



Executive Director's Recommendation

Commission Meeting: July 13, 2017

PROJECT National World War I Memorial Pershing Park Washington, DC	NCPC FILE NUMBER 7682
SUBMITTED BY United States Department of the Interior National Park Service	NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER 1.23(73.10)44510
REVIEW AUTHORITY Per 40 U.S.C § 8905 and Public Law 113-291	APPLICANT'S REQUEST Approval of comments on concept design
	PROPOSED ACTION Approve comments as requested
	ACTION ITEM TYPE Staff Presentation

PROJECT SUMMARY

The National Park Service (NPS), in collaboration with the World War I Centennial Commission (WWICC), has submitted concept design plans for the National World War I Memorial. WWICC is the project sponsor of the Memorial in accordance with Public Law 112-272, and is responsible for planning, developing, and executing programs, projects, and activities to commemorate the centennial of World War I through 2018.

Title 30, Section 3091 of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2015 (Pub. Law 113-291) designates Pershing Park in downtown Washington, DC, along with the Liberty Memorial in Kansas City, as national World War I memorials. The Act further authorizes the WWICC to honor the service of members of the United States Armed Forces in World War I. The WWICC may enhance the General Pershing Commemorative Work by constructing appropriate sculptural and other commemorative elements, including landscaping.

A two-stage competition was held to select a memorial designer. Stage I included an open call for design concepts that was completed in August 2015. The competition jury selected five finalists to continue to Stage II, and NCPC heard an information presentation on these finalists in December 2015. The winning design, "The Weight of Sacrifice," was selected by WWICC in early 2016. Since that time, the sponsor has continued to develop the proposed design. The Commission provided comments on the concept design in November 2016. Since that time, the proposal has been further developed.

KEY INFORMATION

- The Commemorative Works Act (CWA) establishes requirements for building commemorative works on federal lands within the District of Columbia and its environs.

It applies to lands under jurisdiction of the US Department of the Interior (DOI) and the US General Services Administration (GSA).

- Public Law 113-291 designates Pershing Park in downtown Washington, DC, along with the Liberty Memorial in Kansas City, as national World War I memorials. The Act further authorizes the WWICC to honor the service of members of the United States Armed Forces in World War I by enhancing the General Pershing Commemorative Work by constructing appropriate sculptural and other commemorative elements, including landscaping.
- Pershing Park is located within the 1974 Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation (PADC) Plan area. The Plan called for a public open space at the site to serve as a transition between the more formal landscape of President's Park and the hardscape of Freedom Plaza.
- Pershing Park is located within the Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Site (NHS).
- Pershing Park is a work of the landscape architect M. Paul Friedberg, and the park has been determined individually eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
- The Commission provided comments on the concept plans for the memorial in November 2016. Since that time, the applicant has continued to develop the proposal in response to the Commission's feedback.
- The Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) reviewed and approved the concept design at its May 18, 2017 meeting. At that time, the CFA noted the importance of the "visual, auditory, and tactile qualities of water – in making this park work successfully as a memorial."

RECOMMENDATION

The Commission:

Finds the revised scheme retains more elements of the existing park as compared to the previous design.

Commemoration

Requests the size of the commemorative wall be reduced to improve views across the park, and consider opportunities for better integrating the wall into the existing terracing and steps.

Supports improvements to the legibility of the Pershing Memorial walls; and requests additional information be provided describing the proposed enhancements.

Water Features

Finds that water features can help activate urban park spaces when designed appropriately.

Requests the applicant evaluate the visual and functional impacts of such features when they are both operational and empty of water.

Requests the applicant provide additional details regarding the proposed pool modifications, including the design of the proposed pedestrian path, to demonstrate the impacts of any changes on the character of the pool and the visitor experience.

Requests the applicant consider integrating a water feature into the commemorative wall, consistent with the location and orientation of the existing cascade fountain.

Visibility and Access

Finds the central sunken space surrounded by raised berms is a fundamental feature of the original Pershing Park design; and further

Finds the berms and limited entry points from the southern perimeter of the site create challenges for pedestrian access and visibility; and therefore

Requests the applicant provide alternatives to improve pedestrian access and visibility from the southern perimeter of the site, including widening existing paths and stairs or adding new entry points.

Recommends the applicant continue to evaluate opportunities to increase universal access throughout the site.

Supports retention of the northern terrace steps and planters as they help to provide a clear edge and transition from the Pennsylvania Avenue north corridor.

Park Programming

Requests a plan be prepared that identifies the proposed urban park spaces and potential programming or activities that can occur in those spaces.

PROJECT REVIEW TIMELINE

Previous actions	December 3, 2015 – Information Presentation on five finalists November 3, 2016 – Review of Concept Plans
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Remaining actions (anticipated)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Approval of preliminary memorial and site development plans– Approval of final memorial and site development plans
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PROJECT ANALYSIS

Executive Summary

In November 2016, the Commission provided a series of comments on the proposed design of the World War I Memorial at Pershing Park. Since that time, the applicant has continued to develop the proposal in response to the Commission's guidance. Staff has analyzed this project based on this input, and in consideration of the Commemorative Works Act (CWA) and the Comprehensive Plan. A general principle set forth in the Comprehensive Plan is to protect and improve the open space and character of the Monumental Core and the integrity of each memorial and park element. Further, the Comprehensive Plan includes policies to enhance the quality of the visitor experience to the Nation's Capital, particularly at major cultural sites. Staff has also evaluated policies related to urban design given the memorial's position within downtown Washington, DC along Pennsylvania Avenue, NW.

The Commission has indicated support for several general planning and design principles related to the proposed memorial. These include:

- A memorial design that combines urban park and commemorative features successfully, integrating park uses and dignified commemorative components in a manner that is balanced and enduring.
- A memorial design that respects the historic, symbolic and civic importance of the Pennsylvania Avenue corridor, and preserves the unified streetscape and framed views of the US Capitol.
- Strategies that enhance Pershing Park while rehabilitating or reusing elements of the original park design.

Staff has evaluated the concepts based upon these principles, and the analysis has been organized to focus on three major aspects of the proposal, including the commemorative elements, urban park elements and historic preservation.

Analysis

Overview

The project site is bounded by 14th Street, NW to the east, 15th Street, NW to the west, and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW to the north and south. The 1.75-acre site is surrounded by civic and governmental uses to the south, including the Commerce Building and Wilson Building. Sherman

Park and Freedom Plaza are located to the west and east, respectively. A variety of commercial uses, including several hotels, can be found to the north.

The existing park, designed by M. Paul Friedberg, includes a central, sunken pool with waterfall, surrounded by amphitheater-style steps and seating. The west and south sides of the park are elevated above the central space to create a buffer from the surrounding city streets. A small gazebo formerly accommodated restrooms and a café. Movable furniture provides flexibility and adaptability for park users. The southeastern corner of the park is occupied by the General Pershing Memorial. This consists of two ten-foot granite walls engraved with quotes and maps. A statue of General Pershing occupies the space framed by these two walls.

Public Law 113-291, Section 3091, enacted on December 19, 2014, authorized the commemoration and designated the site as a national World War I Memorial. The park is federal property, a component of the Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Site, and a unit of the National Park System administered by the Superintendent of the National Mall and Memorial Parks. Located one block east of the White House on Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, the memorial may include appropriate sculptural and other commemorative elements, including landscaping, to further honor the service of members of the United States Armed Forces in World War I. The Secretary of the Interior, through the NPS, on completion of the enhancements will assume responsibility for maintaining the work.

Revised Concept

The applicant has submitted a revised concept design for review and comment. Additional designs were also explored, but were ultimately dismissed from further development. The revised concept proposes three changes to the existing park:

1. As with the previous scheme, a bronze bas-relief commemorative wall is inserted along the western edge of the sunken plaza. The wall will occupy the location of the existing waterfall element, but is expanded to the north and south for a total width of 65 feet. The top of the wall is a pool of water that cascades over the north and south sides, running down troughs to the sunken plaza/main pool level. Steps are retained on either side of the wall that access the western portion of the site.
2. Second, the existing pool would be retained in plan, but a pathway would be inserted to accommodate pedestrian circulation to and in front of the commemorative wall. The proposed path would begin on the east side of the pool and turn to follow in front of the wall. A strip of water would be located between the path and wall.
3. Finally, the existing café kiosk is removed and replaced with a flagpole located on a circular plinth.

Additional minor alternations would be necessary primarily to accommodate pedestrian access, while most other elements of the existing park are generally retained in place. This includes the Pershing Memorial, landscape berms, and Pennsylvania Avenue North streetscape.

Historic Preservation

Pershing Park is a work of the landscape architect M. Paul Friedberg, and the park has been determined individually eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Further, the Commission previously requested the plans clearly denote the existing park elements to be retained, and further explore whether additional features could be reused or rehabilitated, including the steps, planters, and waterfall. The revised concept retain more elements of the existing park as compared to the previously-reviewed design. For example, the previous design altered much of the terracing and topography. Changes are generally limited to those necessary for the introduction of the commemorative wall, alterations to the pool, including insertion of a pedestrian path, as well as general accessibility improvements.

The Commission previously requested a design alternative be evaluated that includes a restoration and rehabilitation approach with minimal changes to the existing park features. Staff recommends the **Commission find the revised scheme retains more elements of the existing park as compared to the previous design.** However, as described in the analysis that follows, additional revisions may be possible which help minimize impacts on the historic fabric of the park, while improving the commemorative and urban park experience.

Commemoration

Bas-Relief Wall

The primary objective of the proposal is the establishment of a memorial to World War I that conveys the significance of the war and the scale of American sacrifice. The bas-relief wall remains the primary commemorative element in the proposed design. The Wall of Remembrance is intended to honor the sacrifice of all World War I servicemen and women. The sculpture consists of a series of scenes that are organized temporally, starting with the call of arms, proceeding through battle, and concluding with the aftermath of war and the return of loved ones. The proposed wall is over 65 feet long and approximately ten feet tall. It expands the footprint of the existing waterfall feature to the north and south.

The proposed size and scale of the wall has several implications. As noted above, the length and height create a visual and physical barrier to the western portion of the site, not present in the original park design. The free flow of space between activity areas is one of the character-defining features of the existing park, and it would be altered under the proposed design. Staff notes that another important component of the central plaza is the terracing. The applicant should consider whether the proposed wall and terracing can be better integrated, and therefore avoid appearing as a barrier. Modifications to the design may also allow the steps and seating areas to expand, where appropriate. Therefore, staff recommends the **Commission request the size of the commemorative wall be reduced to improve views across the park, and consider opportunities for better integrating the wall into the existing terracing and steps.**

Staff acknowledges the wall should be scaled appropriately to convey the importance and magnitude of the events of World War I. As the proposal is refined, additional information will be necessary regarding the design of the wall's sculptural and interpretative components. This will provide an opportunity to understand the scale of the imagery and text, and how they will be experienced by visitors. This may also influence the size of the wall.

