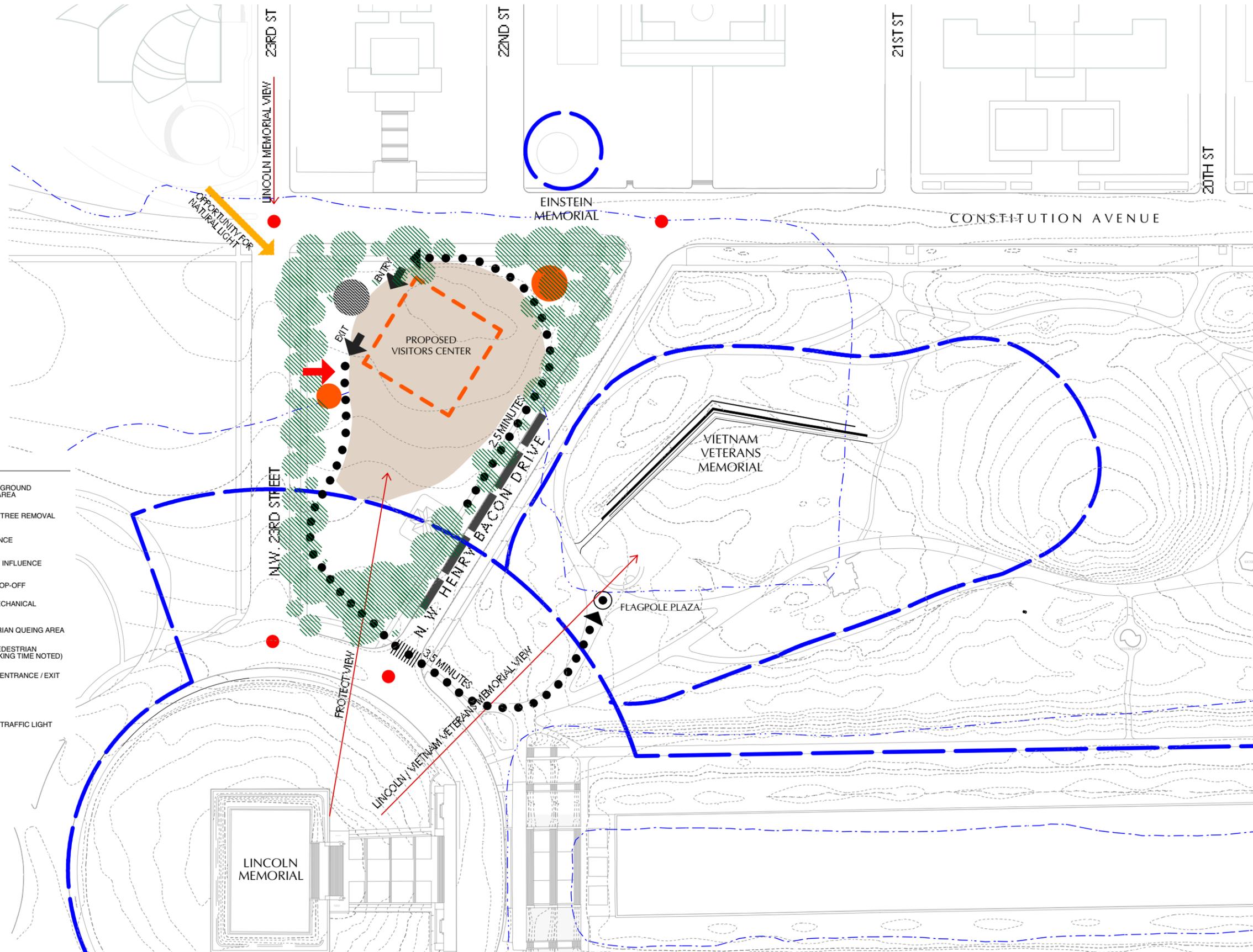


This minimally sloping lawn panel is infrequently used for recreational activities and is surrounded by tall Elm trees on all of the abutting streets.

It is visible under the tree canopy from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Flagpole Plaza, and from Lincoln Circle. The tree canopy conceals the site from view from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, and from the area of 23rd Street north of Constitution Avenue.



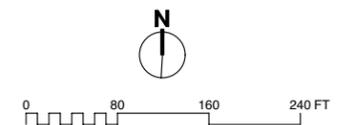
- KEY**
-  PROPOSED BELOW GROUND VISITORS CENTER AREA
 -  NO REGRADING OR TREE REMOVAL
 -  LIMIT OF DISTURBANCE
 -  MEMORIAL LIMIT OF INFLUENCE
 -  PROPOSED BUS DROP-OFF
 -  ABOVE GROUND MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT AREA
 -  OUTDOOR PEDESTRIAN QUEING AREA
 -  VISITOR CENTER PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION (WALKING TIME NOTED)
 -  VISITOR CENTER 'S ENTRANCE / EXIT
 -  SERVICE ACCESS
 -  EXISTING / FUTURE TRAFFIC LIGHT



ANALYSIS - SITE A

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER
26 January 2005

James Cummings, AIA Washington, DC • Arnold Associates Princeton, NJ



The Analysis Plan for Site A indicates that a large, central area of the site could accommodate the construction of an underground building, and required grading, without affecting the existing Elm trees on the site or entering the Limits of Influence of the nearby memorials. Located in the northwest corner of the National Mall, this site is not present in the protected vistas of the park.

The visitor circulation route indicated on the diagram suggests a new path layout that would permit efficient movement from the bus drop-off to the building entry, and from the building exit to the Flagpole Plaza, in a simple gently curving route. This movement, requiring six minutes to walk, would not pass near the more placid zone of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and could deliver visitors to the Flagpole Plaza, the formal entry point for the Memorial.

The convenience of the proposed bus drop-off on Henry Bacon Drive would be offset by its impact on sight lines. When buses are stopped there, views across the Drive will be partially obscured.

Pedestrian circulation would cross Henry Bacon Drive where traffic signal lights and an intermediate island are currently being installed. Current vehicle counts on the drive are as low as 300 per hour during mid-day, when the Memorial is most visited, and the travel speed that is more reflective of a park drive than a busy arterial roadway.

The vocal activity generated by moving 800 persons per hour through the park would occur near the northwest corner of the site, well away from the quiet areas of the park. Re-grading of the site to accommodate building access and egress, by raising the existing grades four to five feet, could also beneficially reduce the turbulence of traffic noise within this end of the National Mall while not obstructing views across the site nor the sense of openness.

An entrance on the north, or western, side of the site would be easily recognizable from the street and would not conflict with any existing memorials. Opportunities for natural light skylights, night lighting protected from view in the park, and entry-related activity can be accommodated in the northwest corner of the site to avoid encroaching on critical sight lines.

Service and emergency vehicle access, and mechanical systems equipment, can be accommodated on 23rd Street without invading the quieter spaces of the National Mall. The location of the site, in the northwest corner of the park, would reduce construction impact on the National Mall and existing memorials.

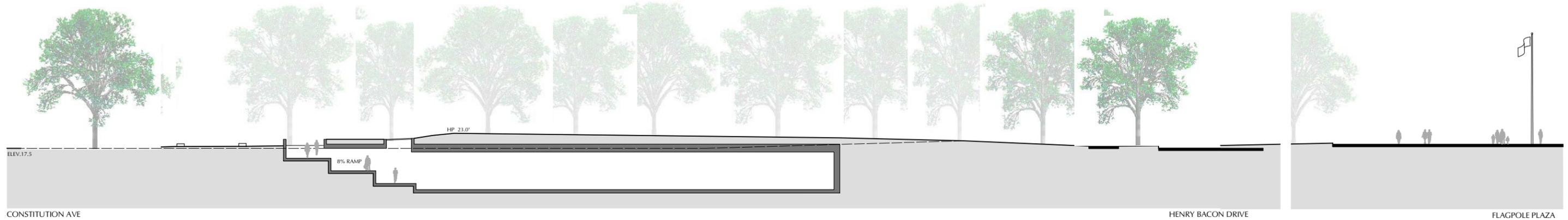


SITE A : DESIGN GUIDELINES

Design Guidelines were prepared to enhance Site A conformance to the Site Selection Criteria. The Guidelines do not ensure conformance. They must be considered with the Site Selection Criteria and the Program Principles they are intended to support.

- Re-grade the site with a gentle rise in the north part of the open field in a manner that respects the contouring east of the Drive. Allow grading to buffer views of an underground building entry from both nearby Memorials without blocking eye level views across the site.
- Orient openings and visible features of the proposed building so they are not seen from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.
- Work with the bus drop-off proposed for the west side of Henry Bacon Drive for access to the Center.
- Utilize the proposed pedestrian crossing of Henry Bacon Drive at Lincoln Circle to direct people exiting the Memorial Center to the Flagpole Plaza as the most direct route.
- Add new trees and pedestrian pathways as necessary, and in a manner that provides experiential continuity with the Vietnam Veterans Memorial located in Constitution Gardens east of Henry Bacon Drive.
- Conceal night lighting from the views from the Lincoln Memorial and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.
- Provide two feet minimum soil cover where lawn is proposed over building structure.
- Provide three feet minimum soil cover where trees are proposed over building structure.
- Accommodate National Park Service programs to provide occasional informal recreational activities on the site.

Utilizing these design guidelines, Site A can meet all of the Site Selection Criteria.



