

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Denver, showing a river winding through the urban landscape. A large, circular monument is visible in the center of the city. The text is overlaid on the image.

Gold Star Mothers Monument Environmental Assessment

Site Selection Public Scoping Meeting

November 17, 2015

6:30 p.m.

Agenda

Welcome and Purpose of Meeting – National Park Service

Project Background – James Cummings, AIA

NEPA and Section 106 Process and Issues – Claire Sale, AECOM

Project Description – James Cummings, AIA

Opportunity for Public Comment

Agenda

Welcome and Purpose of Meeting

National Park Service

Purpose of Meeting

- **Present project background**
- **Discuss environmental and historic preservation process**
 - Two scoping efforts
 - Environmental impacts
 - Historic resources effects
 - Opportunities for public comment
- **Present site location alternatives**
- **Comments**

Agenda

Project Background

JC Cummings, James Cummings, AIA

Project Background

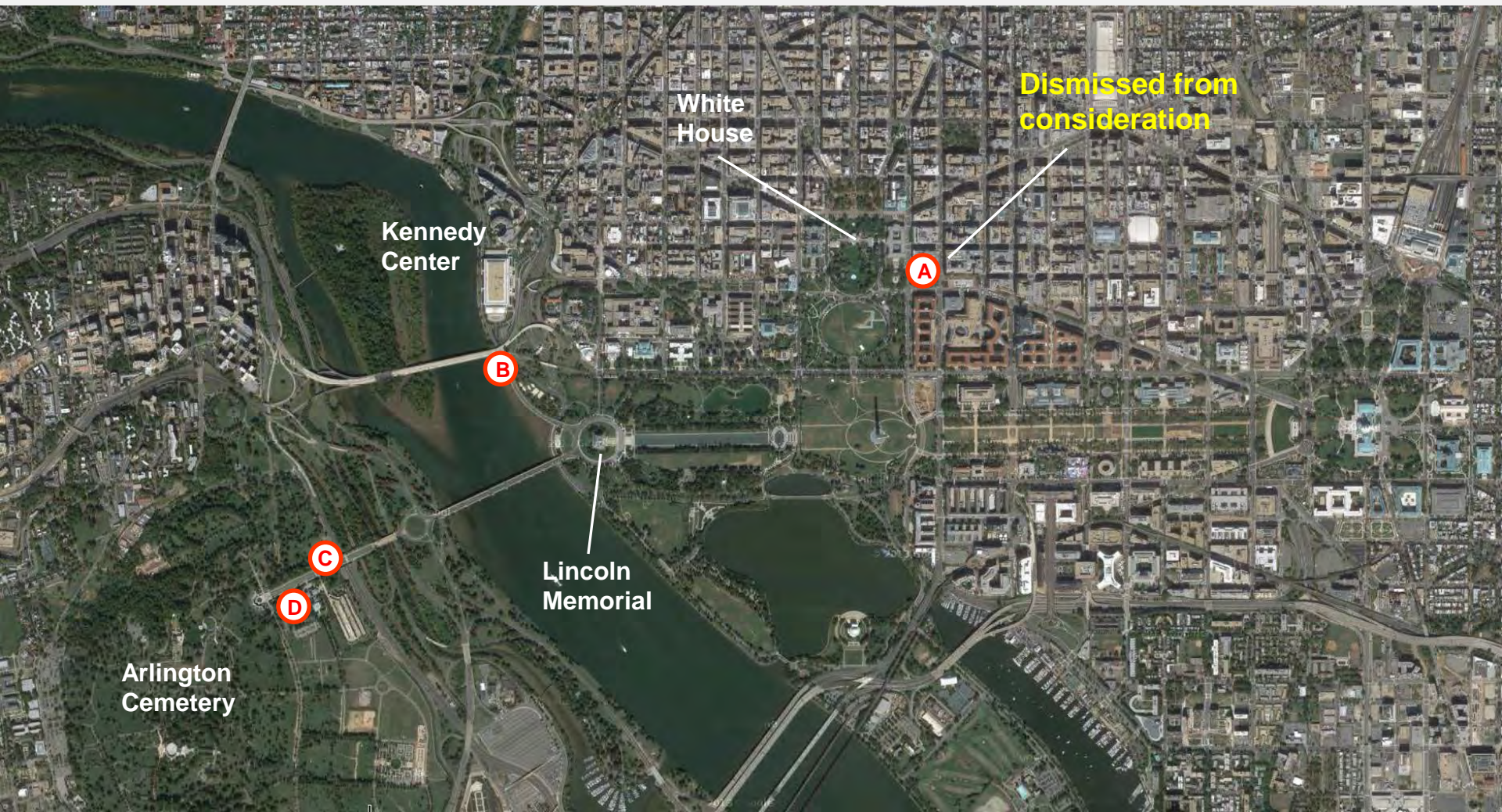
- **Congress has authorized establishment of Gold Star Mothers commemorative work in Public Law Public Law 112-239 on National Park Service land**
- **Work must be consistent with the Commemorative Works Act**
- **Process involves selecting a site and then a design for the monument**
- **The construction of the monument will be sponsored by the Gold Star Mothers National Monument Foundation and maintained by the NPS**