Pershing Memorial

The existing Pershing Memorial will remain in place. Previously, the applicant has indicated they will consider ways to improve the legibility of the memorial walls in support of an approved visitor experience. Additional information will be helpful in understanding these proposed improvements as the project advances. Therefore, staff recommends the **Commission support improvements to the legibility of the Pershing Memorial walls, and requests additional information be provided describing any proposed enhancements.**

Water Features

The use of water features can help activate public spaces in a positive way. For example, the Pershing Park pool and fountain were integral to creating a comfortable oasis in the center of the city. The pool and waterfall creating a pleasant environment, while the terraced steps and seating allowed park patrons direct access to the water. As such, staff recommends the **Commission find that water features can help activate urban park spaces when designed appropriately.**

At the same time, water features can create a number of challenges, ranging from maintenance to their functionality and visual impact when not in operation. For example, many pools in this region are not in use for several months during the winter. The original Pershing Park design addressed this issue by converting the space into an ice rink. In this case, such a use may not be appropriate, but a large empty pool may be detrimental to both the memorial and park experience. Given this range of potential issues, staff recommends the **Commission request the applicant evaluate the visual and functional impacts of such features when they are both operational and empty of water.**

The revised design retains the footprint of the pool and inserts a circulation path to allow pedestrians to view the commemorative wall up-close. Based upon the submission materials, the water depth, pool materials and pedestrian path treatments are unclear. The applicant should further develop the proposal, while also evaluating pedestrian circulation and safety, including fall protection. As such, staff recommends the **Commission request the applicant provide additional details regarding the proposed pool modifications, including the design of the proposed pedestrian path, to demonstrate the impacts of any changes on the character of the pool and the visitor experience.**

The revised concept also includes a new water feature to be located on top of the commemorative wall. Water flows from the pool down the north and south faces of the wall into troughs that descend to the main sunken pool. Staff notes that the original park's cascading fountain poured

directly into the pool. The sound and movement of water were important to the feeling and association of the park. The oasis that was created served as a respite from the surrounding streets.

The proposed water feature would not have the same effect. The inclusion of a similar water feature could help to break up the size and scale of the commemorative wall. It could also be utilized in a way that supports the bas-relief narrative. As such, staff recommends the **Commission request the applicant consider integrating a water feature into the commemorative wall, consistent with the location and orientation of the existing cascade fountain.**

Urban Park Elements

Another key objective of both proposals is to create an attractive and functional urban park that facilitates a number of park uses, responds to the surrounding context, and accommodates the memorial program.

Visibility and Access

The existing Pershing Park is primarily organized around a large central plaza and pool, surrounded by elevated berms to the west, south and east. The resulting effect of this design is a public space that is relatively sheltered from the traffic of the surrounding streets. This character-defining spatial organization is also reflected in the Determination of Eligibility¹ prepared for Pershing Park. Therefore, staff recommends the **Commission find the central sunken space surrounded by raised berms is a fundamental feature of the original Pershing Park design.**

While this spatial organization lays the foundation for a successful park space, several challenges require further consideration. First, the elevated berms limit views and pedestrian access from the southern portion of the site, including the Commerce and Wilson Buildings. In addition, access points are limited to the corners of the site. Staff therefore recommends the **Commission find the berms and limited entry points from the southern perimeter of the site create challenges for pedestrian access and visibility; and therefore requests the applicant provide alternatives to improve pedestrian access and visibility from the southern perimeter of the site, including widening existing paths and stairs or adding new entry points.** Additional wayfinding or directional signage, when appropriately integrated into the landscape, may also be appropriate.

Another challenge related to the spatial configuration results from the varied topography found across the site. In particular, the central plaza and pool are sunken below adjacent streets, while the berms are elevated. Pedestrians must currently navigate steps to access much of the site. As such, staff supports efforts to make the park and memorial accessible for those of all abilities. Therefore, staff suggests the **Commission recommend the applicant continue to evaluate opportunities to increase universal access throughout the site.**

¹ Pershing Park Determination of Eligibility, prepared by Tim Kerr, Senior Architectural Historian, Robinson & Associates, Inc., and Laura Knott, Historical Landscape Architect, Commonwealth Heritage Group, Inc., July 14, 2016.

Pennsylvania Avenue Corridor

Both concepts retain the alignment of willow oaks along with the northern edge of the park, consistent with the Pennsylvania Avenue corridor streetscape. This configuration continues to frame views toward the US Capitol. Staff also notes the applicant has also provided additional analysis of the PADC streetscape limits, consistent with the Commission's previous request. The revised concept retains the existing steps along Pennsylvania Avenue north, creating a clear distinction between the sidewalk zone and central plaza area. Staff recommends the **Commission support retention of the northern terrace steps and planters as they help to provide a clear edge and transition from the Pennsylvania Avenue north corridor.**

Park Programming

Finally, staff has noted previously that successful parks accommodate a variety of activities and programming. As the design advances, it will be important to confirm how all park and memorial spaces might be used. As such, staff recommends the **Commission again request a plan be prepared that identifies the proposed urban park spaces and potential programming or activities that can occur in those spaces.** Such a plan will help evaluate the relationship of commemorative and park spaces and ensure they can both be effectively accommodated in the design.

CONFORMANCE TO EXISTING PLANS, POLICIES AND RELATED GUIDANCE

Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital

As noted above, the planning comments are designed to ensure the proposal meets basic goals of the Comprehensive Plan.

Commemorative Works Act

The Commemorative Works Act (CWA) contains a set of foundational level decision criteria that NCPC is required to use when considering site and design proposals for commemorative works. Specifically, the CWA states that in considering site and design proposals, NCPC shall be guided by a number of criteria, including surroundings, location, material, landscape features, and site specific guidelines. As noted above, the planning and design comments are designed to ensure the proposal broadly meets the CWA criteria.

Memorials and Museums Master Plan

The 2001 Memorials and Museums Master Plan ("2M Plan") provides guidance regarding the placement of future commemorative works. In particular, the Plan seeks to reinforce the historic urban design features of the city, minimize intrusion on existing memorials, and reduce adverse environmental and transportation impacts and enhance positive economic and other effects on local neighborhoods. The Plan states that memorials, when properly placed and sensitively

designed, can provide a source of community identity and pride, while bolstering revitalization efforts.

National Historic Preservation Act

NCPC and NPS each have an independent responsibility to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). NPS initiated consultation with the District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office (DC SHPO) on May 1, 2015. Three consulting party meetings have been held to date. On December 16, 2015, the five finalist designs were presented, along with a draft area of potential effects (APE). Several attendees expressed concern that a determination of eligibility (DOE) for Pershing Park had not been completed, and that a preservation alternative was not being considered. The DOE was subsequently completed and found the park eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. On September 21, 2016, the consulting parties reviewed the draft DOE for Pershing Park, and discussed the proposed design concept.

On February 8, 2017, a consulting parties meeting was held to review the two new concept plans. At that time, several participants noted the additional efforts by the WWICC to explore other strategies and to minimize impacts on the historic fabric. Significant discussion focused on the character and configuration of the water features in both schemes, and their relationship to the memorial and park spaces. A subsequent consulting parties meeting was held on June 28, 2017. NCPC will complete the requirements of Section 106 prior to the Commission's final approval of the project.

National Environmental Policy Act

NCPC and NPS will each have an independent responsibility to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); NCPC's responsibility stems from its approval authority over the site and design of the monument. A public scoping meeting was held on May 20, 2015 to discuss the memorial authorization and site characteristics. NPS is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to identify alternatives and assess the potential impacts of the proposed memorial. NCPC is a cooperating agency for purposes of the EA, and NCPC staff provided scoping comments on June 2, 2015. These recommended evaluation of a number of topics through the NEPA process, including urban design and visitor experience, historic and cultural resources, transportation systems and sustainability.

With its current review and action, the Commission is providing comments on the concept design for the project. Final NEPA documentation is not required at this time, but will be completed prior to the Commission's action on the final site and memorial design.

CONSULTATION

Coordinating Committee

The Coordinating Committee reviewed the proposal at its June 21, 2017 meeting. Without objection, the Committee forwarded the proposed comments on concept design to the Commission with the statement that the proposal has been coordinated with all participating agencies. The District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office (DC SHOP) noted that their coordination is conditioned upon satisfactory completion of the Section 106 review process, including the execution of Memoranda of Agreement, as applicable.

The participating agencies were: NCPC; the District of Columbia Office of Planning; the District Department of Transportation; the District Department of Energy and Environment; the DC SHPO; the General Services Administration; the National Park Service and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

U.S. Commission of Fine Arts

The Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) reviewed and approved the concept design for the new memorial at its May 18, 2017 meeting. At that time, the CFA noted the importance of the “visual, auditory, and tactile qualities of water – in making this park work successfully as a memorial.” They also encouraged the design team to further evaluate the gazebo as a location for potential commemorative elements.

National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission

Section 8905(a)(1) of the Commemorative Works Act requires memorial sponsors to consult with the National Capital Memorials Advisory Committee (NCMAC) on the selection of alternative sites and design concepts prior to submitting the project to NCPC for formal review. The proposed memorial will be submitted to NCMAC for review prior to final approval by NCPC.

ONLINE REFERENCE

The following supporting documents for this project are available online:

- Submission Package
- Project Synopsis

Prepared by Matthew Flis
07/06/2017

POWERPOINT (ATTACHED)