SECTION - SITE A

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER
26 January 2005

Scale 1" = 40' - 0"

James Cummings, AIA Washington, DC • Arnold Associates Princeton, NJ

The Design Guidelines for Site A establish clear directions for satisfying the Site Selection Criteria.

Placing an underground building in the location diagrammed on the Site A Analysis Plan indicates how broad gentle grades could rise to conceal a vertical face at the northwest corner of the site. The resulting west-facing slope, or retaining wall, would conceal projections such as entry ramps openings and skylights from the critical views from the east and south. Section Site A shows how such a moderate change in grade also allows a visual connection between the Memorial Center entry and the Flagpole Plaza. Persons standing in the entry/exit plaza have a direct line of sight to the Flagpole Plaza. The proposed slopes are sufficiently gentle to allow informal recreational activity on the open areas of the site.



Photographs illustrate two typical current views from Henry Bacon Drive and from Constitution Avenue. Sensitive grading to accomplish the hidden Memorial Center would not perceptibly change these views. The viewer from any location around the site could see over the less than five-foot rise in elevation. From Henry Bacon Drive, the slope would be so gradual, it would not be easily perceived.



Curved pathways that would efficiently serve movement of visitors to and from the proposed Center would be in keeping with the paths in Constitution Gardens, visually and

functionally unifying the visitor experience from the Center to the Memorial. The compact circulation pattern for those walking from the buses to the Center and to the Memorial, would keep the more intense flow of visitor traffic away from the Memorial's quiet spaces.

A building entry at the corner of Constitution Avenue and 23rd Street would present a visible face to the city to the north, while it could be made concealed from view from either of the nearby Memorials.

23rd Street access for periodic service and emergency vehicles keeps these intrusive functions out of the National Mall. Furthermore, construction disruption is avoided in the more tranquil areas of the park. Above-grade mechanical equipment would be inconspicuous in the northwest corner of the site, or located west of 23rd Street served by tunneling under the road.

Site A rates highly because it permits visual connection between the Memorial and the Center, yet allows unencumbered views across important areas of the National Mall. The Center, in this location, would have a discernable presence without visual intrusiveness, and a nearness to the Memorial without jeopardizing its serenity.



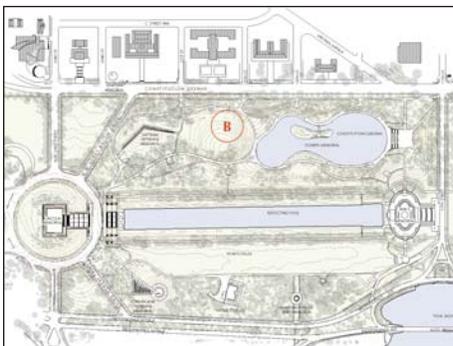


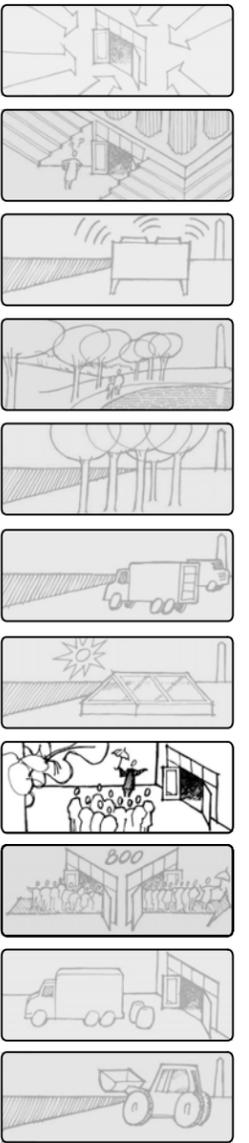
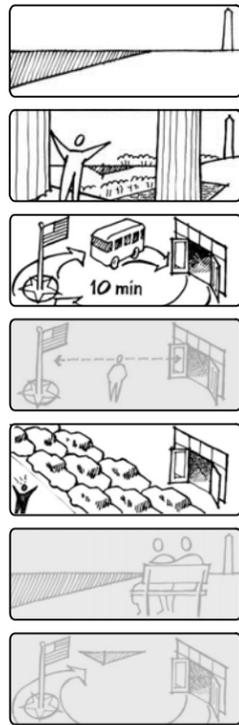
Site B occupies the knoll in the center of Constitution Gardens just west of the Constitution Lake. It is directly in the line of view between the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the Washington Monument, one of the most visually sensitive areas on the National Mall west of 17th Street.

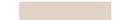
The view from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial shows why this groundform is so important, and conveys the reason to avoid any alteration of its shape or surface.

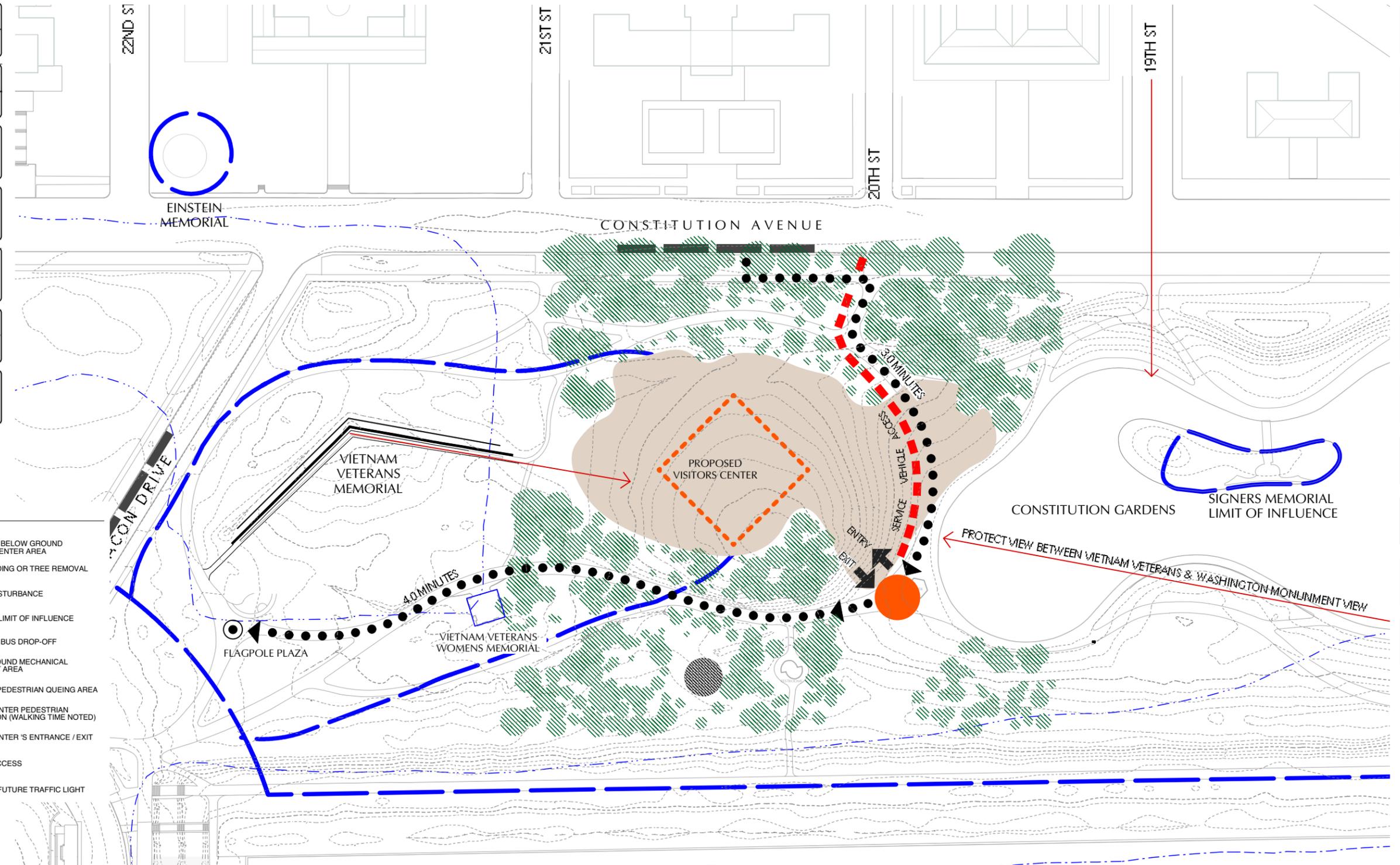
The view from the top of the Washington Monument shows the site in aerial perspective, reinforcing concerns to protect this conspicuous land feature. Site B is also prominent from Constitution Avenue, and can be seen from the south across the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool.

A view from the vicinity of the food service kiosk at the west end of Constitution Lake illustrates further the sensitivity of the site with respect to existing tree groves, a significant intentional part of the park design. These trees, on the south edge of the bluff, figure importantly in many key sight lines of this area.



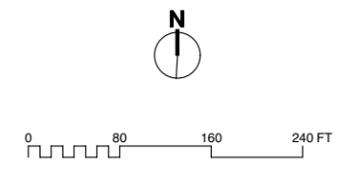


- KEY**
-  PROPOSED BELOW GROUND VISITORS CENTER AREA
 -  NO REGRADING OR TREE REMOVAL
 -  LIMIT OF DISTURBANCE
 -  MEMORIAL LIMIT OF INFLUENCE
 -  PROPOSED BUS DROP-OFF
 -  ABOVE GROUND MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT AREA
 -  OUTDOOR PEDESTRIAN QUEING AREA
 -  VISITOR CENTER PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION (WALKING TIME NOTED)
 -  VISITOR CENTER'S ENTRANCE / EXIT
 -  SERVICE ACCESS
 -  EXISTING / FUTURE TRAFFIC LIGHT



ANALYSIS - SITE B
 VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER
 26 January 2005

James Cummings, AIA Washington, DC • Arnold Associates Princeton, NJ



The analysis plan for Site B indicates a large area of the site that would be suitable for minor re-grading without harming the important groves of trees that frame the view of the Washington Monument from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. It is sufficiently large to accommodate the proposed Center.

