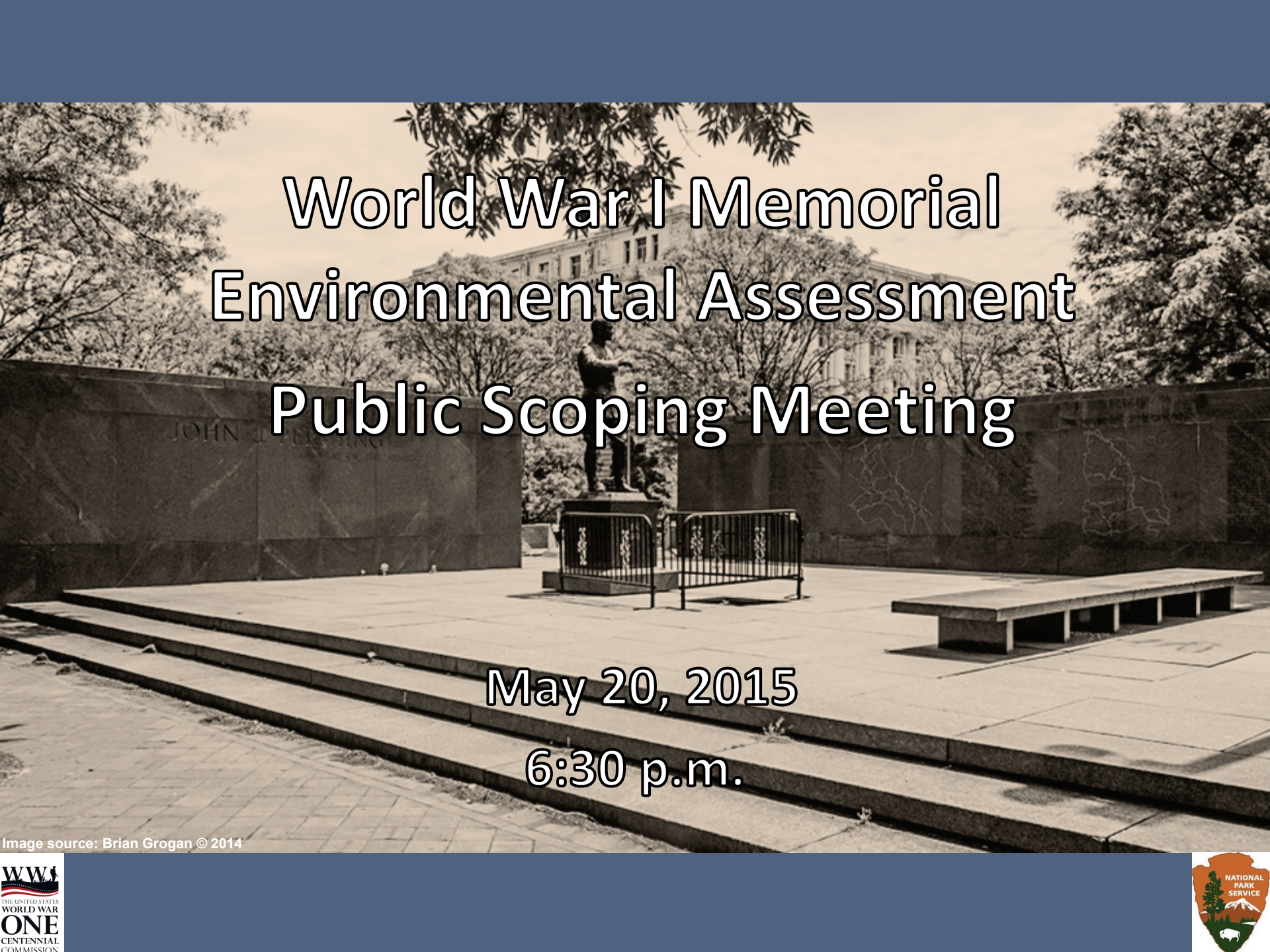




World War I Memorial Environmental Assessment Public Scoping Meeting

May 20, 2015

6:30 p.m.