NCPC File #7682

National World War I Memorial

Pershing Park
14th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC

National Park Service

Revised Concept Review

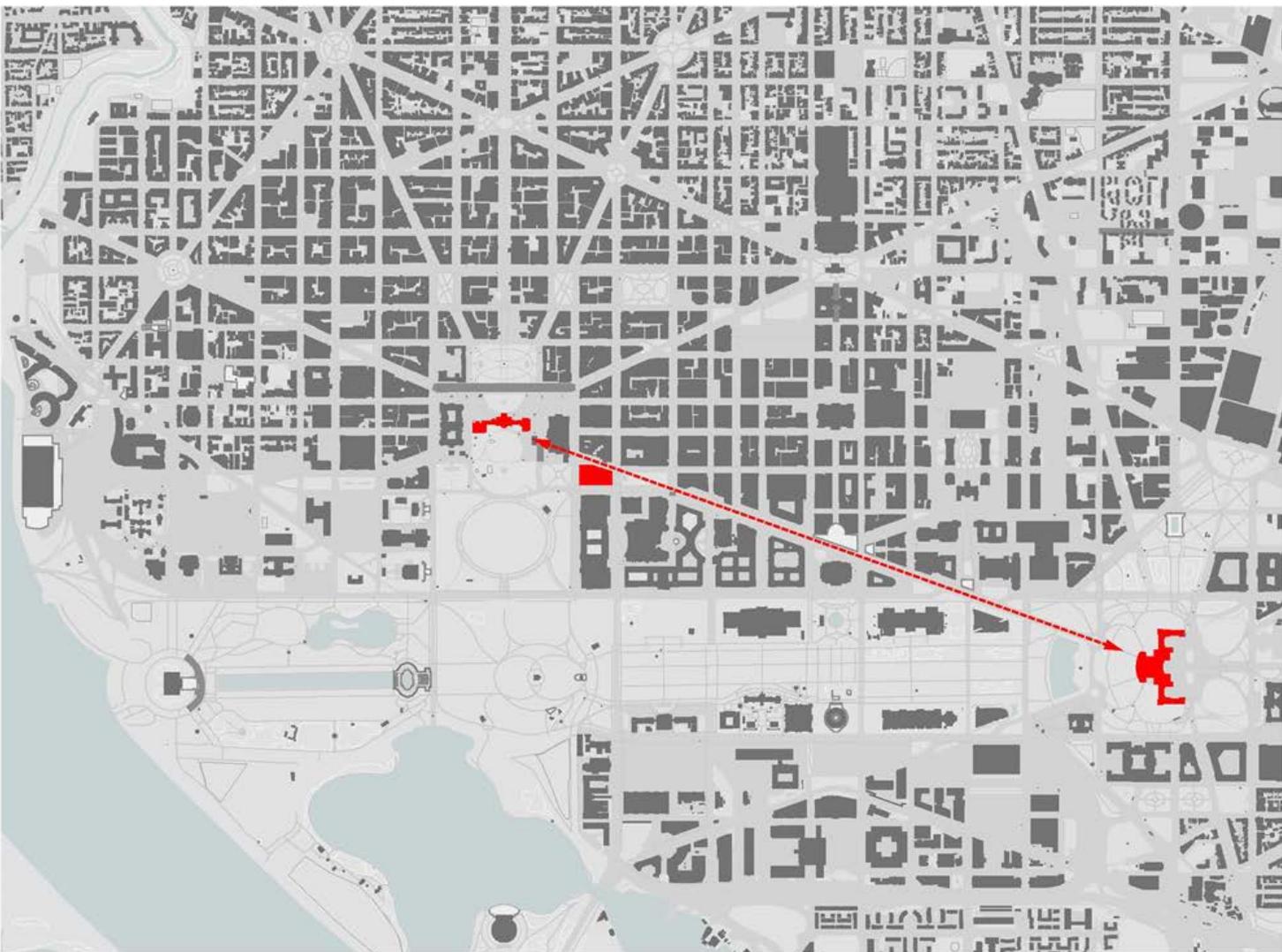
Site Context

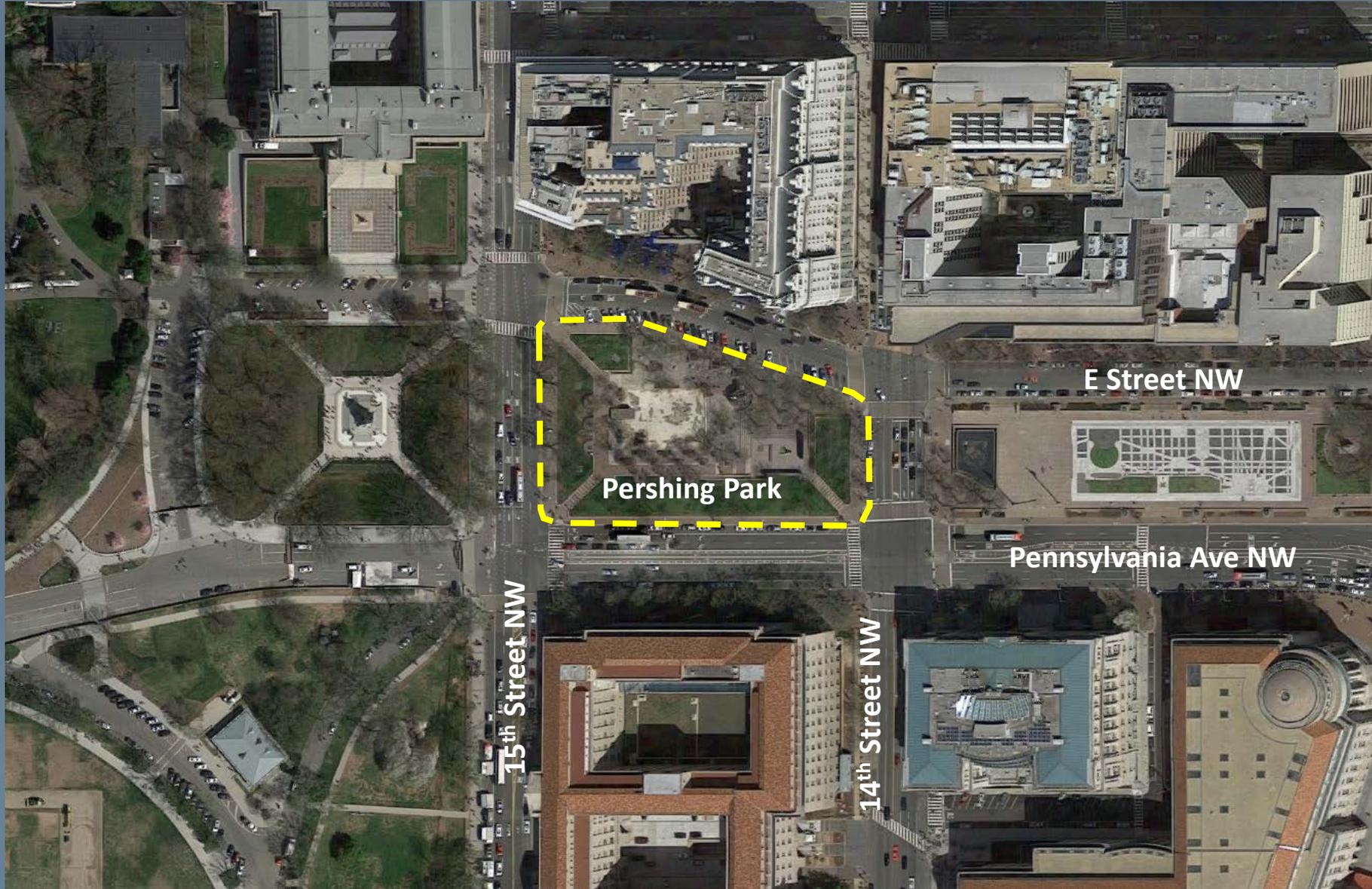
Pershing Park is the western most public space along Pennsylvania Avenue between the White House and the Capitol, and as such, it plays a significant role in the symbolic and physical connection between the executive and legislative branches of government originally conceived by Pierre L'Enfant in 1791.

At the junction between the monumental core to the south and west and the residential and commercial life of Washington D.C. to the north and east, Pershing Park needs to function as both a memorial and a park, contributing to the family of commemorative elements and spaces of Pennsylvania Avenue, while supporting a vibrant economy and culture.

Achieving continuity along the Avenue, maintaining vistas and consistent quality design has been an ongoing endeavor. In 1966, Congress recognized the need to coordinate the design of Pershing Park with efforts to rehabilitate Pennsylvania Avenue, amending the authorization of the Pershing Memorial. The Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation (PADC), released *The Pennsylvania Avenue Plan* in 1974, providing a framework that ultimately led to the design of a streetscape plan by Sasaki Associates and the redesign of Pershing Park.

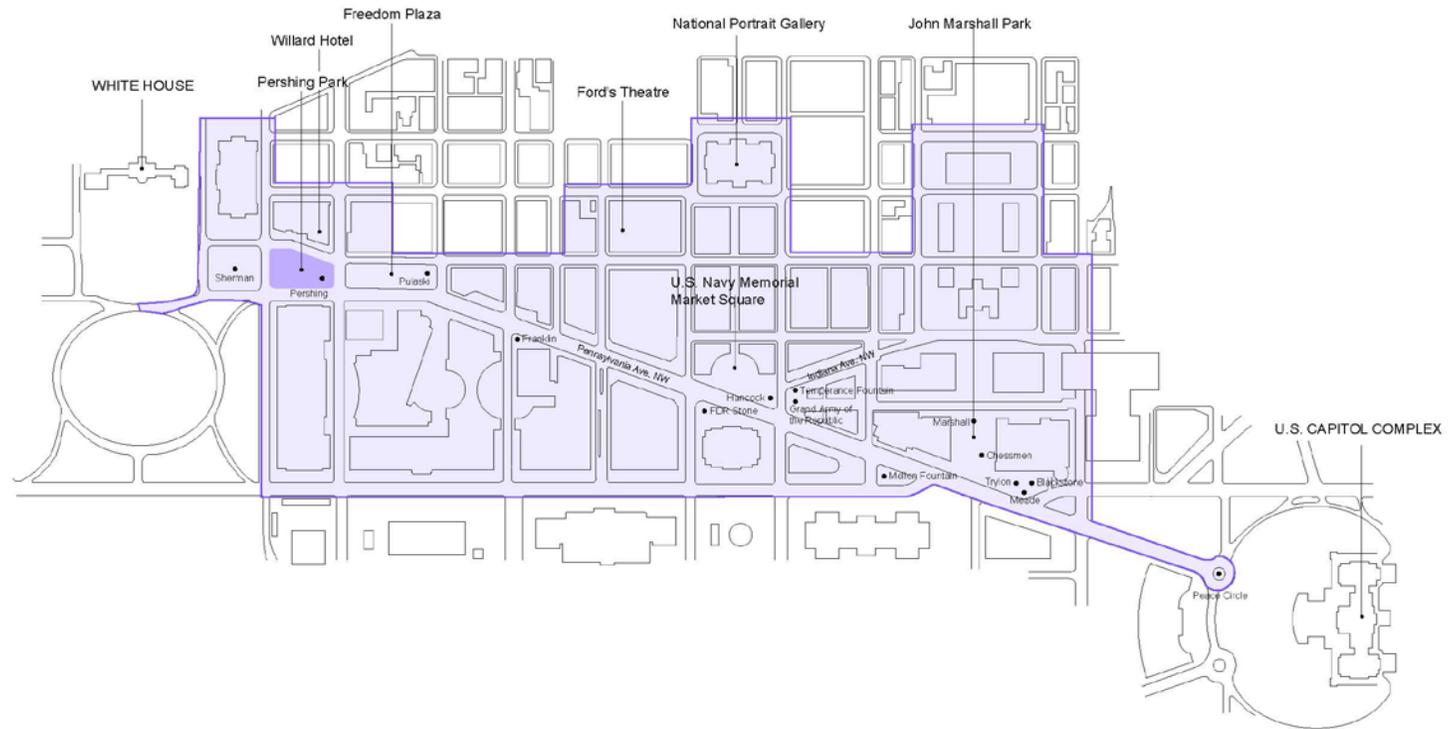
The design of the WWI Memorial honors the need for continuity along the Avenue and accentuates vistas of the Capitol through its streetscape strategy, while expanding the pedestrian and park experience along the northern edge. As an important public urban space within the Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Site, the Memorial supports ongoing efforts to revitalize the public realm.