At the same time, this area of the diagram indicated as “Limit of Disturbance” represents the area of the site that has high visual presence in prominent vistas on the National Mall. Only a small area of the site, a portion of the southeast hillside, is available for the presence of any exposed structure, such as an entrance and/or exit.

When viewed in plan, Site B is the site nearest the Memorial. However, a careful review of the topography shows that the only available entry/exit area for the Center has no visual connection to the Flagpole Plaza or the Memorial. The pedestrian travel distance is a favorable seven minutes, and does not require crossing any street, but the route does not deliver the visitor to the favored entry point for the Memorial without passing the more direct eastern walk.

The path from the exit portal to the Flagpole Plaza passes through the most sensitive area of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Limit of Influence and directly past the intimate area of the Vietnam Women’s Memorial. The repetitive surge of visitors would drastically change the quiet character of these intentionally intimate spaces.

The central location in the park would make the Center difficult to find. Its visitors would likely disturb the quiet atmosphere of the small memorials along the lake. Significant improvements would be required in Constitution Gardens to accommodate the increased visitation. Protective measures would be required to preserve the existing trees during and after construction, and the improvements to the park would require modifications to the existing lawns and paving to protect trees and landscaping from intense pedestrian traffic.

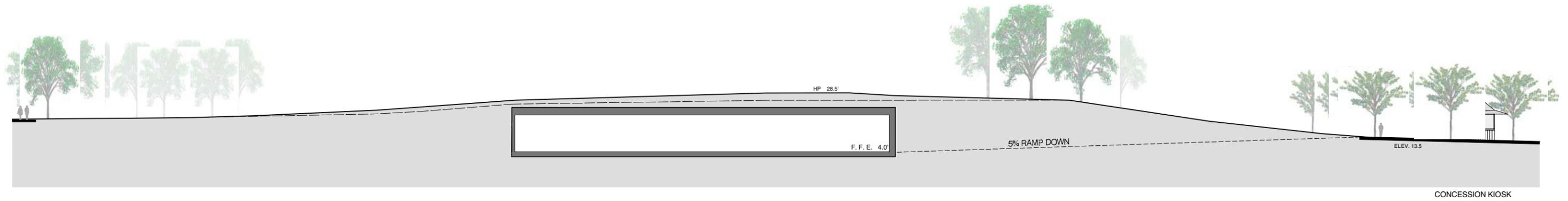
It would not be possible to disguise service vehicles in the park, and the limited entry/exit location could not accommodate a separate service entrance. Due to the visually sensitive nature of the knoll, no skylight could be permitted. The presence of above-grade mechanical systems would be difficult to conceal and conventional systems are unlikely to be sufficiently quiet to use, resulting in specialized service and maintenance requirements. Similar to the presence of large groups and service vehicles introduced into the center of the park, the construction of the Center would be very disruptive.



The Design Guidelines for Site B were prepared to enhance site conformance to the Site Selection Criteria. The Guidelines do not ensure conformance. They must be considered with the Site Selection Criteria and the Program Principles they are intended to support.

- Avoid placing entry and exit portals, skylights, mechanical grilles and any other surface feature within the area of visual sensitivity. No openings or visible objects are acceptable in this area.
- Preserve and protect all trees on and surrounding the knoll by keeping construction operations, excavation and new fill at least 40 feet away from existing tree trunks.
- Limit changes of grade to the area shown as Limit of Disturbance on the Analysis Plan.
- Preserve the subtle form of the knoll by limiting re-grading to no more than three feet above the existing elevations.
- Establish a bus drop-off along Constitution Avenue between 20th and 21st Streets.
- Keep exit/entry portals of the building at least 200 feet away from the Vietnam Women's Memorial to avoid intrusive noise.
- Correct ground and drainage conditions and restore original tree grove around the existing food service kiosk near the Lake. If this area is to serve as the principle queuing area for both entry and exit to the Center, the paved surface will need to support intensive pedestrian traffic. This would require enlarging the present area, and construction of special tree root protection.
- Avoid locating above-grade equipment where the noise level will exceed 50 decibels within 20 feet of any walkway or quiet zone of the park.
- Provide two feet minimum soil cover where lawn is proposed over building structure.
- Replace existing pedestrian path system with paving designed for delivery and service vehicle traffic.

Utilizing these Design Guidelines, Site B does not meet all of the Site Selection Criteria. Mandatory Criteria to provide a visual connection between the entry/exit area of the Center and Flagpole Plaza (2b), and to preserve the tranquility of the park (3), are not met.



SECTION - SITE B

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER
 26 January 2005 scale: 1" = 40'-0"

James Cummings, AIA Washington, DC • Arnold Associates Princeton, NJ

The Design Guidelines for Site B reflect the significant visual sensitivity of the site by their focus on limiting the visible presence of the Center.

Placing an underground building in the location diagrammed on the Site B Analysis Plan indicates where the Center can be located without requiring major modifications to the existing knoll. The diagram also indicates a location for both the entrance and exit in the proximity of the existing food service kiosk. This arrangement is undesirable, but is a result of the site's stringent limitations.

The point of access and egress in this location does not allow a direct view between the Flagpole Plaza and the entry/exit portal. The visual discontinuity results from the large difference in elevation, a condition that otherwise gives the site a distinct advantage for ramp access as seen in Section Site B.

A second problem created by the location of the building portal, is the movement of the large volume of visitor traffic through the site's most sensitive quiet area as shown in the site analysis. This problem is exacerbated by the overlapping entry and exit movement at and near the opening.

Doubling the amount of paved area shown on the Analysis Plan would be required to accommodate the entry and exit queuing, with more paving required if the food service kiosk is retained.

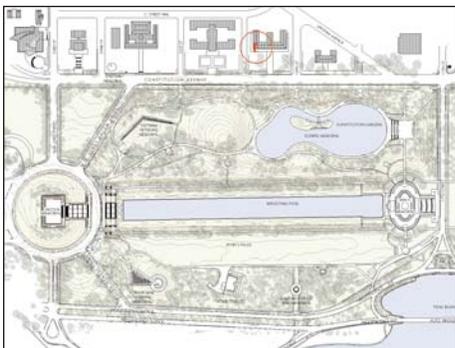
This site requires the use of renovated paths across the east west axis of the site for delivery, service and emergency access. Conflicts with the pedestrian visitor flow would require scheduling limited access for service vehicles.

A location for above-grade mechanical equipment must be resolved without intruding on either the noise level of the park spaces or the existing tree groves. No site for this essential building component was determined because of its noise level and potential impact on trees.