Image source: Brian Grogan © 2014

Agenda

Welcome

- Peter May, National Park Service, National Capital Region

Project Background

- Edwin Fountain, World War I Centennial Commission

NEPA and Section 106 Process and Issues

- Alan Harwood, AECOM

Project Description

- Edwin Fountain, World War I Centennial Commission

Opportunity for Discussion at Stations

Agenda

Welcome and Purpose of Meeting

Peter May, National Park Service, National Capital Region

Purpose of Meeting

- **Receive input from public regarding establishment of WWI Memorial in Pershing Park**
- **Present project background**
- **Discuss environmental and historic preservation process**
 - **Environmental impacts**
 - **Historic resources effects**
 - **Opportunities for public comment**

Agenda

Project Background

Edwin Fountain, World War I Centennial Commission

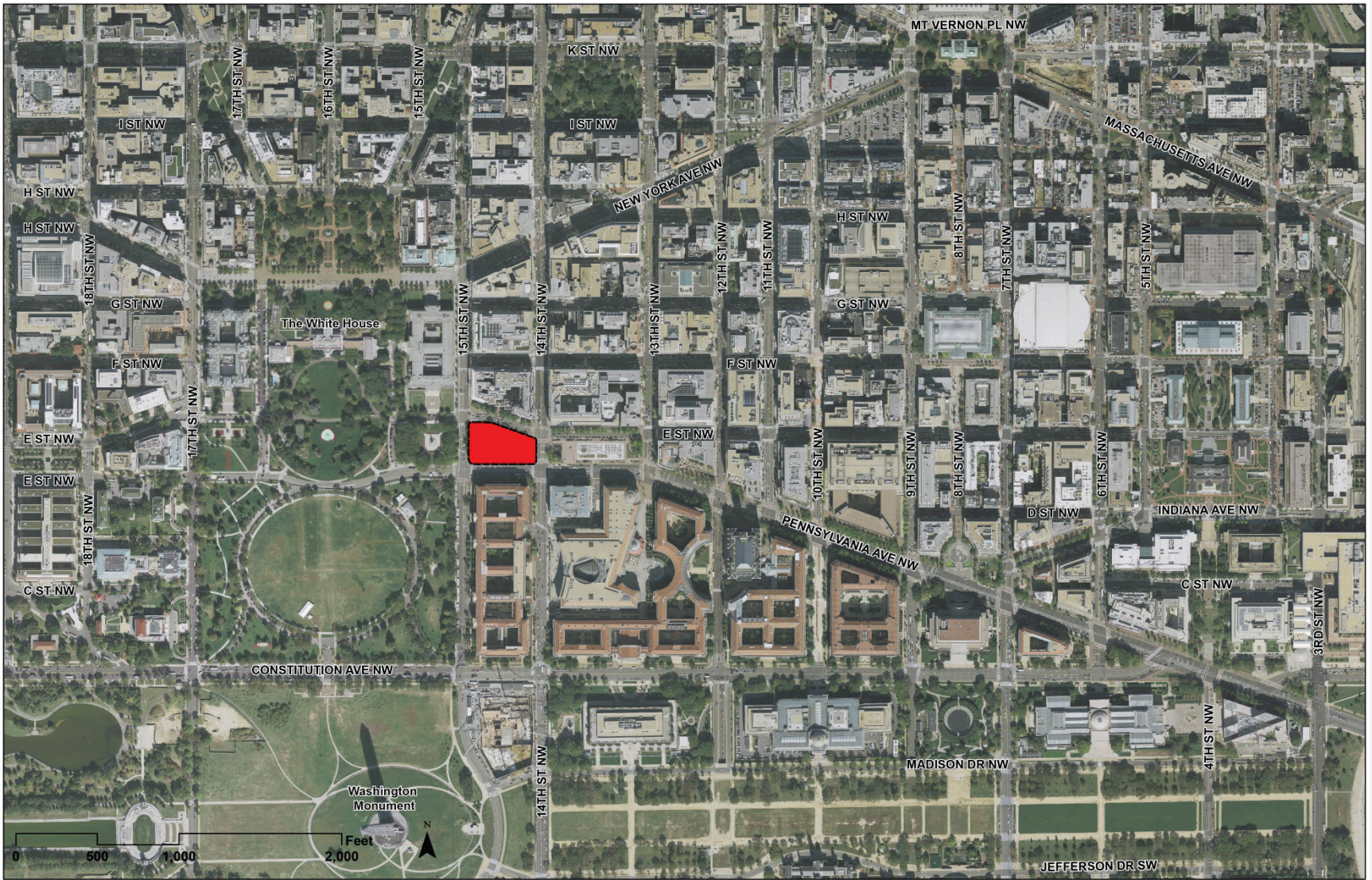
Project Background

- **The 2015 National Defense Authorization Act (Pub. L. 113-291 sec. 3901 (b)(3)(A) authorized the World War I Centennial Commission to “enhance the General Pershing Commemorative Work by constructing [on Pershing Park] appropriate sculptural and other commemorative elements, including landscaping, to further honor” American veterans of World War I**
- **World War I Centennial Commission will sponsor a national design competition for the memorial park**
- **Design will be reviewed and approved by NPS, NCPC, CFA and other relevant agencies**