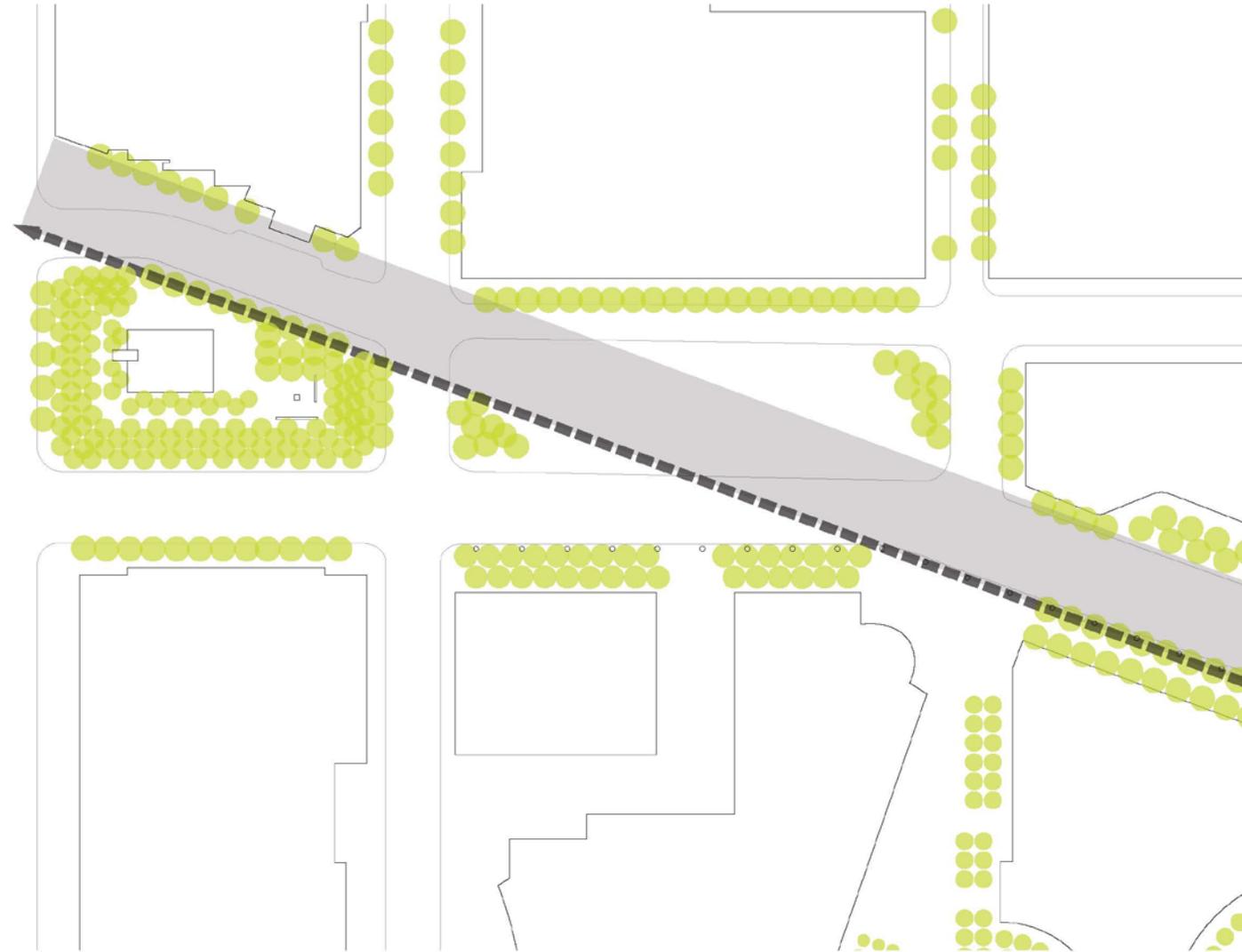
Pennsylvania Avenue NHS

The Pershing Memorial is one of many contributing memorials, monuments, and commemorative sculptures within the Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Site. Pershing Park, a non-contributing element, is one of many public spaces that must be considered in the context of the Avenue's historically significant buildings, commemorative elements, and commercial and residential uses.



Pennsylvania Avenue Viewshed

The existing Pershing Park street trees along Pennsylvania Avenue North are aligned with trees along the south side of the Avenue east of Freedom Plaza, thereby maintaining the Pennsylvania Avenue viewshed and Capitol vista. At their current location, the line of willow oak street trees are positioned 22' from the curb. The future design should seek to maintain the viewshed and address the need for continuity along the Avenue, while providing a safe and pleasant pedestrian experience.









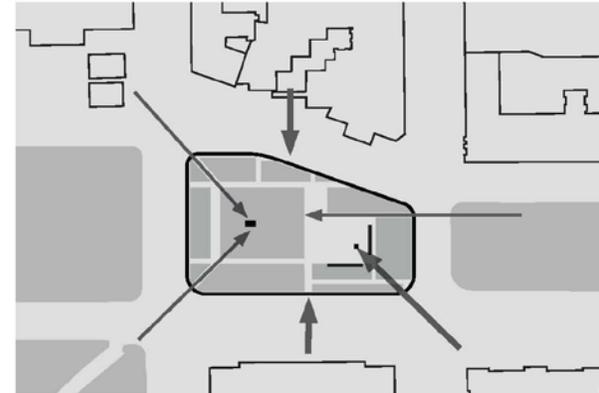




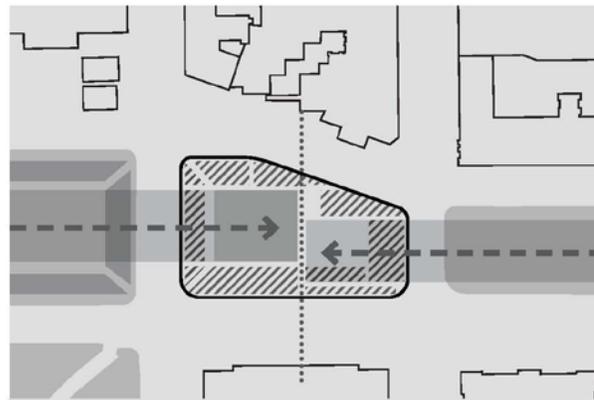




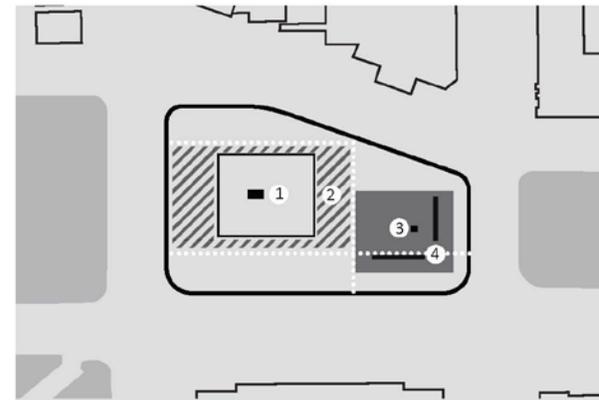
Pedestrian access to the site is primarily from the South-West in the direction of the mall, from the South-East via Freedom Plaza and the Freedom Triangle metro stop, and from the White House



Key views into the site are from the four corners, Pennsylvania Ave., and from the Willard Hotel



Connection to the surrounding park and plaza spaces



Procession of monuments: 1) Wheels of Humanity 2) Wall of Remembrance 3) Pershing Statue 4) Pershing Walls

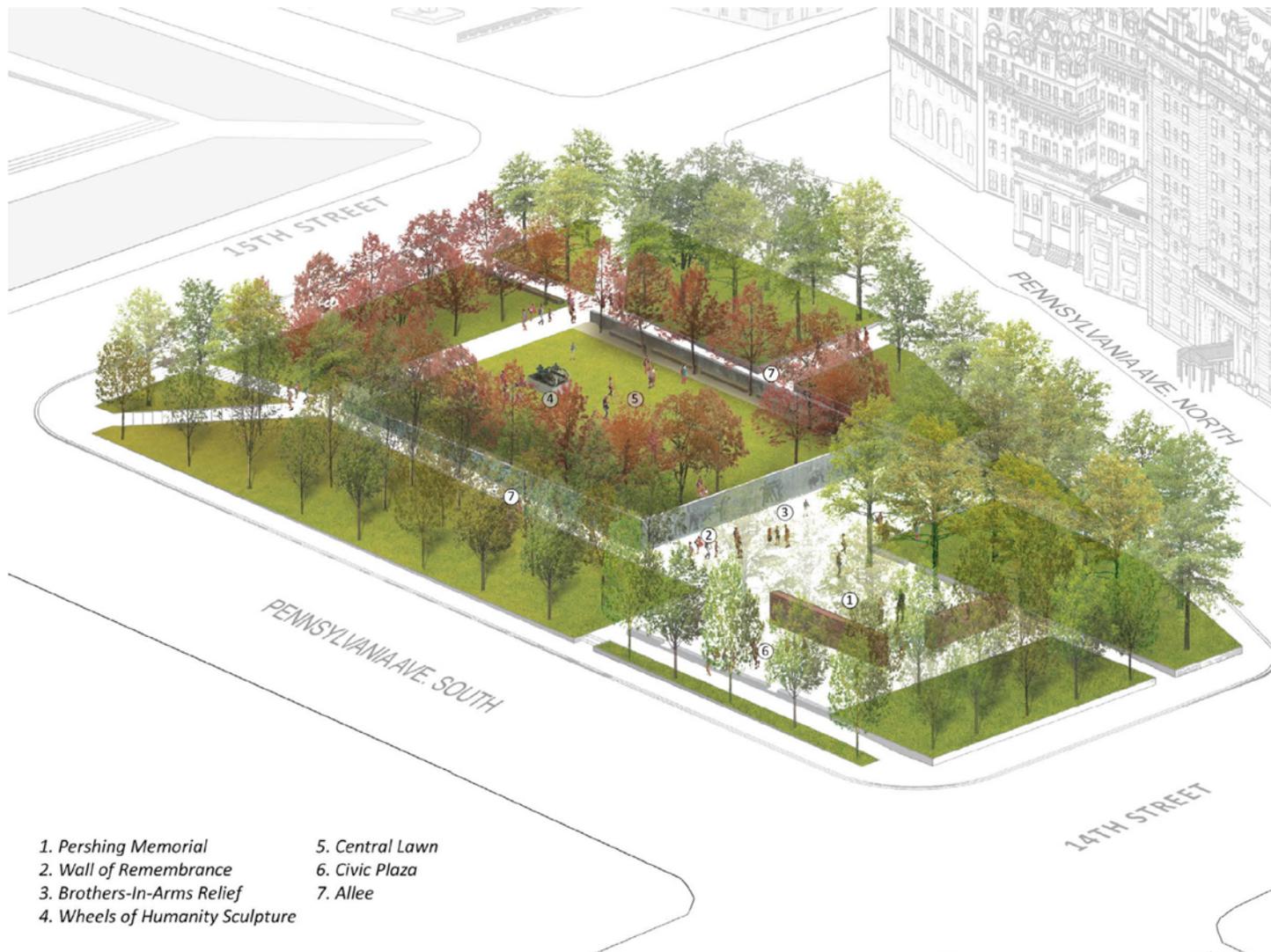
Competition Proposal: Context Analysis

The Weight of Sacrifice

The winning competition entry, *The Weight of Sacrifice*, proposed the allegorical idea that public space and public freedom are hard won through the great sacrifices of countless individuals in the pursuit of liberty. The raised figurative walls visually expressed a narrative of the sacrificial cost of war, while also supporting a literal manifestation of freedoms enjoyed in this country: the open park space above. The urban design intent was to create a new formal link along Pennsylvania Avenue which ties together the memorial to General Sherman on the West and Freedom Plaza on the East. This was achieved by lowering the visual barriers surrounding the existing Pershing Park and reinforcing dominant axes that come from the adjacent context.

The raised form in the center of the site honored the veterans of the First World War by combining figurative sculpture and personal narratives of servicemen and women in a single formal expression. The integration of a park around and atop the memorial alluded to the idea that public space and personal freedom are only available through the sacrifice of our soldiers. Above all, the memorial sculptures and park design stressed the glorification of humanity and enduring spirit over the glorification of war.