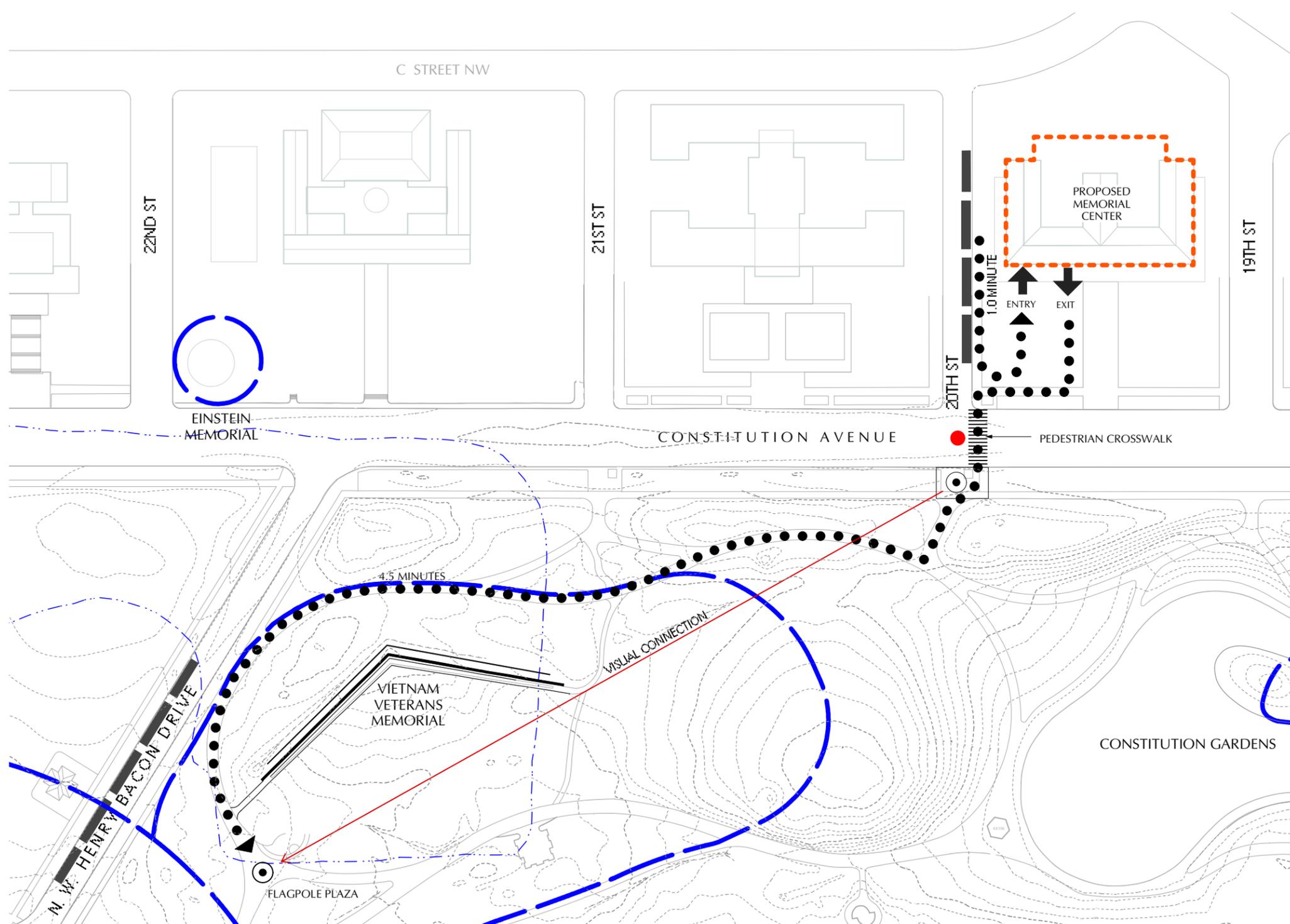
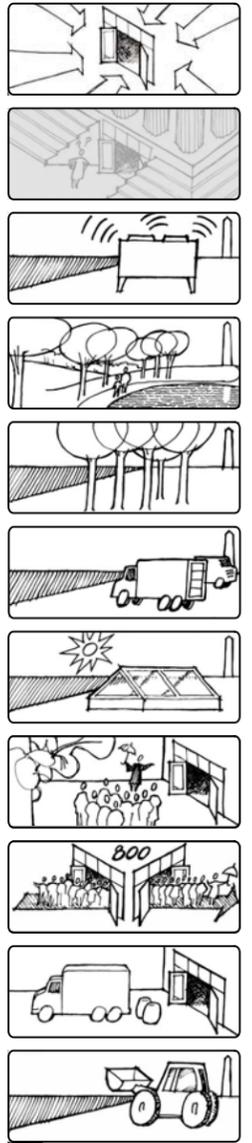
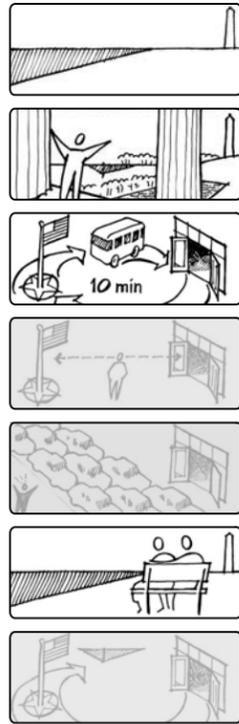
The desirability of allowing natural light into an underground building of this size is usually understood as a requirement of such a structure. There is, however, no acceptable skylight location on this site because of its prominent visibility.

Vehicular intrusion, mechanical equipment location and duration of construction impact on the National Mall are not problems easily dismissed. The protection of critical groves of existing trees seems beyond reasonable certainty, for this type and size of construction, at this sensitive location.

In summary, Site B suffers from a lack of design options. Proximity to the Memorial increases interruptions to its tranquility. Difference in elevation that allows convenient building access, results in visual separation from the Memorial. The impacts of service access and construction disruption are drawbacks that further diminish Site B as a desirable location for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Center.



Site E consists of space within the existing Department of the Interior (DOI) South Building that could be made available for the proposed Center. Located north of Constitution Avenue opposite the west end of Constitution Lake, it is situated between the Federal Reserve and the Organization of American States Annex Buildings. Site E is visible from Constitution Avenue when approached from the east or west and from limited areas within the park.

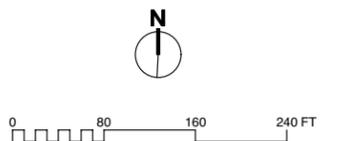


- KEY**
- PROPOSED BELOW GROUND VISITORS CENTER AREA
 - NO REGRADING OR TREE REMOVAL
 - LIMIT OF DISTURBANCE
 - MEMORIAL LIMIT OF INFLUENCE
 - PROPOSED BUS DROP-OFF
 - ABOVE GROUND MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT AREA
 - OUTDOOR PEDESTRIAN QUEING AREA
 - VISITOR CENTER PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION (WALKING TIME NOTED)
 - VISITOR CENTER'S ENTRANCE / EXIT
 - SERVICE ACCESS
 - EXISTING / FUTURE TRAFFIC LIGHT

ANALYSIS - SITE E

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER
26 January 2005

James Cummings, AIA Washington, DC • Arnold Associates Princeton, NJ



Analysis

An evaluation of the existing building was made to consider converting portions of the building into the proposed Center. There is no apparent impediment.

This site enjoys the major advantage of not being located within the limits of the National Mall, and therefore presents no direct intrusion on the park or its critical vistas.

The visitor circulation route indicated on the diagram would be within a six-minute cumulative walk to the Flagpole Plaza, including a traffic signal delay. The route passes both the east and west entry walks to the Memorial Wall and is not likely to result in a visitor's first experience of the list of names as "seemingly infinite in number," or "overwhelming . . . while unifying those individuals into a whole," as Maya Lin had intended.

The visitor route would not intrude on the quiet areas of the park, but would require crossing Constitution Avenue, a major arterial roadway that sustains heavy traffic during the entire day. The visual connection between the building and the Center would be through a large area of trees. The building would be discernable through the trees, but the Flagpole would not be, even in winter.

If the building were re-named, it would be identifiable as the Center. However, the use of the existing structure, which is eligible for designation as an historic landmark, is unlikely to result in a strong, independent identity from the adjacent buildings. The existing architecture has no stylistic relationship to the existing Memorial and would not provide a strongly continuous visitor experience.

There would be no conflict with other memorials. Criteria requiring the accommodation of building systems; the provision of visitor amenities, including daylight; and, the preservation of the park can easily be met.

Design Guidelines and Feasibility

Because Site E is an area of an existing building, site-related Design Guidelines do not apply and were not generated.

A feasibility analysis of the site was made, but no design options arose that could overcome the limitations of the site regarding two failing Mandatory Criteria.

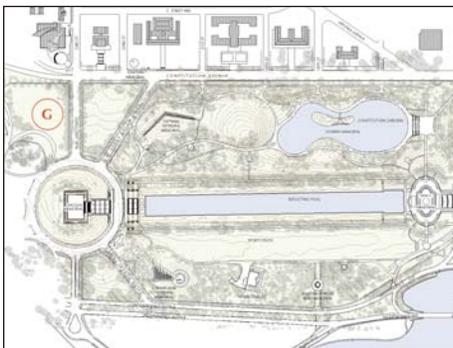
The site offers no visual connection between the entry and/or exit of the Center and the Flagpole Plaza.

The separation of the site from the Memorial by an arterial roadway creates the practical difficulty of moving large groups across the roadway; but, more importantly, introduces a psychological break in the visitor experience that would disrupt the chance of an experience of the Center of being continuous with a visit to the Memorial.

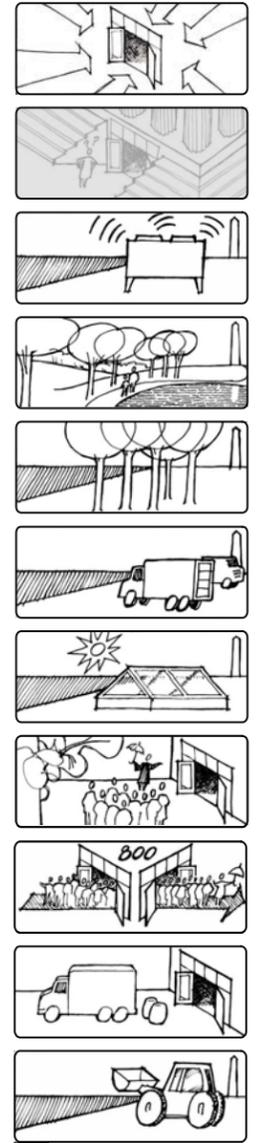
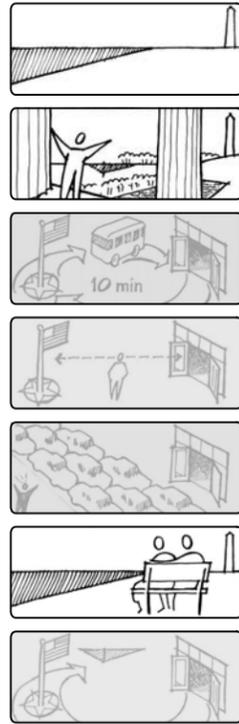