Image source: WWI Centennial Commission

Site Location Map



Pershing Park and Memorial



Image source: Bing Maps

Pershing Memorial

- Located in southeast corner of Pershing Park
- Contributing object to Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Site
- 12-foot-tall bronze statue of General John Pershing
- Two perpendicular granite walls flank statue to the east and south
 - Walls are inscribed with text of Pershing commending his troops, history of American participation in WWI, and maps of the Western Front and the Meuse-Argonne Offensive



Brian Grogan © 2014

Pershing Park

- Pershing Park is a component of the Pennsylvania Avenue National Historical Site
- Pedestrian views into park blocked by landscaped berms
- Pool/ice skating rink no longer operational
- “Park with a memorial,” rather than a memorial park
- Surrounding urban context has changed (new hotels/offices, White House Visitor Center, additional hardscape/open space in Freedom Plaza)



Brian Grogan © 2014



Brian Grogan © 2014

Selected Memorial Design Goals

- Create a national WW I memorial, not an incidental memorial in a park
- Should be contemplative, not triumphal
- Should be timeless and meaningful for future generations
- Should balance a sense of enclosure and dignity with openness and visibility
- Should provide open views of the U.S. Capitol Building, respect the Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Site, and complement adjacent sites
- Should enable universal access and require minimal maintenance



Image source: WWI Centennial Commission

L-R: WWI Memorial, Memphis, TN; 2nd Division Memorial, Washington, DC

NEPA and Section 106 Process and Issues

Alan Harwood, AECOM



Project Sponsor

**World War I
Centennial
Commission**

Agencies



Purpose and Need

- **Purpose of the Memorial**
 - To provide a place of solemn remembrance, honor and commemoration for the more than 4 million Americans who served during World War I, both in the military and on the home front
- **Need for the Memorial**
 - To fulfill the Congressional mandate for the establishment of a World War I Memorial in Pershing Park.



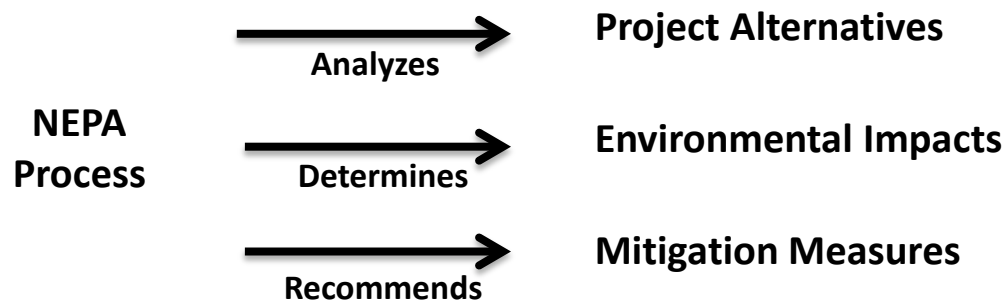
Aisne-Marne American Cemetery, France (Image source: American Battle Monuments Commission)

What is NEPA?

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969

(NEPA; Public Law 91-190; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq*)

- Established a national policy for **protecting the environment** and requires evaluation of alternative actions
- Goal: To ensure **informed decision-making**
- Can conclude with an EA and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) or an EIS and Record of Decision (ROD)

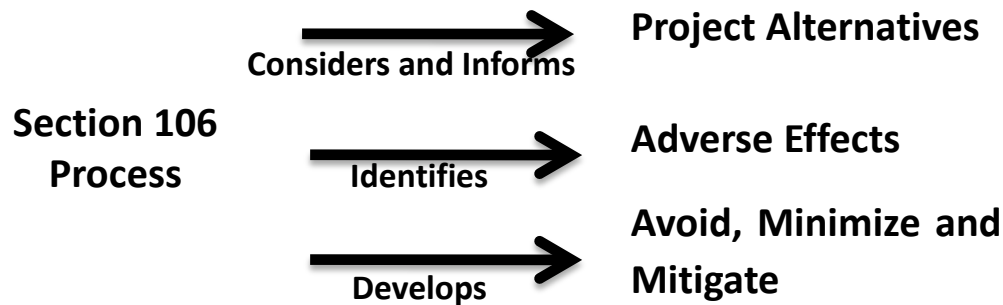


What is Section 106?