Project Background (con't.)

– **Monument Objectives**

- Express the gratitude of our nation to families who teach that military service is a worthy endeavor
- Recognize the sense of loss shared by Gold Star Mothers and Gold Star Families
- Allow Gold Star Mothers and Gold Star Families an opportunity to have a moment of reflection and contemplation
- Serve as a focal point for Gold Star Mothers and Gold Star Families to feel kinship and emotional support
- Commemorate the history of service of Gold Star Mothers and Gold Star Families
- Provide the opportunity for visitors to gather and take part in commemorative events

Site Location Map



Agenda

NEPA and Section 106 Process and Issues

Claire Sale, AECOM

Organization

Project Sponsor

Gold Star Mothers National
Monument Foundation

Agencies



Purpose and Need

Purpose of the Monument

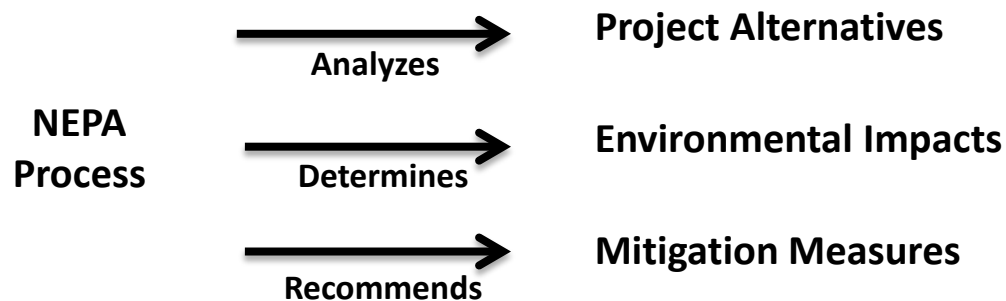
- To honor Gold Star Mothers and Gold Star Families who have given so much to our nation
- To express the gratitude of a nation for family life that fosters caring and generous adults willing to pursue a life of service
- To commemorate the selflessness that almost inevitably occurs when Gold Star Mothers and Gold Star Families turn their grief outward into actions of kindness and concern for others
- To create an atmosphere that enables healing and well-being among those commemorated
- To fulfill Congressional authorization for such a monument

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)

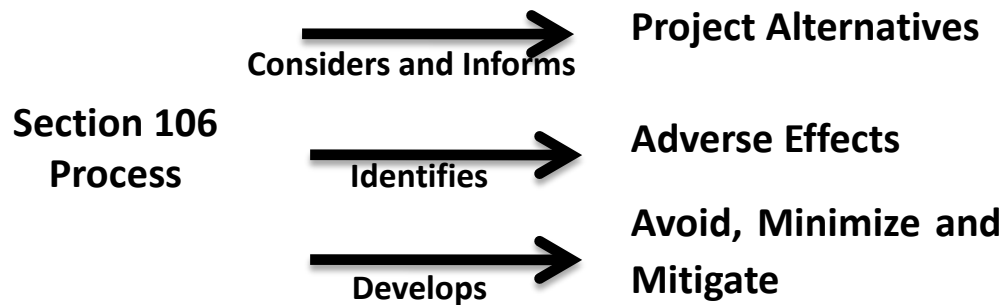


What is Section 106?