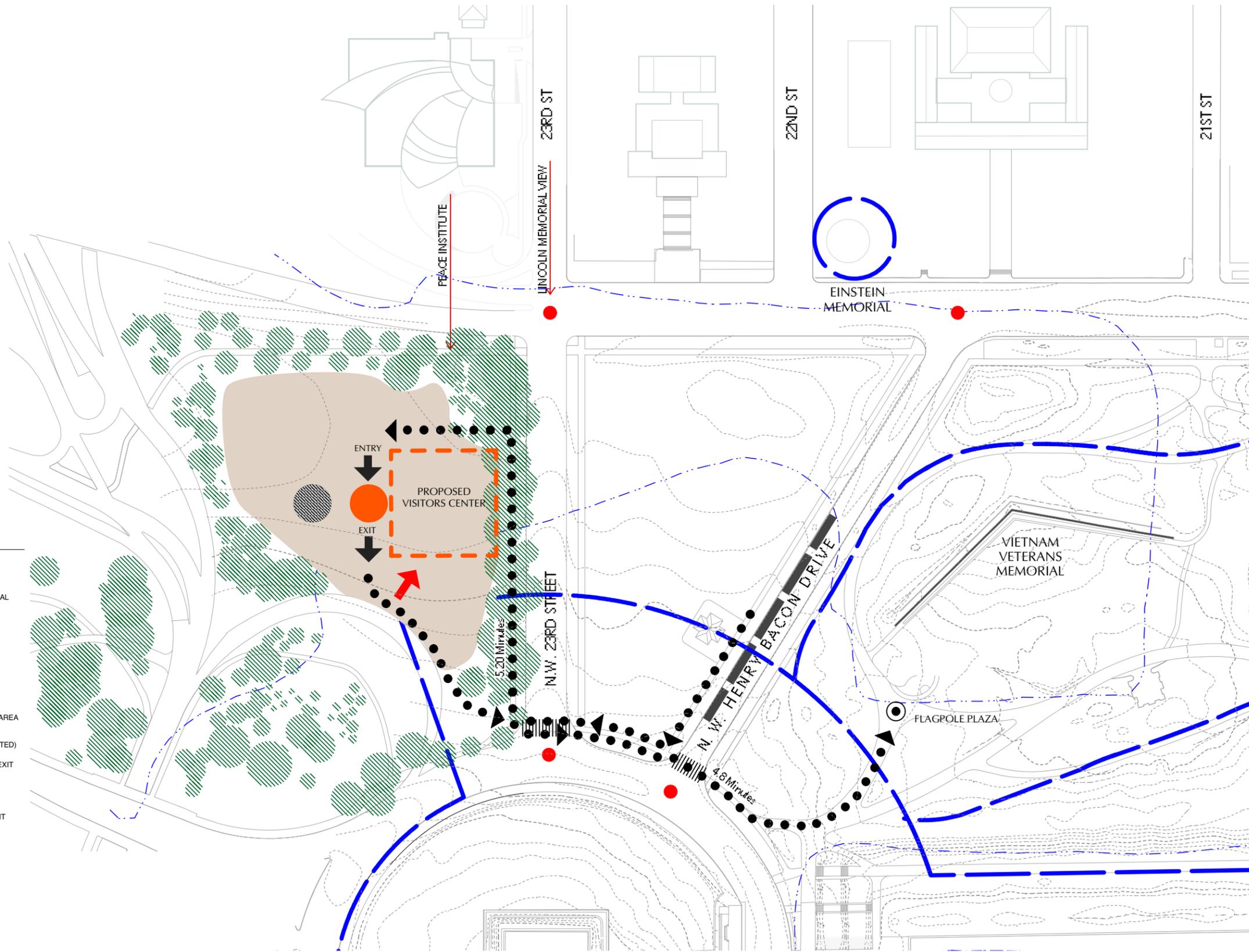
Site G is the area of open, gently sloping land between the Lincoln Memorial and Constitution Avenue just west of 23rd Street. The site is beyond the end of the system of orthogonal city streets that organize the formal areas of the National Mall. When approaching the City from Virginia, via the Theodore Roosevelt Bridge, the site is seen in the foreground of a prominent view to the Lincoln Memorial.



Site G is visible from the National Mall to the east. It can be seen under the tree canopy from the walkway along Constitution Avenue. It is seen in more detail from the corner of 23rd Street along the Avenue. The site is currently occupied by a large fenced construction staging yard for road work and security improvements in the area around the Lincoln Memorial.



- KEY**
-  PROPOSED BELOW GROUND VISITORS CENTER AREA
 -  NO REGRADING OR TREE REMOVAL
 -  LIMIT OF DISTURBANCE
 -  MEMORIAL LIMIT OF INFLUENCE
 -  PROPOSED BUS DROP-OFF
 -  ABOVE GROUND MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT AREA
 -  OUTDOOR PEDESTRIAN QUEING AREA
 -  VISITOR CENTER PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION (WALKING TIME NOTED)
 -  VISITOR CENTER'S ENTRANCE / EXIT
 -  SERVICE ACCESS
 -  EXISTING / FUTURE TRAFFIC LIGHT



The analysis plan for Site G indicates that a large area of the site, close to 23rd Street, would allow the construction of an underground building, and required grading, without affecting the existing Elm trees on the site or entering the Limits of Influence of the nearby memorials.

Located in the northwest corner of the National Mall, this site is not present in the protected vistas of the park. It is, however, located prominently in the introductory view of the National Mall when approached from Virginia via the Theodore Roosevelt Bridge. This view is currently dominated on the south by the Lincoln Memorial, set on a hill overlooking the site. The US Peace Institute, to be built on Navy Hill to the north, will have a similar dominating presence over the site.

The visitor circulation route indicated on the diagram exceeds the ten-minute limit. The requirement to cross 23rd Street twice and Henry Bacon Drive once would increase this walking time, if required to wait for the changing of the traffic signals. This route, which crosses the 23rd Street arterial roadway twice, has limited visual connection to the Flagpole Plaza. It is located outside of the quiet areas of the park and delivers the visitor to the Flagpole Plaza along the preferred entry route to the Memorial, from the south.

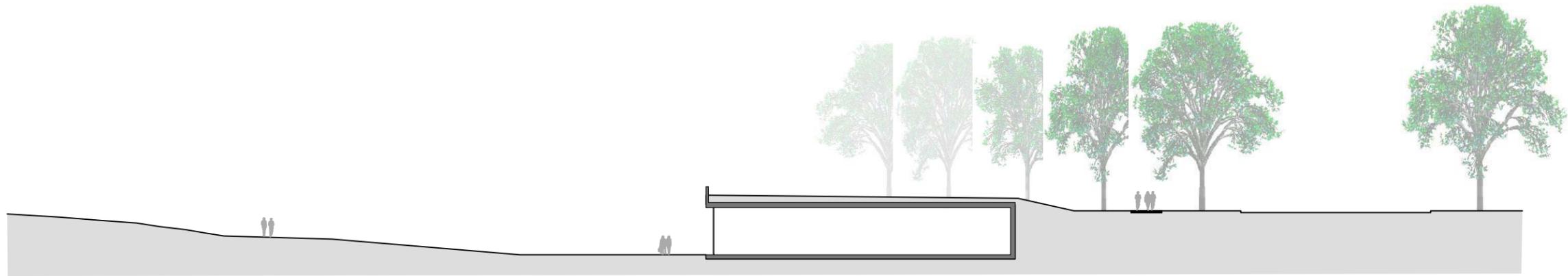
The portion of the Center that faces away from the National Mall could be concealed by a gentle rise in the topography that would not obstruct the open vistas of the park from the east. The exposed western face of the structure could be clearly visible for identifying the Center and providing access to daylight. If the entry and exit were located on the west, it would limit the intrusion of crowd noise to areas away from the quiet park.

Above-grade mechanical systems and service access can easily be accommodated on this site without intruding on the quiet of the park. Located well outside of the central areas of the park, there would be no risk to existing trees or other park elements. The location of the site, in the extreme northwest corner of the National Mall, would reduce the disturbance of construction in the park.

The Design Guidelines for Site G were prepared to enhance site conformance to the Site Selection Criteria. The Guidelines do not ensure conformance. They must be considered with the Site Selection Criteria and the Program Principles they are intended to support.

- Preserve the eye level view from the west end of the National Mall toward the Potomac River, keeping any new structure or land form below eye level measured five feet above the sidewalk along 23rd Street.
- Preserve the land required to extend the Constitution Avenue pathway to the Potomac River west of Site G.
- Preserve the integrity of the introductory open space view seen by visitors approaching from the Theodore Roosevelt Bridge, by respecting the site's scale and context.
- Preserve the visual continuity in the transition from the National Mall to the Potomac River.
- Provide a minimum of two feet soil cover where lawn is proposed over building structure.
- Provide a minimum of three feet of soil cover where trees are proposed to be planted.

Utilizing these design guidelines, Site B does not meet all of the Site Selection Criteria. Mandatory Criteria to provide a maximum ten-minute route to the Memorial (2a), to provide a visual connection between the entry/exit area of the Center and Flagpole Plaza (2b), and to avoid crossing an arterial roadway (2c), are not met.



SECTION - SITE G

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER
26 January 2005

scale: 1" = 40'-0"

James Cummings, AIA Washington, DC • Arnold Associates Princeton, NJ

Enacting the Design Guidelines for Site G would allow conformance to many, but not all, of the Site Selection Criteria.

Placing an underground building in the location diagramed on the Site G Site Analysis Plan indicates how the Center could be developed as a large-scaled horizontal landform that would relate well to its large-scaled vertical neighbors. Maintaining a maximum rise of five feet over the adjacent grade elevations on 23rd Street would preserve the ground-level vistas on the National Mall, while the relatively remote site is intrinsically protected from intruding on the historic vistas east of 23rd Street.

Visitor queuing could be accommodated on the western side of the structure and, like the visitor route to the Flagpole Plaza, would be well away from the quiet areas of the park. The remote location of the site offers advantages, but no design options will result in a shortened, or more continuous, visitor route to the Memorial.