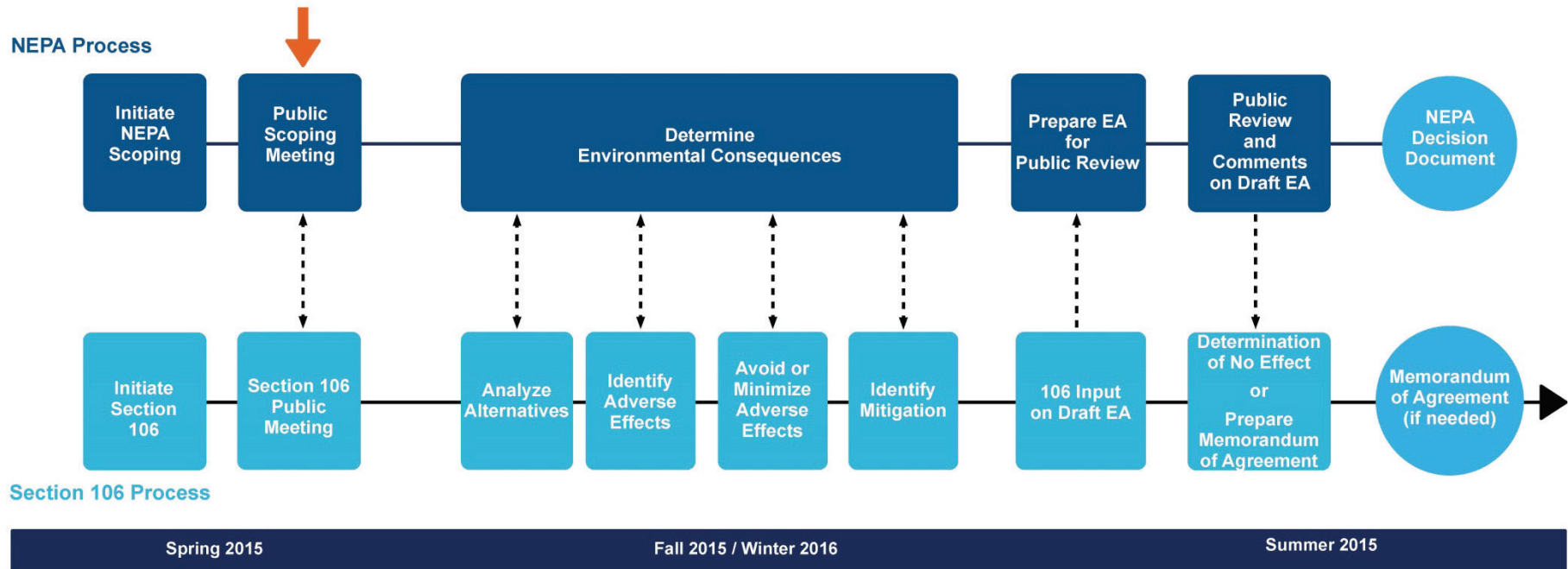
Component of National Historic Preservation Act of 1966

(NHPA; Public Law 89-665; 16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

- Established a process to **protect resources** listed on, or eligible for listing on, the National Register of Historic Places, and requires the consideration of alternatives if effects on historic resources are anticipated
- Goal: To **minimize potential harm** and damage to historic properties
- Can conclude in a Determination of No Adverse Effect or a Memorandum of Agreement with Consulting Parties