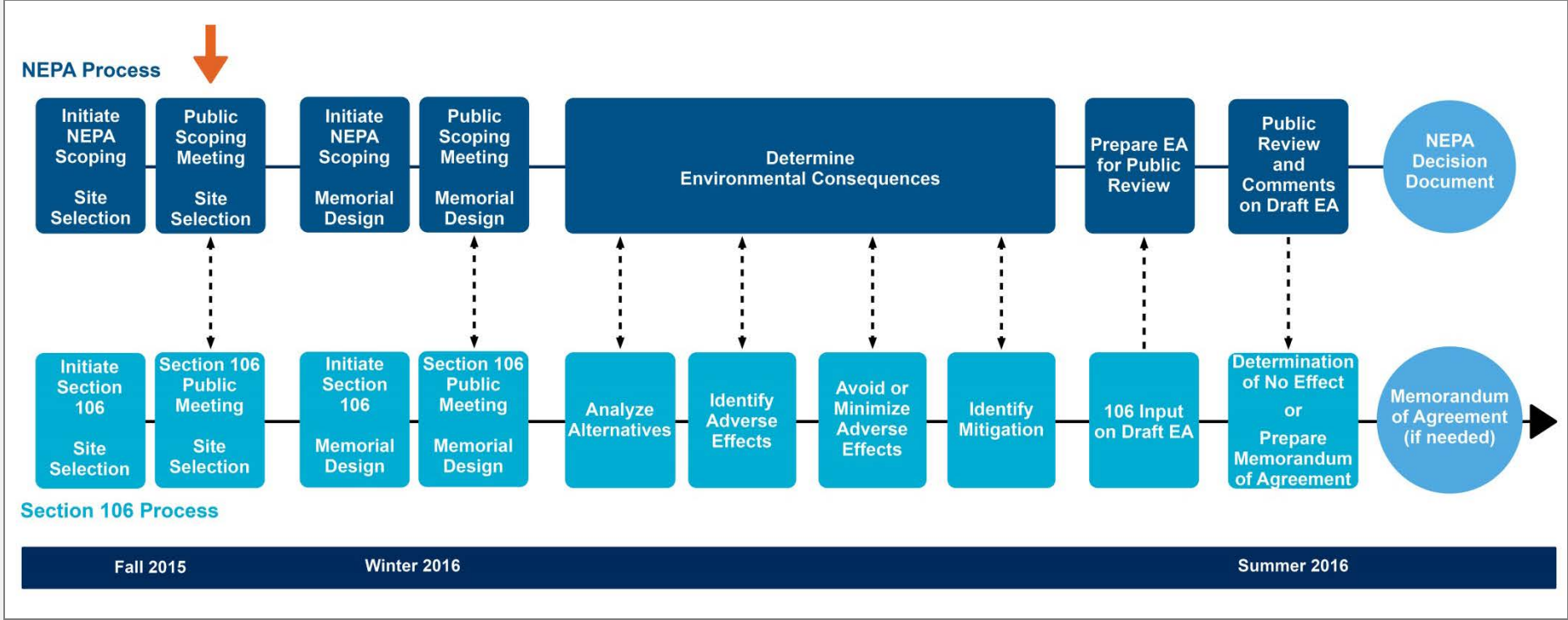
Component of National Historic Preservation Act of 1966