The proposal to conceal the building when viewed from the east, but expose it on the west, provides simple solutions to Criteria requiring building identity, visitor staging, daylight, accommodation of access and above-grade mechanical systems, and preservation of the park. Such a recessed building will require major regrading of the larger open area west of the proposed Center. This, in turn, will require coordination and probable modification to the US Army Corps of Engineers flood control plans specific to this area.

Distance from the Memorial sums up both the advantages and disadvantages of Site G. The distance from sensitive areas and critical views on the National Mall are favorable aspects of this location. Distance, expressed in visitor walking time to the Memorial, and vehicular traffic interruptions, results in remoteness. This relative isolation is the major obstacle to Site G as a location for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Center.



STUDY CONCLUSIONS

SITE LOCATION EVALUATION

Vietnam Veterans Visitors Center

		SITE							CRITERIA
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	
elimination criteria		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1a. Not intrude on critical views from the Vietnam Memorial to Lincoln Memorial and Washington Monument.
		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	1b. Not intrude on critical views on the Mall from the Lincoln Memorial steps and from the Washington Monument.
		●	●	○	○	●	●	○	2a. Allow the Memorial and Visitors center to be mutually supporting.....Being less than ten minute aggregate walking time....
		●	○	○	○	○	○	○	2b. Allow the Memorial and Visitors center to be mutually supporting.....Visually connect Visitors Center to Flagpole Plaza.
		●	●	●	●	○	○	○	2c. Allow the Memorial and Visitors center to be mutually supporting.....Not crossing an busy arterial road.....
		●	○	○	○	●	●	●	3. Not impinge on the tranquility of park's special quiet spaces within the Memorial's "Limit of Influence".
		●	○	○	○	○	○	○	4. Define a direct continuous experience from VC exit directly to Flapole Plaza.
		●	○	●	●	●	●	●	5. Allow appropriate visual identification of the entry for people to find Visitors Center.....
		●	○	○	○	○	○	○	6. Avoid distractions by other memorials and minimize conflicts within other memorial settings.
		●	○	○	○	●	●	●	7. Not require above grade mechanical equipment and other above grade building elements within critical views.....
		●	U	U	○	●	●	●	8. Preserve the design quality, transparency of vegetation, gently curving contoursof Constitution Gardens.....
		●	U	○	○	●	●	●	9. Limit damage and prevent loss of all existing trees on the Mall.
		●	○	●	●	●	●	●	10. Protect views of the Mall from visual intrusions especially including increased service vehicle use.
		●	○	●	●	●	●	●	11. Permit skylights outside of critical views and "Limit of Influence".....as depicted on the Visual Sensitivity Plan.
		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	12. Provide outdoor paved gathering space, near the Visitor Center's entrance (preferably in tree shade).....
	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	13. Permit primary access and egress by accessible walks and ramps allowing movement of 800 persons per hour in each direction.	
	●	○	○	●	●	●	●	14. Allow accessiblity for deliveries, service, emergency and security vehicles.	
	●	○	○	●	●	●	●	15. Causes minimal impact and duration of disruption of the Mall during Construction.	
	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	OVERALL SITE RATING	

● MEETS CRITERIA ○ FAILS CRITERIA U UNDETERMINED

Note: Criteria numbers refer to general site selection criteria.

STUDY CONCLUSIONS

In the analysis of the potential sites available for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Center, each site was tested for compliance with the Site Selection Criteria. These Criteria are listed in descending order of importance on the Site Location Evaluation table, on the opposite page.

The first four Criteria, shown in a shaded area, are the Mandatory Criteria. These are not listed in order of importance. All of the Mandatory Criteria must be met for recommendation.

As the site evaluations reveal, Site A is the only location that satisfies all four of the Mandatory Criteria. Site A is also the only location that satisfies all of the Supplementary Criteria.

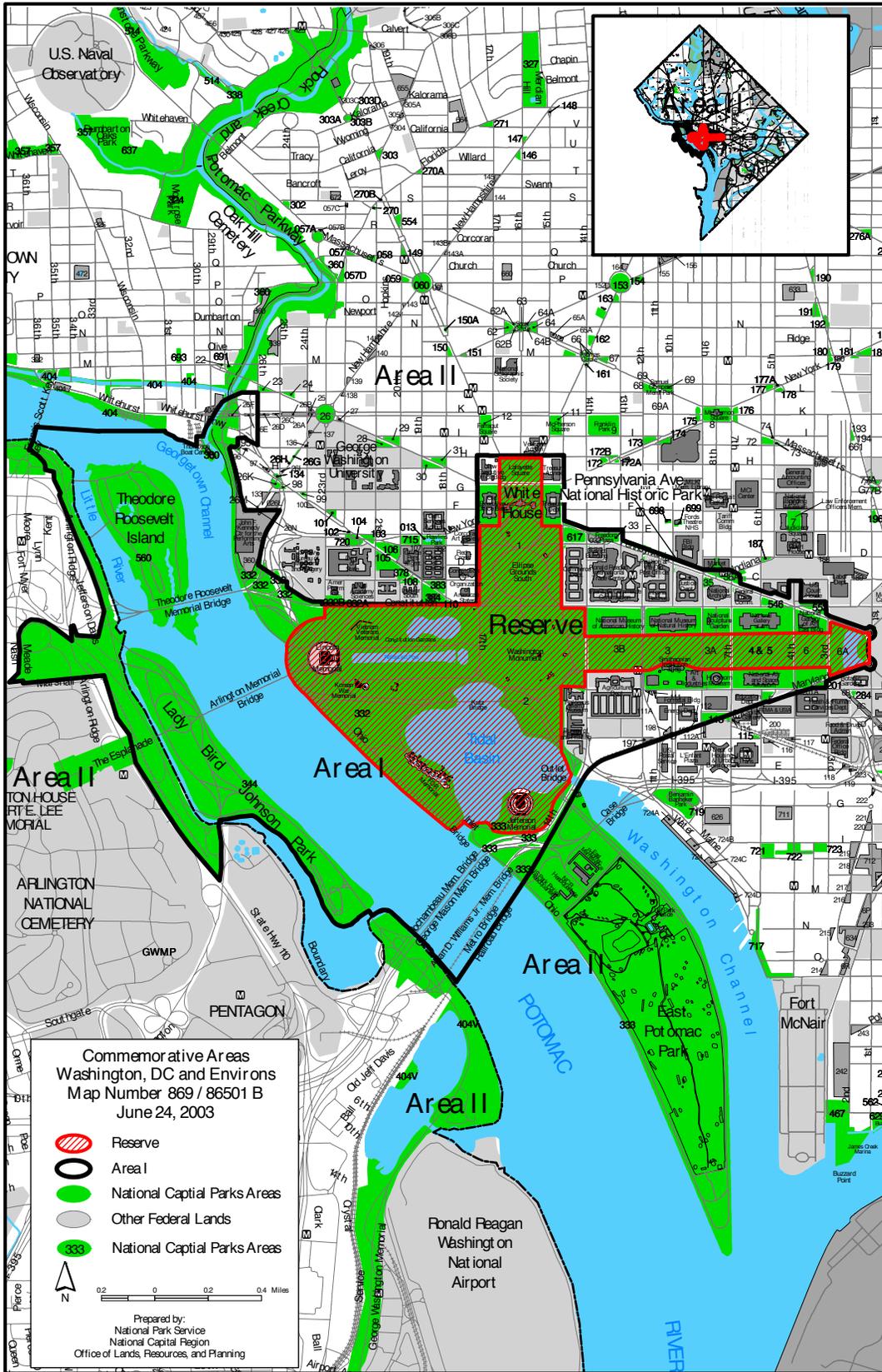
Therefore, Site A is recommended as the location for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Center, as the only site that meets all of the Criteria. The recommendation for this location includes the need to comply with the Site A Design Guidelines. The Design Guidelines were developed for each site to enhance the site compliance with the Site Selection Criteria.

This acknowledges that there is more than one way a given program can be fitted to a specific site. Without these Guidelines there would be no assurance that the future building design would conform to the constraints imposed by the Criteria. Without actually producing a design for the building the Design Guidelines are the most effective way to assure the built project will conform to the Criteria.

Compliance with the Design Guidelines for Site A, as well as the Site Selection Criteria, does not seem to significantly constrain the development of Site A for the Center.



APPENDICES



APPENDIX A : AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION

One Hundred Eighth Congress
of the
United States of America

AT THE FIRST SESSION

Begun and held at the City of Washington on Tuesday, the seventh day of January,
two thousand and three

An Act

To authorize the design and construction of a visitor center for the Vietnam Veterans
Memorial.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of
America in Congress assembled,

TITLE I--VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL VISITOR CENTER

SEC. 101. VISITOR CENTER.

Public Law 96-297 (16 U.S.C. 431 note) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
lowing:

SEC. 6. VISITOR CENTER.

(a) AUTHORIZATION-

(1) IN GENERAL- The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc., is authorized to
construct a visitor center at or near the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Federal land
in the District of Columbia, or its environs, subject to the provisions of this section,
in order to better inform and educate the public about the Vietnam Veterans
Memorial and the Vietnam War.

(2) LOCATION- The visitor center shall be located underground.

(3) CONSULTATION ON DESIGN PHASE- The Vietnam Veterans Memorial
Fund, Inc., shall consult with educators, veterans groups, and the National Park
Service in developing the proposed design of the visitor center.