These themes were expressed through three sources: relief sculpture, quotations of soldiers, and a freestanding sculpture. The 81' long figurative relief sculpture, entitled "The Wall of Remembrance," was a solemn tribute to the resilience of human bonds against the inexorable tide of war. The bronze medium used throughout represented the timeless endeavor we face in the universal pursuit and right of freedom.



- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Pershing Memorial | 5. Central Lawn |
| 2. Wall of Remembrance | 6. Civic Plaza |
| 3. Brothers-In-Arms Relief | 7. Allee |
| 4. Wheels of Humanity Sculpture | |

October 2016 Concept Design

Key adaptations:

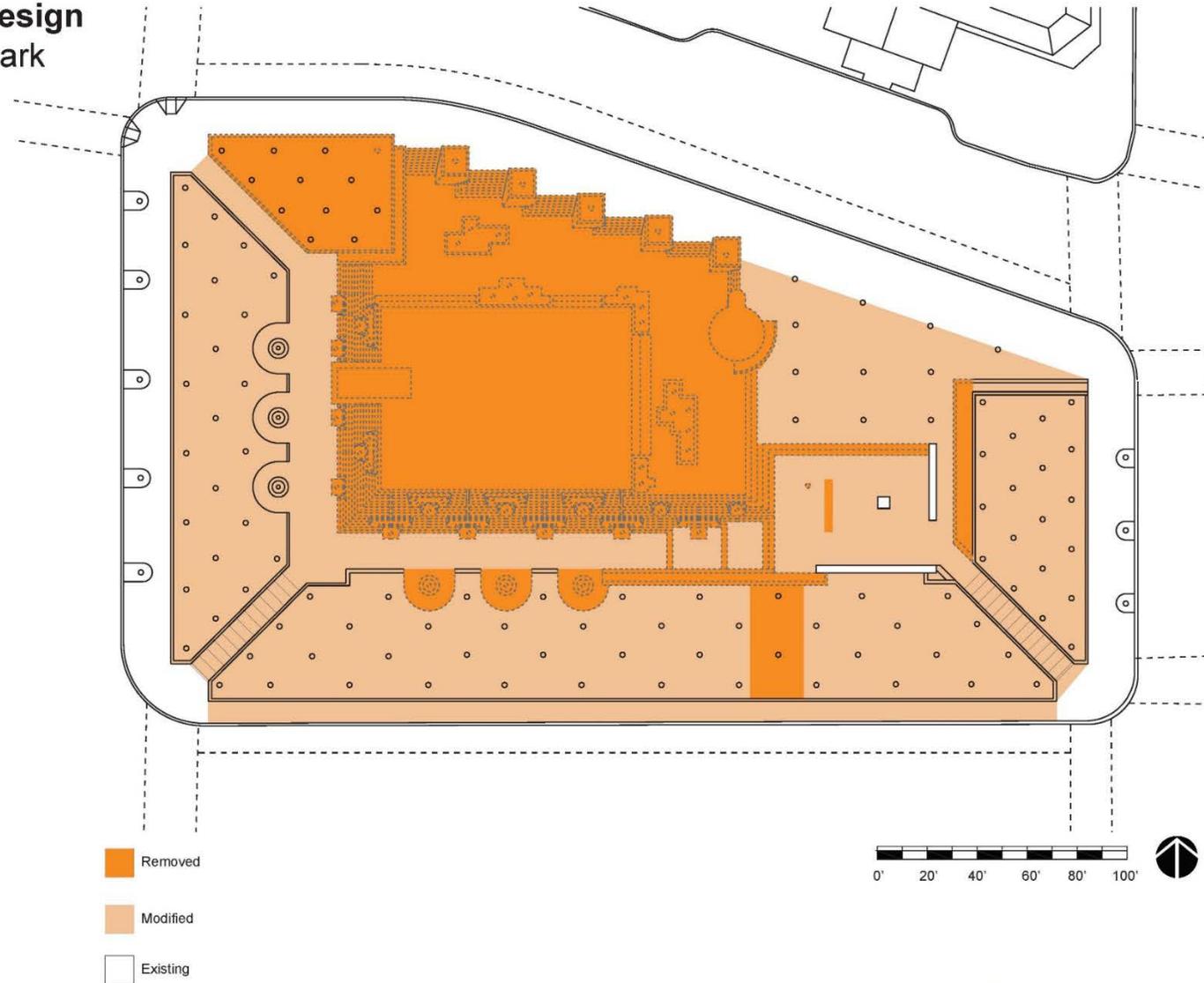
- Shifts the bas-relief wall west into a sunken central room within the park
- Improves universal accessibility throughout the park
- Increases visual access into and out of the park
- Creates stronger connections with the urban context
- Proposes enduring and maintainable features and materials

Key features preserved:

- Central, lowered precinct
- Basic berm architecture with its attendant benefits (seclusion, enclosure, buffering, etc.)
- Openness and flow within the site and between the site and its surroundings



October 2016 Concept Design Modifications to Existing Park



NCPC Comments

NCPC Executive Director's Recommendation comments received November 3, 2016 in response to October Concept Design:

- Provide National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) alternative with a rehabilitation approach with minimal changes to existing park features
- Denote existing park elements to be retained, reused, or rehabilitated for the memorial
- Provide plan and renderings that denote the limits of the PADC streetscape and how the street-scape transitions into memorial space
- Further develop northern portion of the site to better define the sidewalk zone, increase green space, and create a clear transition between the public street and the memorial area
- Further explore possibilities to reuse or rehabilitate more of the existing features, including steps, planters, and waterfall.



Existing Park - View Looking Northeast



Existing Park - View Looking West



Existing Park - View of Pershing Statue



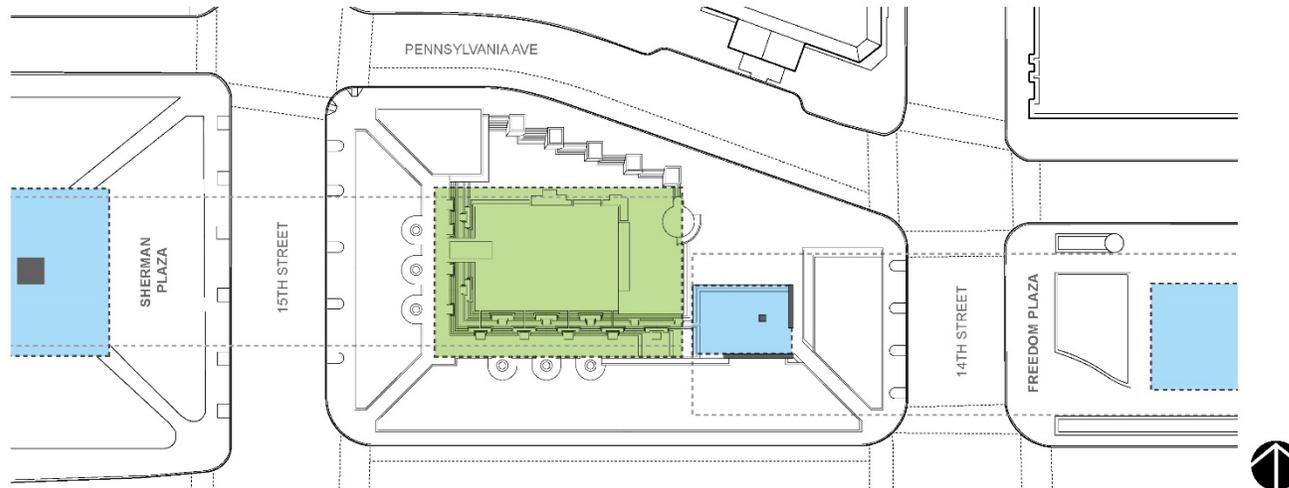
Existing Park - View Looking East



Existing Park - View of Kiosk

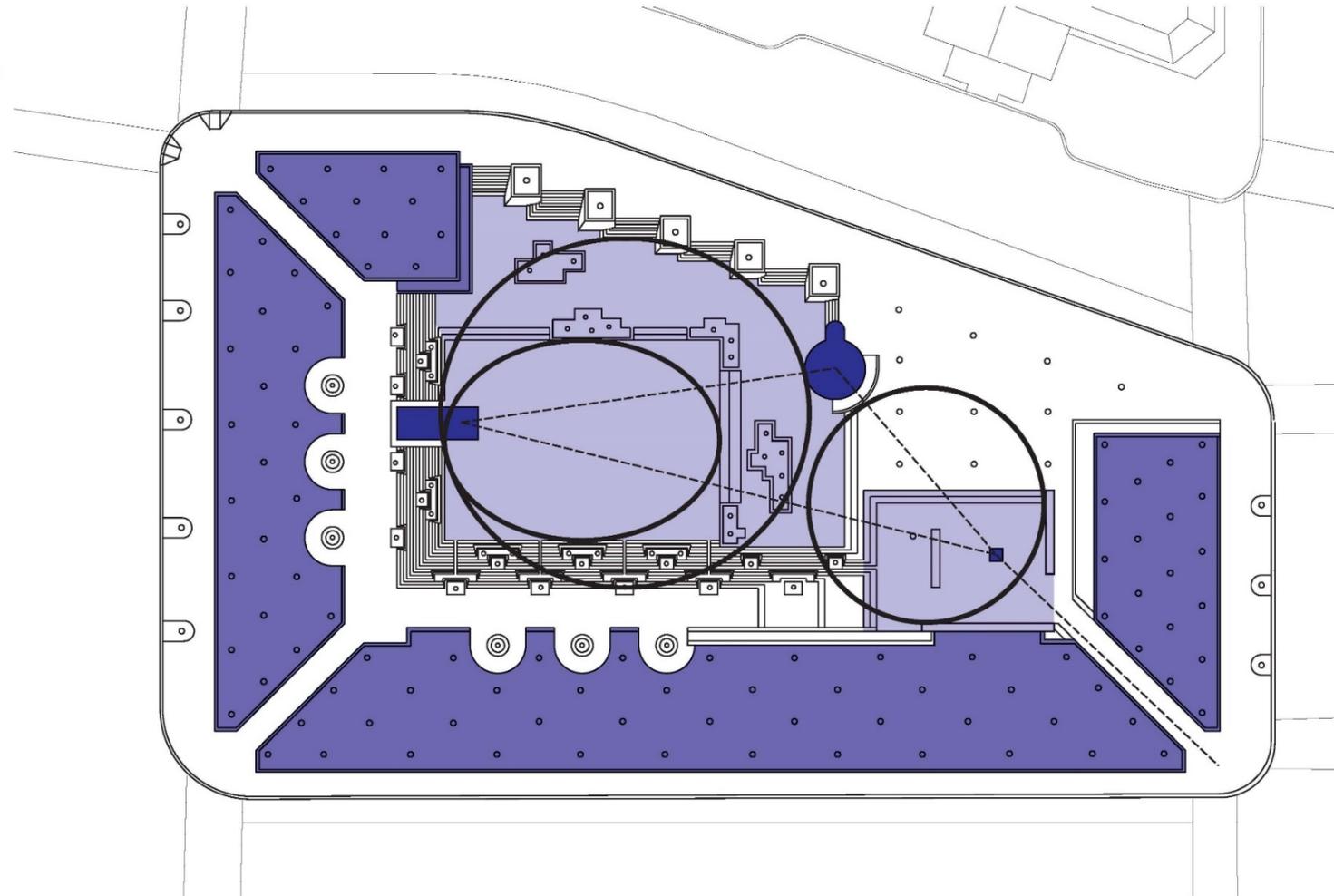
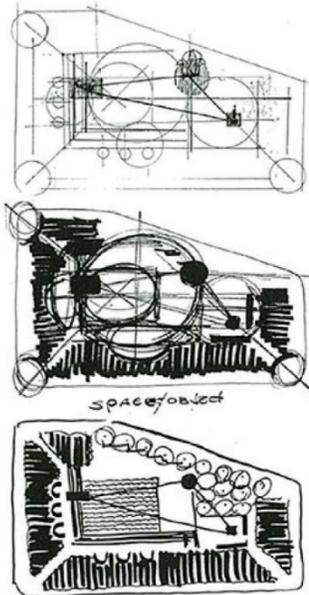
Site Context Transitional Landscape

- Site transitions between the primarily planted President's Park to the west and the paved Freedom Plaza across to the east
- Site's trapezoidal plan transitions from the wider square block at General Sherman's Monument to the more narrow rectangle of Freedom Plaza
- Park's central space aligns with the Sherman Memorial and mirrors corner entries to the west
- Pershing Memorial responds to Freedom Plaza to the east with a heavily planted edge
- Both the park and Memorial are buffered from street traffic on 14th St., 15th St. and Pennsylvania Avenue south
- Both the park and Memorial are open to Pennsylvania Avenue north

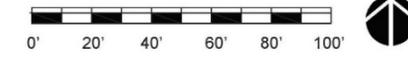


Existing Park Analysis Rooms and Focal Points

In response to NCPC comments, the design team revisited analysis of the M. Paul Friedberg and Partners, Wallace K. Harrison, and Oehme van Sweden designs for the existing Pershing Park.