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

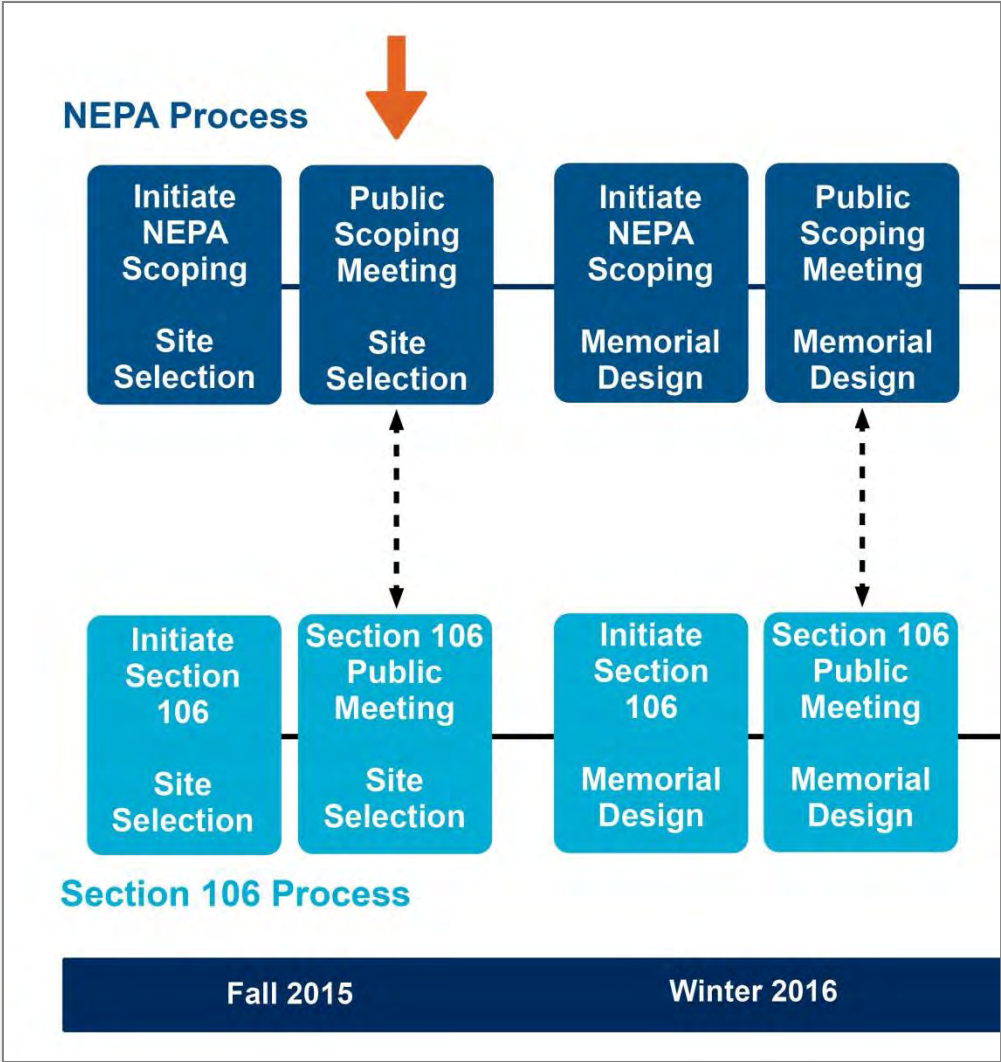
- Established a process to **protect resources** listed on, or eligible for listing on, the National Register of Historic Places, and requires the consideration of alternatives if effects on historic resources are anticipated
- Goal: To **minimize potential harm** and damage to historic properties
-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