(b) COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARDS APPLICABLE TO COMMEMORA-
TIVE WORKS- Chapter 89 of title 40, United States Code, shall apply, including
provisions related to the siting, design, construction, and maintenance of the visitor
center, and the visitor center shall be considered a commemorative work for the pur-
poses of that Act, except that--

(1) final approval of the visitor center shall not be withheld;

(2) the provisions of subsections (b) and (c) of section 8908 of title 40, United
States Code, requiring further approval by law for the location of a commemorative
work within Area I and prohibiting the siting of a visitor center within the Reserve
shall not apply;

(3) the size of the visitor center shall be limited to the minimum necessary--

APPENDIX A : AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION

`(A) to provide for appropriate educational and interpretive functions; and

`(B) to prevent interference or encroachment on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and to protect open space and visual sightlines on the Mall; and

`(4) the visitor center shall be constructed and landscaped in a manner harmonious with the site of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, consistent with the special nature and sanctity of the Mall.

`(c) OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE-

`(1) IN GENERAL- The Secretary of the Interior shall--

`(A) operate and maintain the visitor center, except that the Secretary shall enter into a written agreement with the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc., for specified maintenance needs of the visitor center, as determined by the Secretary; and

`(B) as soon as practicable, in consultation with educators and veterans groups, develop a written interpretive plan for the visitor center in accordance with National Park Service policy.

`(2) DONATION FOR PERPETUAL MAINTENANCE AND PRESERVATION- Paragraph (1)(A) does not waive the requirements of section 8906(b) of title 40, United States Code, with respect to the visitor center.

`(d) FUNDING- The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc., shall be solely responsible for acceptance of contributions for, and payment of expenses of, the establishment of the visitor center. No Federal funds shall be used to pay any expense of the establishment of the visitor center.'

TITLE II--COMMEMORATIVE WORKS

SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the 'Commemorative Works Clarification and Revision Act of 2003'.

SEC. 202. ESTABLISHMENT OF RESERVE.

(a) Findings- Congress finds that--

(1) the great cross-axis of the Mall in the District of Columbia, which generally extends from the United States Capitol to the Lincoln Memorial, and from the White House to the Jefferson Memorial, is a substantially completed work of civic art; and

(2) to preserve the integrity of the Mall, a reserve area should be designated within the core of the great cross-axis of the Mall where the siting of new commemorative works is prohibited.

(b) RESERVE- Section 8908 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

`(c) RESERVE- After the date of enactment of the Commemorative Works Clarification and Revision Act of 2003, no commemorative work or visitor center

APPENDIX A : AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION

shall be located within the Reserve.'

SEC. 203. CLARIFYING AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) PURPOSES- Section 8901(2) of title 40, United States Code, is amended by striking `Columbia;' and inserting `Columbia and its environs, and to encourage the location of commemorative works within the urban fabric of the District of Columbia;'

(b) DEFINITIONS- Section 8902 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

`(a) DEFINITIONS- In this chapter:

`(1) COMMEMORATIVE WORK- The term `commemorative work' means any statue, monument, sculpture, memorial, plaque, inscription, or other structure or landscape feature, including a garden or memorial grove, designed to perpetuate in a permanent manner the memory of an individual, group, event or other significant element of American history, except that the term does not include any such item which is located within the interior of a structure or a structure which is primarily used for other purposes.

`(2) THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND ITS ENVIRONS- The term `the District of Columbia and its environs' means those lands and properties administered by the National Park Service and the General Services Administration located in the Reserve, Area I, and Area II as depicted on the map entitled `Commemorative Areas Washington, DC and Environs', numbered 869/86501 B, and dated June 24, 2003.

`(3) RESERVE- The term `Reserve' means the great cross-axis of the Mall, which generally extends from the United States Capitol to the Lincoln Memorial, and from the White House to the Jefferson Memorial, as depicted on the map referenced in paragraph (2).

`(4) SPONSOR- The term `sponsor' means a public agency, or an individual, group or organization that is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such Code, and which is authorized by Congress to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs.'

(c) AUTHORIZATION- Section 8903 of title 40, United States Code, is amended--

(1) in subsection (b)--

(A) by striking `work commemorating a lesser conflict' and inserting `work solely commemorating a limited military engagement'; and

(B) by striking `the event' and inserting `such war or conflict';

(2) in subsection (d)--

(A) by striking `CONSULTATION WITH NATIONAL CAPITAL MEMORIAL COMMISSION- ' and inserting `CONSULTATION WITH NATIONAL CAPITAL MEMORIAL ADVISORY COMMISSION- ';

(B) by striking `House Administration' and inserting `Resources'; and

APPENDIX A : AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION

(C) by inserting `Advisory' before `Commission!'; and

(3) by striking subsection (e) and inserting the following:

`(e) EXPIRATION OF LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY- Any legislative authority for a commemorative work shall expire at the end of the seven-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of such authority, or at the end of the seven-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of legislative authority to locate the commemorative work within Area I, if such additional authority has been granted, unless--

`(1) the Secretary of the Interior or the Administrator of General Services (as appropriate) has issued a construction permit for the commemorative work during that period; or

`(2) the Secretary or the Administrator (as appropriate), in consultation with the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission, has made a determination that--

`(A) final design approvals have been obtained from the National Capital Planning Commission and the Commission of Fine Arts; and

`(B) 75 percent of the amount estimated to be required to complete the commemorative work has been raised.

If these two conditions have been met, the Secretary or the Administrator (as appropriate) may extend the seven-year legislative authority for a period not to exceed three additional years. Upon expiration of the legislative authority, any previous site and design approvals shall also expire.'

(d) NATIONAL CAPITAL MEMORIAL ADVISORY COMMISSION- Section 8904 of title 40, United States Code, is amended--

(1) in the heading, by inserting `Advisory' before `Commission!';

(2) in subsection (a), by striking `There is a National' and all that follows through `consists of' and inserting the following: `There is established the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission, which shall be composed of';

(3) in subsection (c)--

(A) by inserting `Advisory' before `Commission shall!'; and

(B) by striking `Services' and inserting `Services (as appropriate)!'; and

(4) in subsection (d) by inserting `Advisory' before `Commission!'

(e) SITE AND DESIGN APPROVAL- Section 8905 of title 40, United States Code, is amended--

(1) in subsection (a)--

(A) by striking `person' each place it appears and inserting `sponsor!'; and

(B) in paragraph (1)--

APPENDIX A : AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION

- (i) by inserting `Advisory' before `Commission'; and
- (ii) by striking `designs' and inserting `design concepts'; and
- (2) in subsection (b)--
 - (A) by striking `Secretary, and Administrator' and inserting `and the Secretary or Administrator (as appropriate)'; and
 - (B) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking, `open space and existing public use.' and inserting `open space, existing public use, and cultural and natural resources.'
- (f) CRITERIA FOR ISSUANCE OF CONSTRUCTION PERMIT- Section 8906 of title 40, United States Code, is amended--
 - (1) in subsection (a)(3) and (a)(4) by striking `person' and inserting `sponsor'; and
 - (2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:
 - `(b) DONATION FOR PERPETUAL MAINTENANCE AND PRESERVATION--
 - `(1) In addition to the criteria described above in subsection (a), no construction permit shall be issued unless the sponsor authorized to construct the commemorative work has donated an amount equal to 10 percent of the total estimated cost of construction to offset the costs of perpetual maintenance and preservation of the commemorative work. All such amounts shall be available for those purposes pursuant to the provisions of this subsection. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply in instances when the commemorative work is constructed by a Department or agency of the Federal Government and less than 50 percent of the funding for such work is provided by private sources.
 - `(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, money on deposit in the Treasury on the date of enactment of the Commemorative Works Clarification and Revision Act of 2003 provided by a sponsor for maintenance pursuant to this subsection shall be credited to a separate account in the Treasury.
 - `(3) Money provided by a sponsor pursuant to the provisions of this subsection after the date of enactment of the Commemorative Works Clarification and Revision Act of 2003 shall be credited to a separate account with the National Park Foundation.
 - `(4) Upon request of the Secretary or Administrator (as appropriate), the Secretary of the Treasury or the National Park Foundation shall make all or a portion of such moneys available to the Secretary or the Administrator (as appropriate) for the maintenance of a commemorative work. Under no circumstances may the Secretary or Administrator request funds from a separate account exceeding the total money in the account established under paragraph (2) or (3). The Secretary and the Administrator shall maintain an inventory of funds available for such purposes. Funds provided under this paragraph shall be available without further appropriation and shall remain available until expended.'
- (g) AREAS I AND II- Section 8908(a) of title 40, United States Code, is amended--
 - (1) by striking `Secretary of the Interior and Administrator of General Services' and inserting `Secretary of the Interior or the Administrator of General Services (as

APPENDIX A : AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION

appropriate)'; and

(2) by striking `numbered 869/86581, and dated May 1, 1986' and inserting `entitled `Commemorative Areas Washington, DC and Environs', numbered 869/86501 B, and dated June 24, 2003'.

SEC. 204. SITE AND DESIGN CRITERIA.

Section 8905(b) of title 40, United States Code (as amended by section 203(e)), is amended by adding at the end the following:

`(5) MUSEUMS- No commemorative work primarily designed as a museum may be located on lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary in Area I or in East Potomac Park as depicted on the map referenced in section 8902(2).