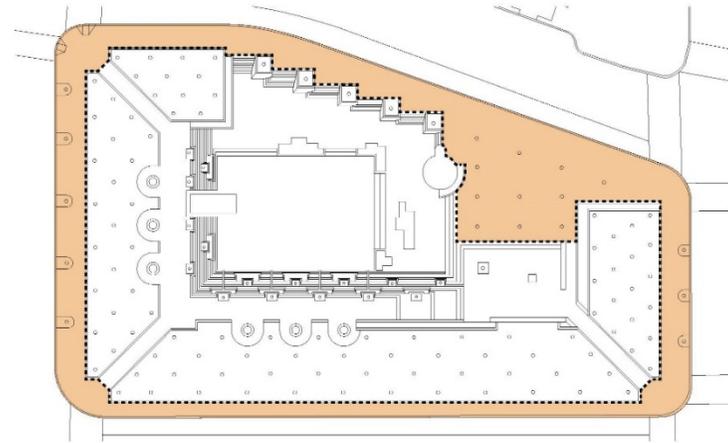
- Enclosure
- Rooms
- Focal points



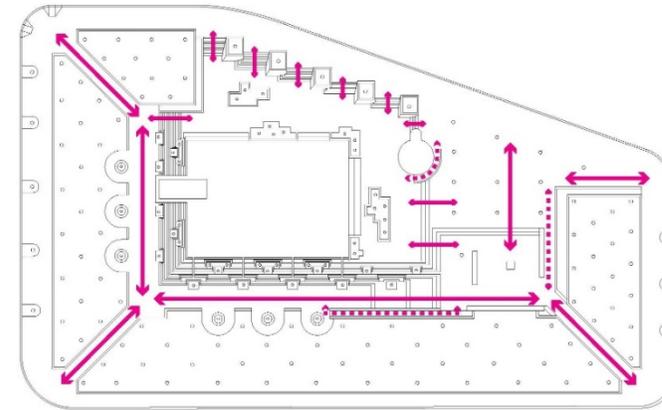
Existing Park Analysis Spatial Investigations

Key observations:

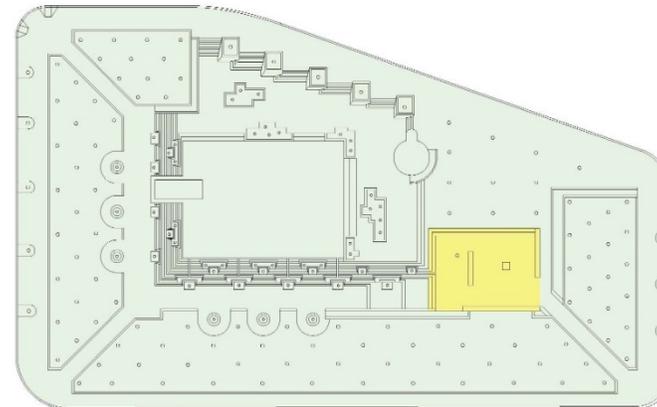
- PADC Streetscape limits can be accommodated within an authentic rehabilitation scheme
- Circulation is omnidirectional and unhierarchical
- The General Pershing Memorial is a relatively small and distinct secondary space with Pershing Park
- Pershing Park includes distinct rooms on clearly articulated levels
- The sunken pool is the dominant space within the park, and the focal point around which the park is organized in plan and section



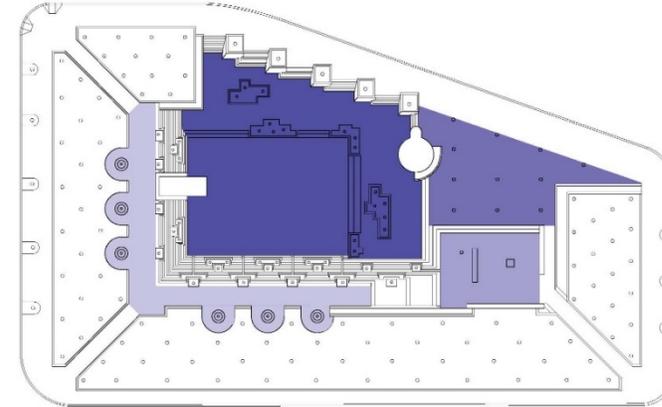
PADC STREETScape LIMITS



CIRCULATION



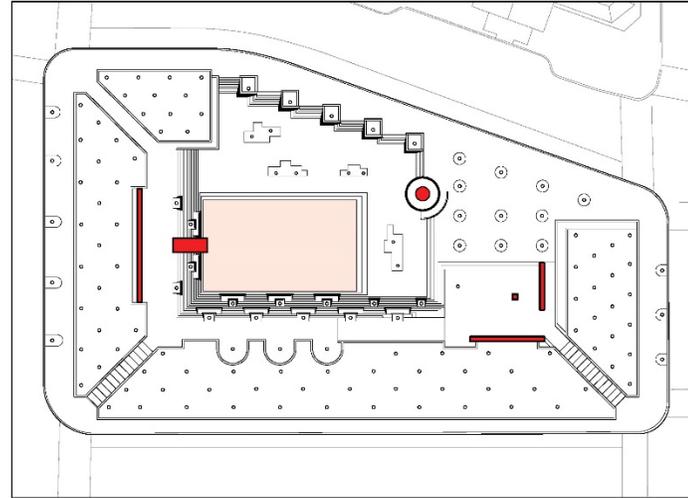
MEMORIAL



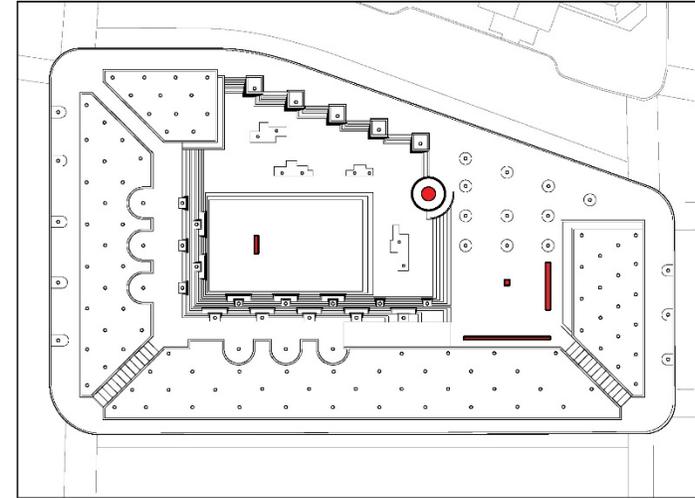
DISTINCT LEVELS

Design Evolution

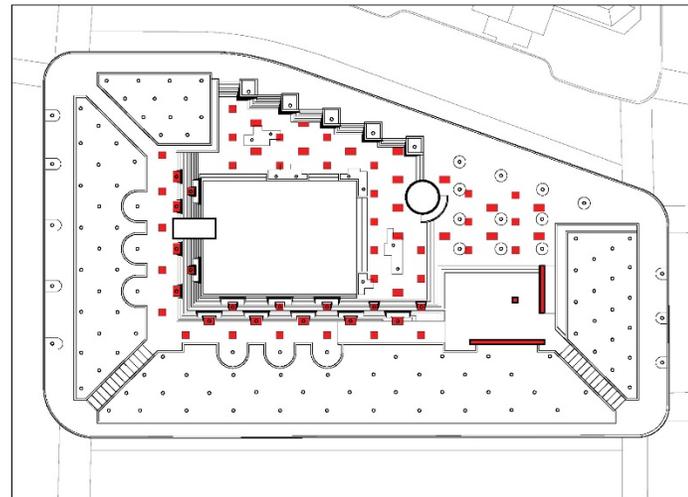
Through the pursuit of multiple design iterations and revisions the design team concluded that the most appropriate location and expression for a memorial which meets the initially stated goals of the WWICC and best mitigates the adverse effects to the existing park is a solution which modifies the existing fountain element located within the western terrace. The select solutions shown here were attempts to create a design which met the aforementioned goals and each scheme represents a larger course of study. Each of the solutions was evaluated and ultimately dismissed because it either failed to meet the commemorative goals of the WWICC, caused significant change to the existing park features, or resulted in a design which had overall negative consequences on the experience and function of the park.