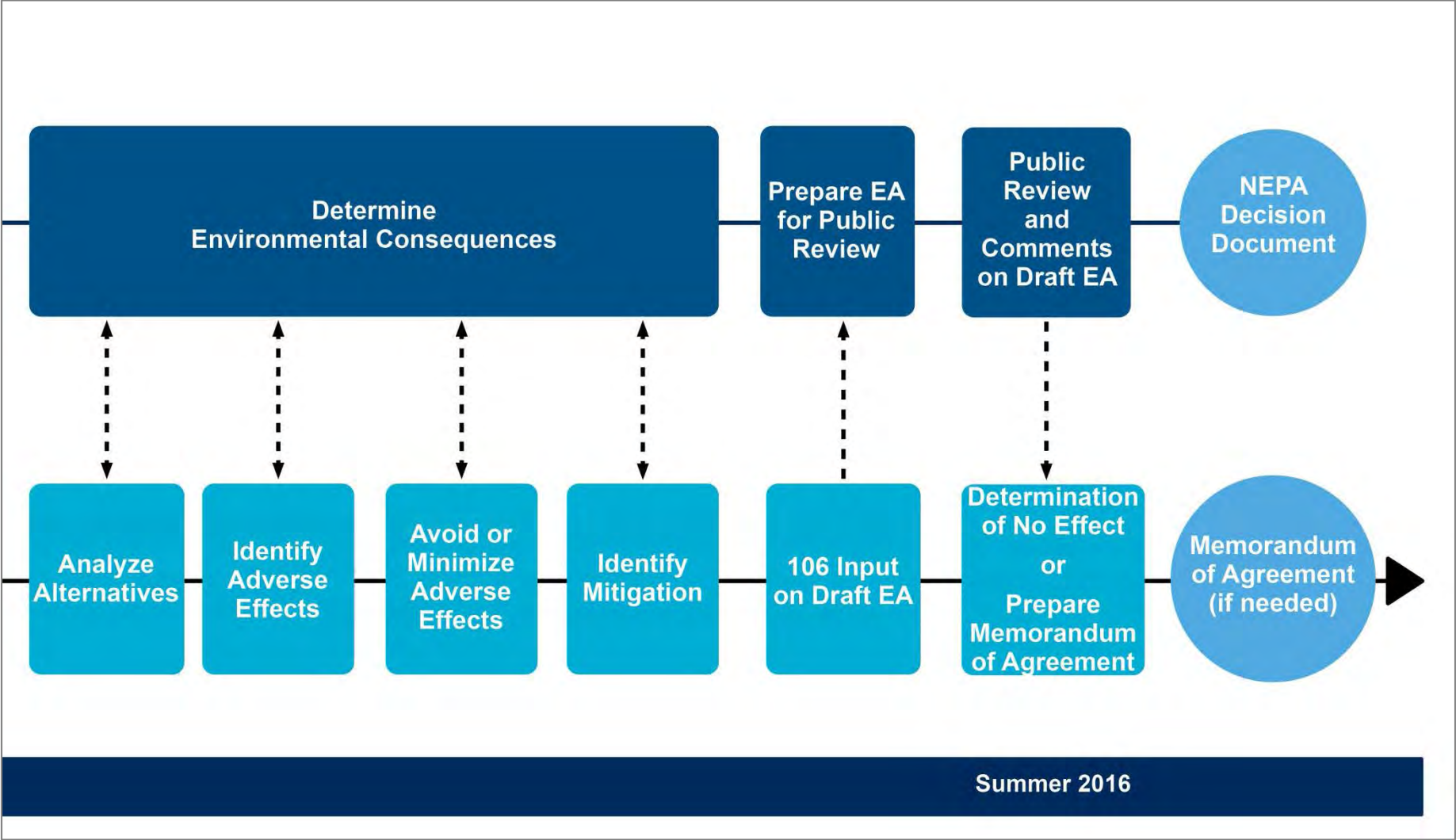
NEPA and Section 106 – A Coordinated Approach



NEPA and Section 106 – Fall 2015/Winter 2015-2016



NEPA and Section 106 – Spring/Summer 2016



NEPA and Section 106 – Agency Processes

The NPS, in cooperation with the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC), is evaluating an updated NEPA and Section 106 process for this memorial's site and design. The purpose of this revised process is to better align and support key decision points associated with each agency's NEPA and Section 106 responsibilities, and to ensure that the review is commensurate with the complexity of the project. In addition to this site selection scoping period, the NPS and NCPC will also conduct scoping review and a scoping meeting for design in early 2016. Following both scoping periods, an EA will be created to document potential environmental impacts. This is a deviation from NCPC's existing Environmental and Historic Preservation Procedures, which requires separate NEPA and Section 106 processes for site selection and the design of the memorial. If you have questions on the proposed updated process and NCPC's guidelines, please contact Lucy Kempf of NCPC at 202-482-7257 or lucy.kepmf@ncpc.gov.

Section 106 Participants

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



What Issues Will the EA Address?