`(6) SITE-SPECIFIC GUIDELINES- The National Capital Planning Commission and the Commission of Fine Arts may develop such criteria or guidelines specific to each site that are mutually agreed upon to ensure that the design of the commemorative work carries out the purposes of this chapter.

`(7) DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS- Donor contributions to commemorative works shall not be acknowledged in any manner as part of the commemorative work or its site.'

SEC. 205. NO EFFECT ON PREVIOUSLY APPROVED SITES.

Except for the provision in the amendment made by section 202(b) prohibiting a visitor center from being located in the Reserve (as defined in section 8902 of title 40, United States Code), nothing in this title shall apply to a commemorative work for which a site was approved in accordance with chapter 89 of title 40, United States Code, prior to the date of enactment of this title.

SEC. 206. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE REPORTS.

Within 6 months after the date of enactment of this title, the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the National Capital Planning Commission and the Commission of Fine Arts, shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate, and to the Committee on Resources of the United States House of Representatives reports setting forth plans for the following:

(1) To relocate, as soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the National Park Service's stable and maintenance facilities that are within the Reserve (as defined in section 8902 of title 40, United States Code).

(2) To relocate, redesign or otherwise alter the concession facilities that are within the Reserve to the extent necessary to make them compatible with the Reserve's character.

(3) To limit the sale or distribution of permitted merchandise to those areas where such activities are less intrusive upon the Reserve, and to relocate any existing sale or distribution structures that would otherwise be inconsistent with the plan.

(4) To make other appropriate changes, if any, to protect the character of the Reserve.

Speaker of the House of Representatives.
Vice President of the United States and
President of the Senate.

APPENDIX B : PRELIMINARY DESIGN PROGRAM

12 October 2004
(14 May 2004 Original draft)

Visitors Center
Vietnam Veterans Memorial
Site Selection Study and Design Guidelines

James Cummings, AIA
Arnold Associates
George Dickie, AIA ASLA
STV, Inc

Report Program

It is the intent of the Site Selection Study and Design Guidelines Report to recommend a location for the installation of the Visitors Center for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, consistent with the authorizing legislation (PL-108-126 amending PL 96-297) and in compliance with the objectives listed below.

The objectives listed below will be considered as they relate to the potential impact of the proposed Visitors Center on the sites considered as part of the study. Potential sites will be considered in the general area defined by Independence Avenue, Constitution Avenue, 17th Street NW, and the Potomac River.

1.0 Preserve the Existing Vietnam Veterans Memorial

1.1 Respect and preserve the design intent of the Memorial

- Maya Lin: "Walking through this park-like area, the memorial appears as a rift in the earth - a long, polished black stone wall, emerging from and receding into the earth . . . walking into the grassy site contained by the walls of this memorial we can barely make out the carved names upon the memorial's walls. These names, seemingly infinite in number, convey the sense of overwhelming numbers, while unifying those individuals into a whole, for this memorial is meant not as a monument to the individual, but rather as a memorial to the men and women who died during this war, as a whole. . . brought into sharp awareness of such a loss, it is up to each individual to resolve or come to terms with this loss. for death is in the end a personal and private matter, and the area contained within this memorial is a quiet place meant for personal reflection and private reckoning. . . its walls contribute to the serenity of the area. Thus this memorial is for those who have died, and for us to remember them."

- "Anchoring" in national context with vistas to Lincoln Memorial and Washington Monument
- "Entrance" experience of Flag-Statue-Wall
- Indirect intimacy of Women's Vietnam Memorial

APPENDIX B : PRELIMINARY DESIGN PROGRAM

- Casual discovery of the In Memory Plaque
- 1.2 Respect and preserve the existing experience of the Memorial
- Discovery of Memorial in quiet, informal park
 - Informal enclosure within the meadow
 - Approach that allows names to “appear” as a group, and as infinite and overwhelming in nature
 - Descent and ascent experience of list of names
 - Intimacy of experience, with proximity to touch the wall of names
 - “Embrace” of visitor by the Wall and the gentle valley
 - Serene place of reckoning and remembrance
- 2.0 Enhance the Visitor Experience
- 2.1 Provide a location that is related to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial
- To enhance continuity of experience and “message”
 - For convenience of visitors
 - To allow visitation at the Memorial (current expectation) to increase Visitor Center attendance; and, (future expectation) to allow Visitor Center attendance to enhance Memorial visitation experience
- 2.2 Provide sufficient “distance” between Memorial and Visitors Center
- 2.3 Provide clear Visitor Center “identity” and sense of destination
- 2.4 Provide a location that is not influenced by other commemorative works, or site features, that would “isolate” the Visitors Center from the Memorial
- 2.5 Provide the potential for a pleasant environment for the exhibit; Consider potential for daylight
- 2.6 Provide convenient access to transportation
- 2.7 Provide sufficient space and “flow” that the Visitor experience remains focused on the “message;” Limit distractions
- 2.8 Provide a location that could accommodate a quiet area of respite for Visitors
- 3.0 Comply with the authorizing Legislation
- 3.1 “. . . to better inform and educate the public about the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the Vietnam War”

APPENDIX B : PRELIMINARY DESIGN PROGRAM

3.2 At or near the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

3.3 On Federal Land

3.4 In DC or its environs

3.5 Underground location

3.6 Minimum size necessary to provide for appropriate educational functions and prevent interference of encroachment on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and to protect open space and visual sightlines on the Mall

3.7 Shall be constructed and landscaped in a manner harmonious with the site of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, consistent with the special nature and sanctity of the Mall

4.0 Preserve the National Mall

4.1 Preserve the well-being of the existing adjacent Memorials

4.2 Preserve the overall Master Plan of the National Mall

- Terrain (topography)
- Planting plan (understory vistas)
- Quiet “core” of Park
- Use of axes and vistas
- Use of paving, shade and clearings
- Limited use of artificial lighting, focused on large structures
- Limited use of directional and identifying graphics

4.3 Preserve and respect historical elements of the Park

- Setting of Lincoln Memorial
- Vistas on 23rd Street and 17th Street
- Cultural history of Constitution Gardens

4.4 Consider long-range use of the structure

- Durability
- Maintenance
- Flexibility

5.0 Consider Impacts of Functional Requirements of Visitors Center

5.1 Functional Requirements

- Floor area and ceiling clearance (15 feet)

APPENDIX B : PRELIMINARY DESIGN PROGRAM

- General building program and arrangement
- Staff circulation and access

5.2 Anticipated Visitorship, Visitor Access and Circulation

- Visitor delivery (buses, etc)
- Visitor staging (marshalling groups) before and after visits
- Visitor queuing (for anticipated ticketed entry and potential screening)
- Egress requirements (size and arrangement)
- Access to Rest Rooms and Resource Center

5.3 Visitor Security and Life Safety

- Vehicular “standoff” distance of 50 feet (or provide protections)
- Unobstructed zone (no available concealment) distance of 30 feet (or provide protections)
 - Obstruct “ramming” vehicle threat (with bollards “fence”, or 90 degree turn)
- Above-ground clearance for air intake structure(s)
- Parcel inspections station(s) (can be remotely located)
- Visitor inspections station(s) (permanent or temporary, above ground)
- Smoke evacuation system structure(s)
- Sprinkler Control Room direct-to-exterior entrance
- Security Control Room direct-to-exterior entrance (separate from Public entrance)
 - Emergency egress

5.4 Visitor Comfort

- Heating and cooling system structure(s)
- Ventilation system structure(s)
- Daylight (skylight) structure(s)

6.0 Consider Practical Concerns of Construction

6.1 Disruption to existing Vietnam Veterans Memorial

6.2 Ease (or feasibility) of Construction

- Geology
- Groundwater
- Flood Plain
- Site drainage
- Access to existing utilities
- Existing vegetation

6.3 Environmental Assessment Considerations

12 October 2004 Amendments:

- delete 6.4, "Cost of Construction"

1 September 2004 Amendments:

- at 1.2, clarify "intimacy of touch"
- at 2.1, add three "bullet-point" clarifying items
- add 2.3 (adjust following item numbers)
- at 4.2, clarify use of lighting and graphics
- at 5.2, clarify gathering space(s) for groups with "before and after"
- at 5.2, clarify visitor queuing
- at 5.3, regarding Visitor screening, add "permanent or temporary"
- at 5.3, add "emergency egress"

9 June 2004 Amendments:

- add 2.3 (adjust following item numbers)
- at 2.4, add "consider. . . daylight"
- add 2.7

End of Program Objectives

APPENDIX C : SITE SELECTION CRITERIA/PRELIMINARY DESIGN PROGRAM

Site Selection Criterion	Preliminary Design Program Reference
1. Preserve critical views:	1.1, 1.2, 3.6, 4.3
2. Mutually support each other:	2.1, 2.4
3. Preserve tranquil setting:	1.1, 1.2, 2.8, 3.7
4. Define continuous experience:	2.1
5. Allow visual identification:	2.3
6. Avoid distractions & conflicts:	2.4, 4.1
7. Location for mechanical equipment:	1.2, 3.6, 3.7, 4.2
8. Preserve park quality:	1.2, 3.7, 4.3
9. Limit tree losses:	3.7, 4.2
10. Protect views of National Mall:	3.6, 4.2, 4.3
11. Allow meaningful skylights:	2.5, 5.4
12. Provide paved gathering space:	5.2
13. Access/egress for 800 people per hour:	5.2
14. Service & emergency vehicle access:	5.3
15. Minimize construction impact:	6.1, 6.2