NEPA and Section 106 – A Coordinated Approach



Section 106 Participants

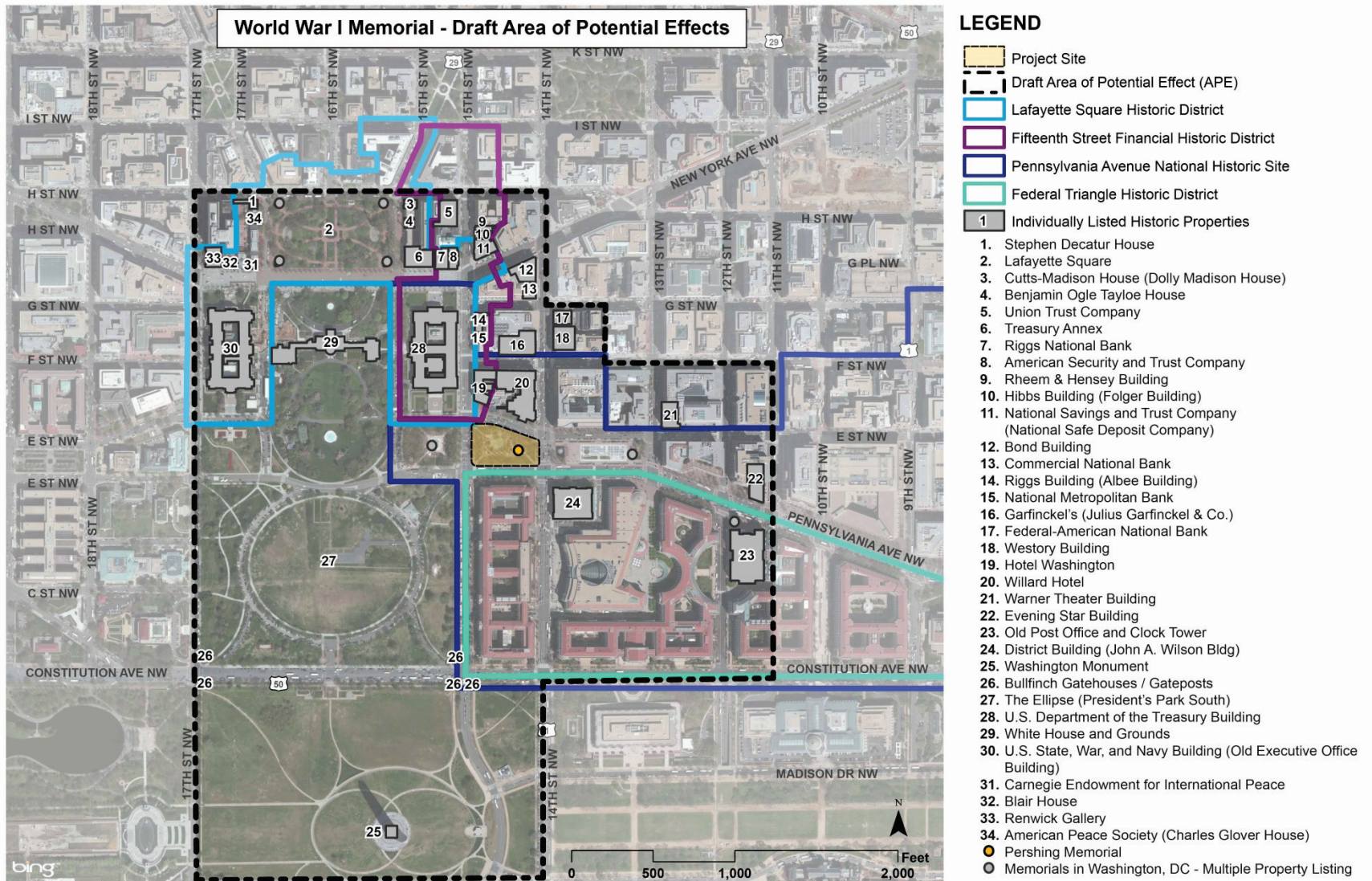
- **State Historic Preservation Office**
- **Advisory Council on Historic Preservation**
- **National Capital Planning Commission**
- **Commission of Fine Arts**
- **National Trust for Historic Preservation**
- **Other stakeholder organizations**
- **General Public**



What Issues Will the EA Consider?

- **Cultural Resources**
 - Historic Resources
 - Cultural Landscapes
- **Other Issues**
 - Land Use
 - Utilities
 - Park Operations
 - Visitor Use and Experience
- **Transportation**
 - Traffic Operations
 - Pedestrian Circulation
- **Natural and Physical Resources**
 - Vegetation
 - Stormwater

Section 106/Historic Resources



Opportunity for Public Comment

Please Note:

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

How Can You Submit Comments?

- **During this Meeting**
 - **Comment Cards**
- **After this Meeting**
 - **On-line:**
<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectID=58434>
 - **Written Comments can be sent to:**
Glenn DeMarr
Attn: Word War I Memorial
National Park Service
National Capital Region
1100 Ohio Dr. SW
Washington, DC 20242