- **Cultural Resources**

- Historic Resources
- Archeology
- Visual Resources

- **Other Issues**

- Land Use
- Utilities
- Park Operations
- Visitor Use and Experience

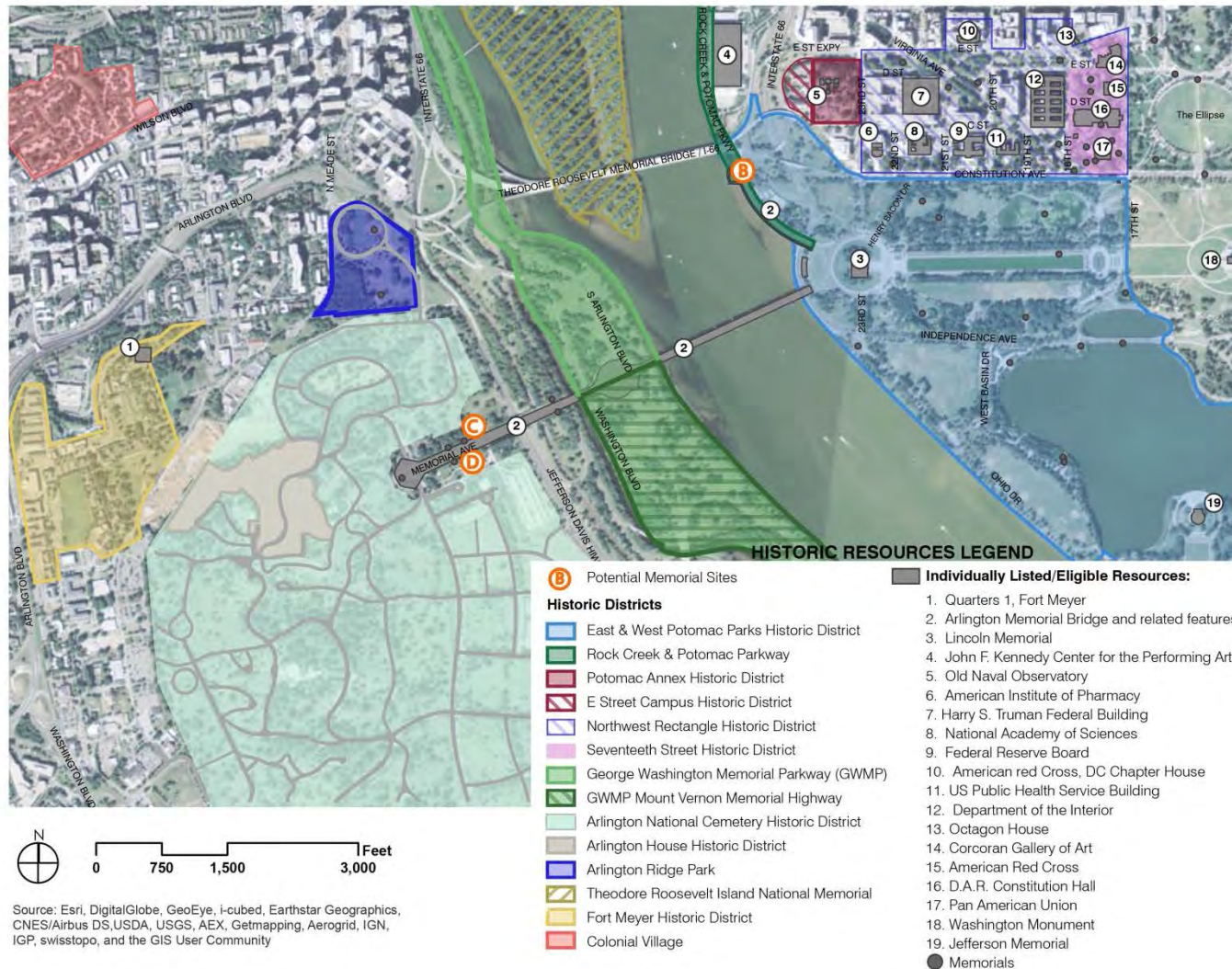
- **Transportation**

- Traffic Operations
- Pedestrian Circulation

- **Natural and Physical Resources**

- Soils
- Vegetation
- Water Resources
- Stormwater

Section 106/Historic Resources



How Can You Submit Comments?

- **During this Meeting**

- Comment Cards

- **After this Meeting**

- **On-line:** <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/gwmp>

- **Fax:** (703) 682-4901

- **Written Comments can be sent to:**

Glenn DeMarr

Attn: Gold Star Mothers Monument EA

National Park Service

National Capital Region

1100 Ohio Dr. SW

Washington, DC 20242

Agenda

Project Description

JC Cummings, James Cummings, AIA

Site Selection Process

- **Began evaluating sites in 2013**
- **Developed 11 preliminary site selection criteria:**
 1. In the District of Columbia or its environs, but not in the National Mall Reserve
 2. In a context meaningful to Gold Star Mothers and Gold Star Families
 3. Out of the overwhelming or distracting influence of other commemorative works
 4. Without adverse impact on other commemorative work(s)
 5. Without adverse impact on historic resources
 6. Convenient to existing tourist destinations