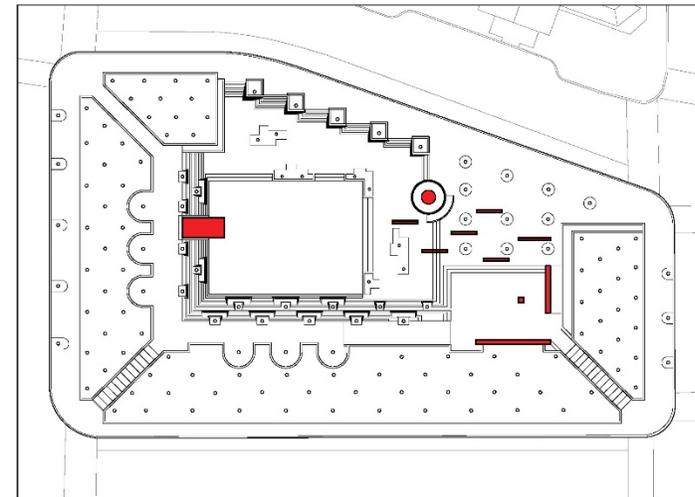
UPPER WALL DESIGN



TRIUMPHAL COLUMN DESIGN



DISTRIBUTED MEMORIAL PAVING



DISTRIBUTED MEMORIAL WALLS

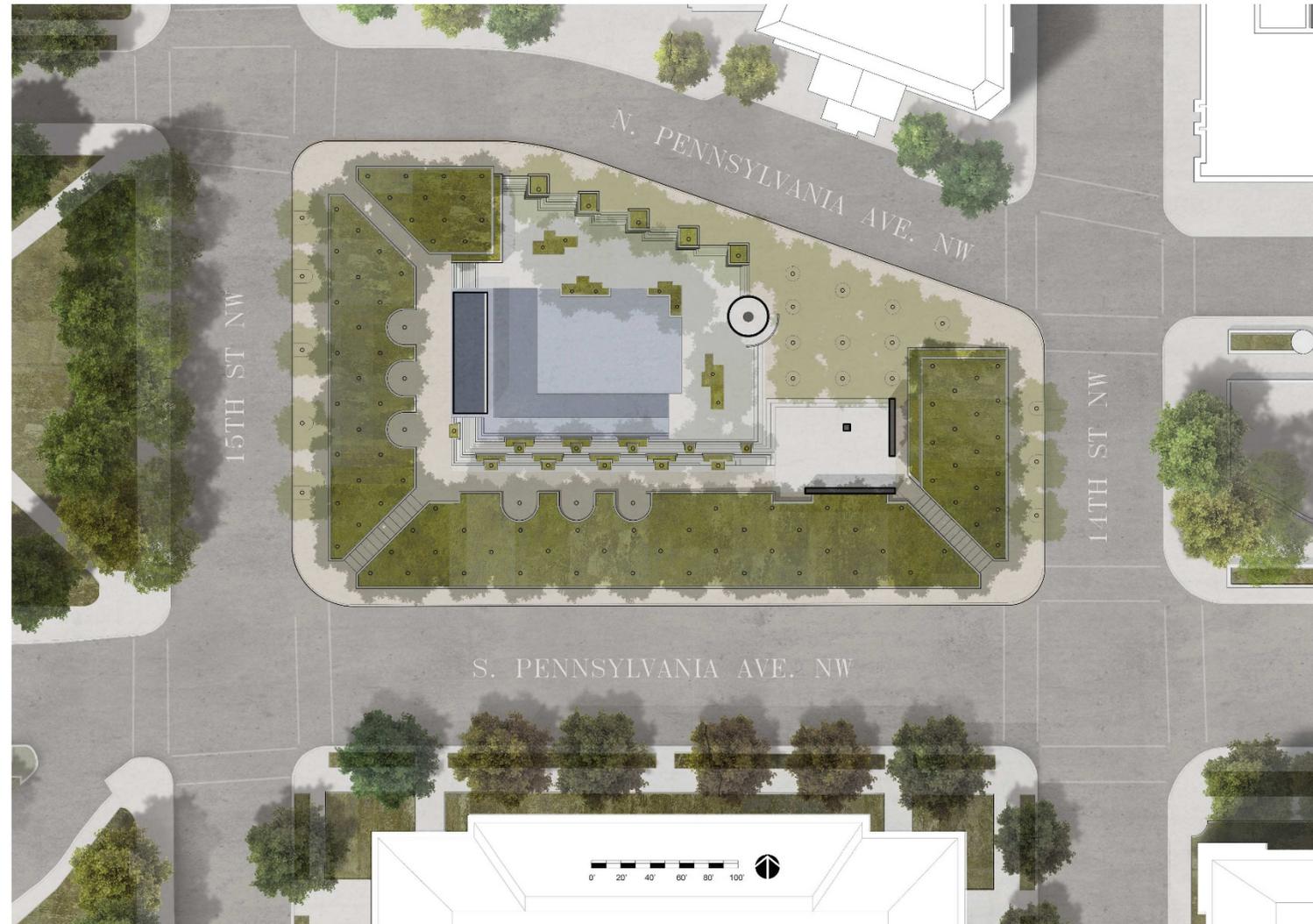
June 2017 Restored Pool Concept

The intent of this design is to create a memorial which shares a symbiotic relationship with the existing park. The fountain provides the water, sound, and ambiance to the park while the water in the pool reflects the fountain, trees, and the sky. By joining these two features together the memorial becomes as much about the narrative of life and war depicted above the water as it becomes about the loss reflected below.

In order to accomplish this, the existing fountain element is expanded equally north and south to become a larger 65' wide art object nestled in the western terrace stair. Similar to the functionality of the existing fountain, a pool of water wells up from the fountain and cascades over the sides and back into troughs which bring it down to the pool. The side of the fountain facing the pool includes the bronze bas relief and only has water running down the left and right edges of the sculpture. A pathway has been created within the pool to allow for visitors to access the artwork.

ASSESSMENT

- Redefines the existing fountain and pool as the primary commemorative expression
- Redefines circulation of the lower pool area while maintaining pool integrity
- Requires a change to the western terrace seating



Sculptural Artwork

The central memorial feature is a monumental work of sculpture in bronze bas-relief, conceived of as a visual and emotional narrative. The work is meant to convey feelings of honor, pride, and loss.

"The soldier will journey from the arms of his family, through the brutality of battle, past figures representing death and madness, into the care of a nurse, and finally return home forever changed." -The Wall Street Journal

The narrative consists of a series of scenes depicting five "acts" of the war: the call to arms, the departure, the battle, the aftermath, and the return. A recurring figure appears throughout, as the man takes leave of his family, joins the march to war and then the battle, suffers the shock of casualty, and then returns home. In the first scene the man takes his helmet from his young daughter; in the last, he returns his helmet to his older, wiser child, a symbol of American coming-of-age in World War I and a harbinger of the war that the next generation would fight twenty years later.

On another level, the central battle scene conveys the courage and heroism of American forces in the war, which was as profound as that in better-remembered wars. The scene of aftermath depicts the physical and mental toll of the war, followed by a scene of proud return recognizing the accomplishments of American troops, with a parade of soldiers marching into "the American century."



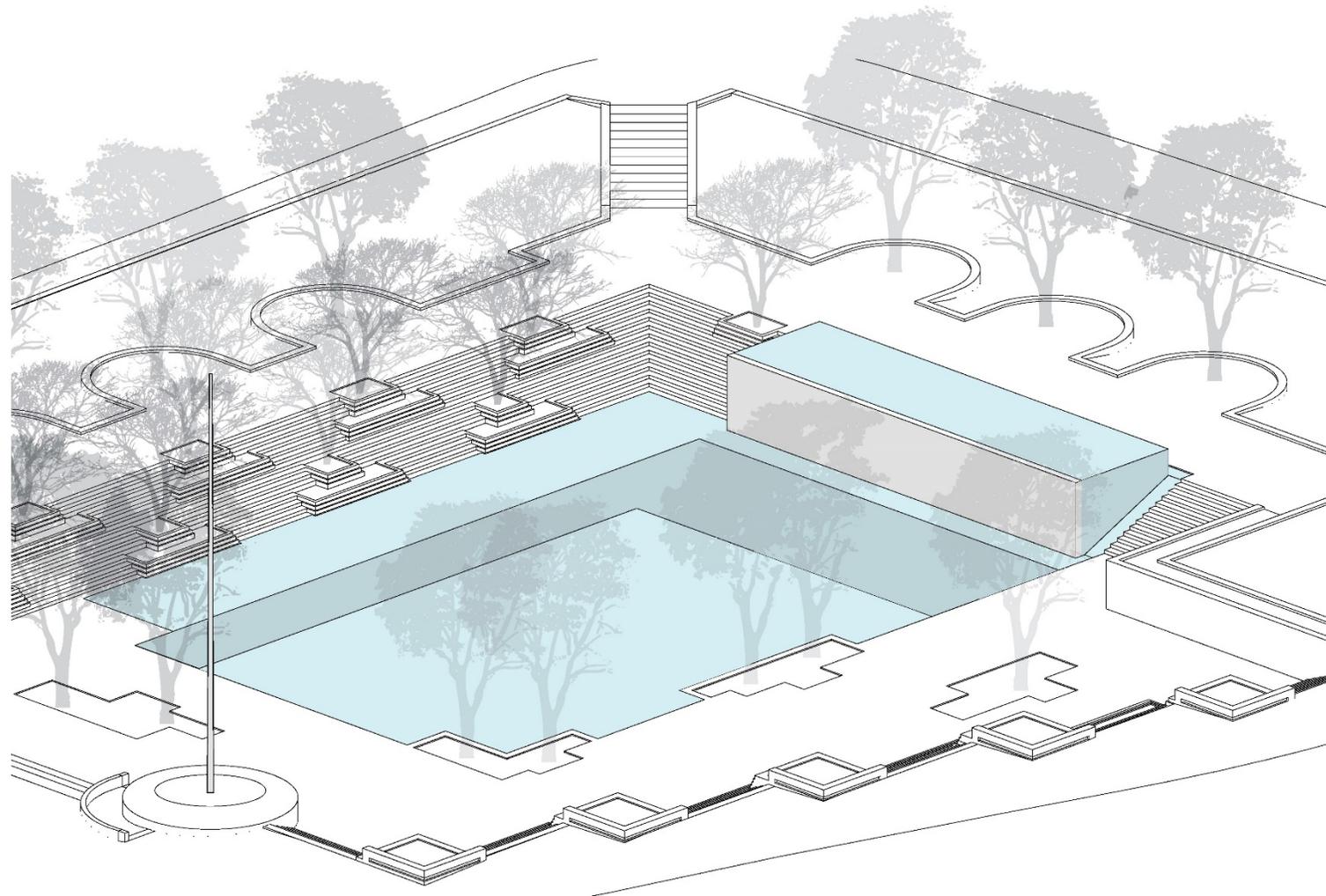
June 2017 Restored Pool Concept



View Looking South West

June 2017 Restored Pool Concept

The “Restored Pool Concept” requires that some means of pathway be created in order to facilitate visitors with an accessible route from the lower terrace region to the sculptural bas relief wall. By merging the materiality of this route with an appropriate pool bottom covering the design team intends that the entire pool region will read as a single continuous surface. The pathway through the water is only revealed by the presence of water within the pool basin. Examples of similar design strategies can be found on page 25.