Site Selection Process

- **Preliminary site selection criteria (con't.):**
 - 7. Able to accommodate groups of visitors
 - 8. Able to provide a contemplative setting
 - 9. Accessible by public transportation
 - 10. Accessible to handicapped visitors and the elderly
 - 11. Able to provide shade

Site Location Map



Site A: Pershing Park

- Pershing Park dismissed from due to Congressional action designating it as the site for the World War I Memorial



Site B: Belvedere near Theodore Roosevelt Bridge

Meets the following criteria:

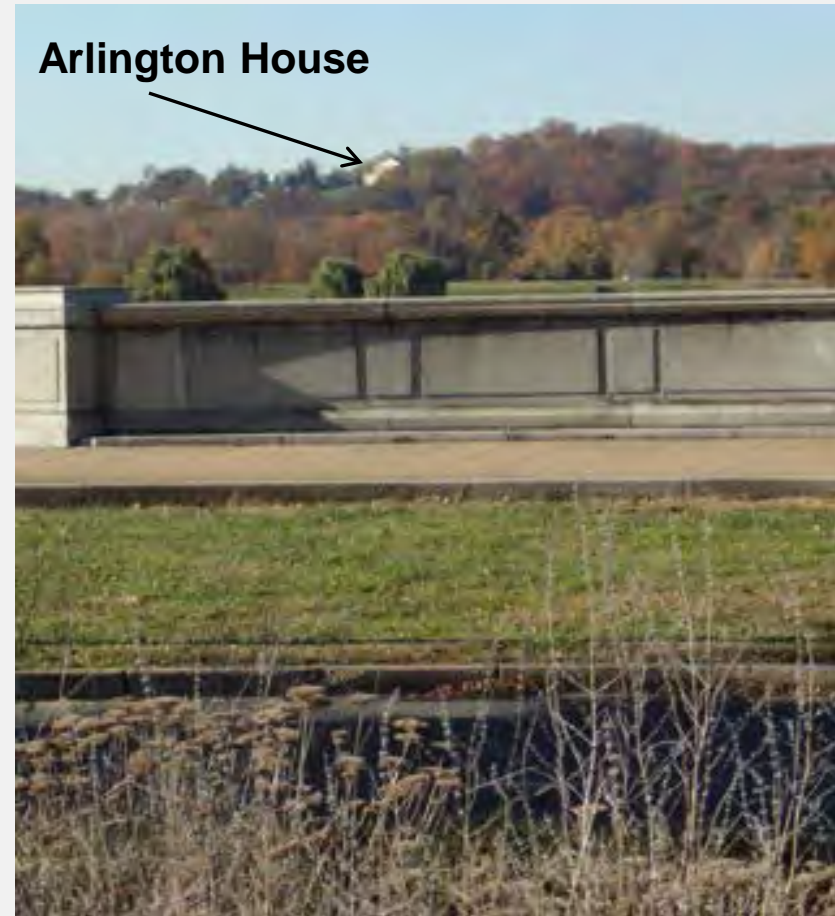
- In DC or its environs, but not in the National Mall Reserve
- In a context meaningful to Gold Star Mothers and Families (dependent on monument design)
- Out of the overwhelming or distracting influence of other commemorative work(s)
- Without adverse impact on historic resources
- Able to provide shade
- **This site is located in Area I and would require special authorization**



Site B: Belvedere near Theodore Roosevelt Bridge



Traffic near the belvedere



View of Arlington House from
belvedere

Site C: Niche Along Memorial Drive

Meets the following criteria:

- In DC or its environs, but not in the National Mall Reserve
- Out of the overwhelming or distracting influence of other commemorative work(s)
- Without adverse impact on other commemorative work(s)
- Without adverse impact on historic resources
- Convenient to existing tourist destinations
- Accessible by public transportation



Site C: Niche Along Memorial Drive



West view down Memorial Drive



Example niche; Armored Forces Memorial



Example niche; National Seabees Memorial

Site D: Near Arlington National Cemetery Visitor Center

- **Site meets all 11 preliminary selection criteria, with the following provision**
 - Without adverse impact on other commemorative work(s) (dependent on monument design)



Site D: Near Arlington National Cemetery Visitor Center



Level, open park



Arlington House not visible from site

Opportunity for Public Comment

Comment Note

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.

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