June 2017 Restored Pool Concept



PROJECT UNKNOWN
-Photo: Urban River - Salvador San Vicente



INNICHEN
-Alleswirdgut architektur



ESPACES PUBLICS DE CASTELSARRASIN
-Kaplan Projects



PROJECT UNKNOWN



NASHER SCULPTURE CENTER
-PWP



NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY, KOGOD COURTYARD
-Foster+Partners and GGN

June 2017 Restored Pool Concept

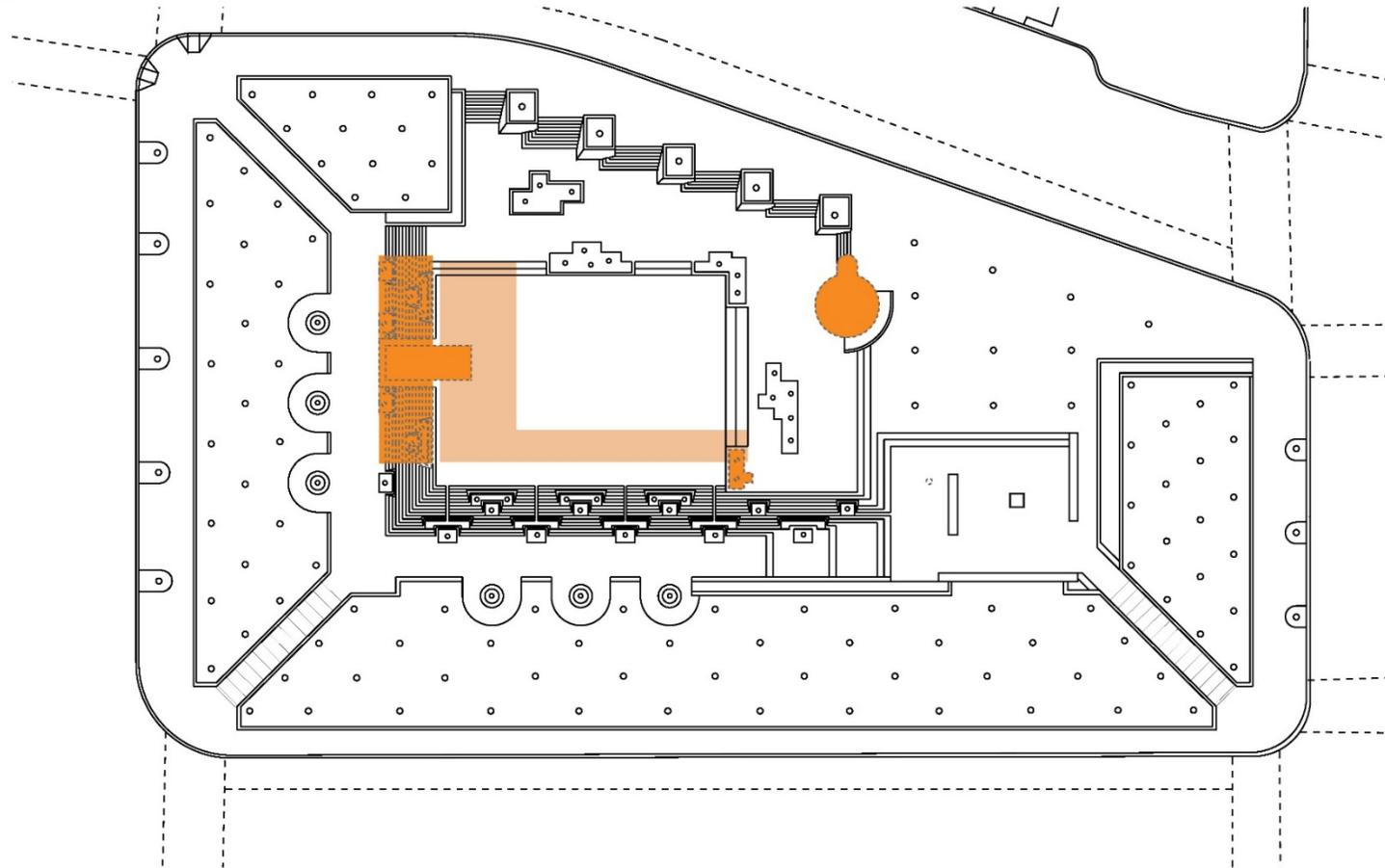


View Looking West

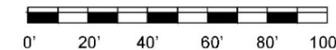
June 2017 Restored Pool Concept Modifications to Existing Park

Critical character-defining features:

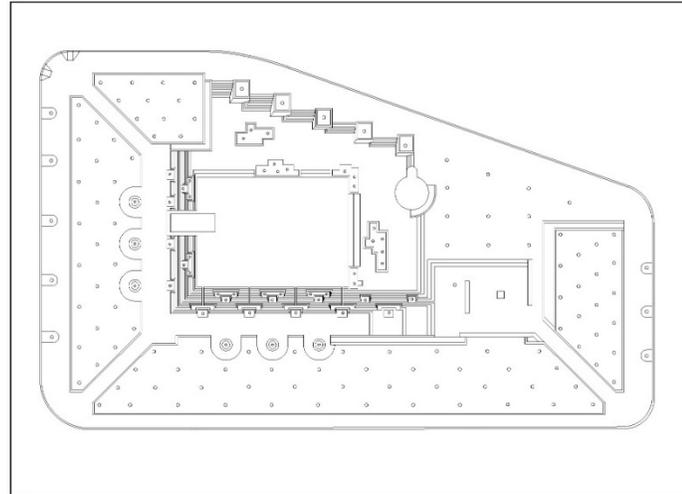
- Views and vistas retained
- Spatial organization retained with minor modifications to circulation
- Pershing Memorial retained
- PADC streetscape retained
- Terraced seating and planters mostly retained
- Granite materials retained
- Distinct rooms bounded by steps primarily retained except where replaced by fountain and universally accessible walkway
- Three focal point organization maintained:
 - Fountain replaced with bas-relief wall
 - Kiosk replaced with Flagpole on plinth
 - Pershing statue repositioned
- Water feature retained and modified to accommodate commemorative circulation
- Cascading water retained on sides and back of fountain



- Removed
- Modified
- Existing



Concept Comparisons Plans



EXISTING PARK DESIGN



OCTOBER 2016 CONCEPT



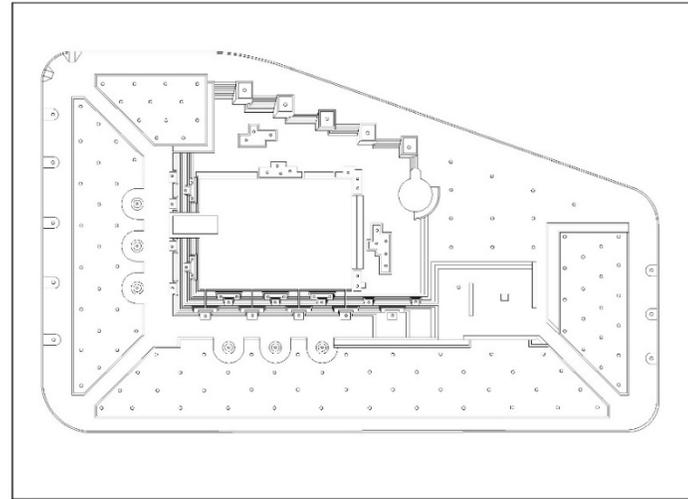
FEBRUARY 2017 POOL AND PLAZA CONCEPT



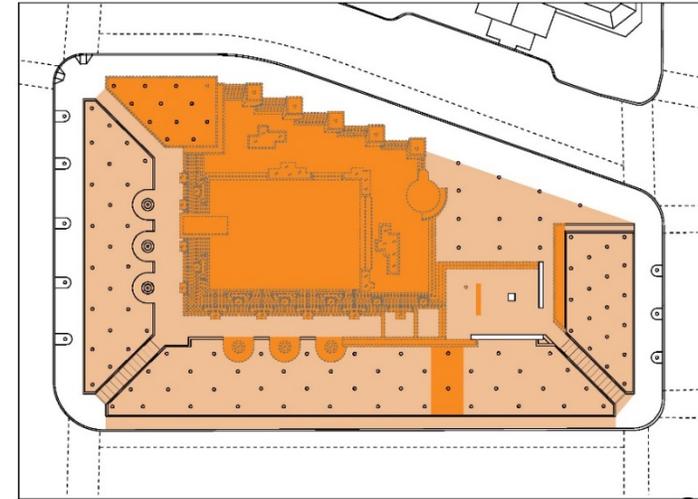
JUNE 2017 RESTORED POOL CONCEPT

Balancing Preservation and Commemoration Design Iterations

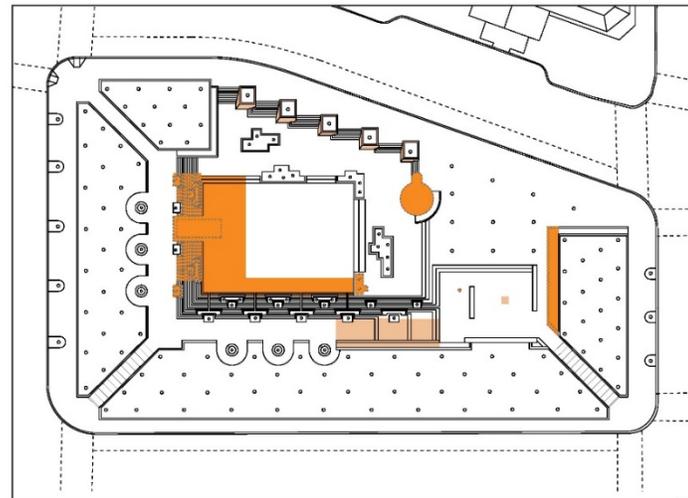
- Incremental explorations of commemoration starting with minimal changes to existing park
- Iterative process facilitates evaluation of level of modification required to achieve commemorative purpose
- Effort to protect and maintain critical character defining features, according to Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Treatment of Cultural Landscapes:
 - Views and vistas
 - Spatial organization
 - Pershing Memorial
 - PADC streetscape
 - Terraced seating and planters
 - Granite materials
 - Distinct rooms bounded by steps
 - Three focal points
 - Water cascade, including sound



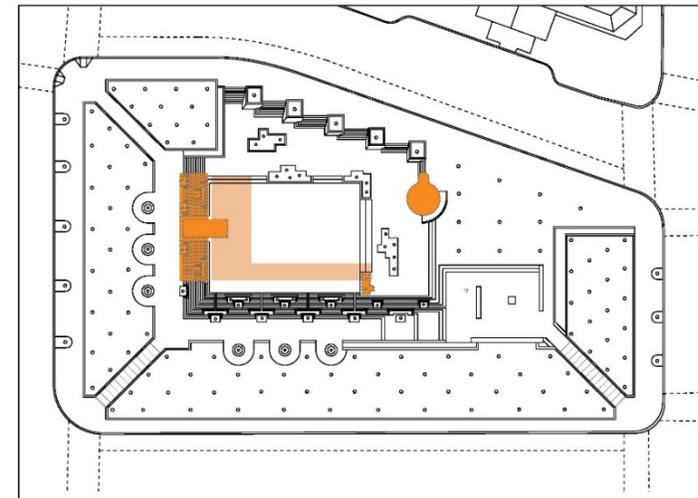
EXISTING PARK DESIGN



OCTOBER 2016 CONCEPT

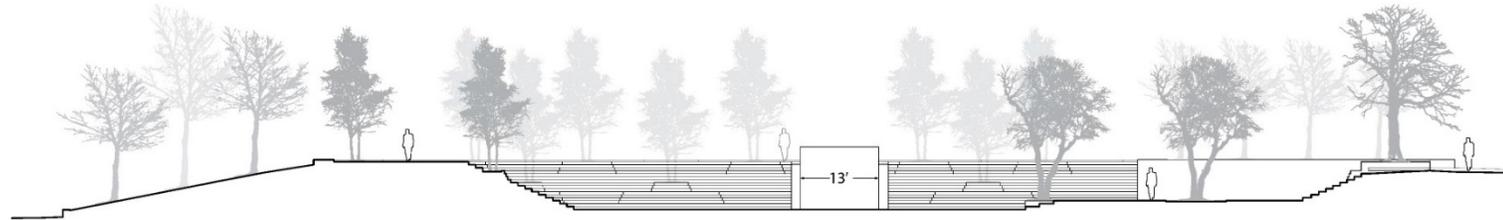


POOL AND PLAZA CONCEPT - FEBRUARY 2017

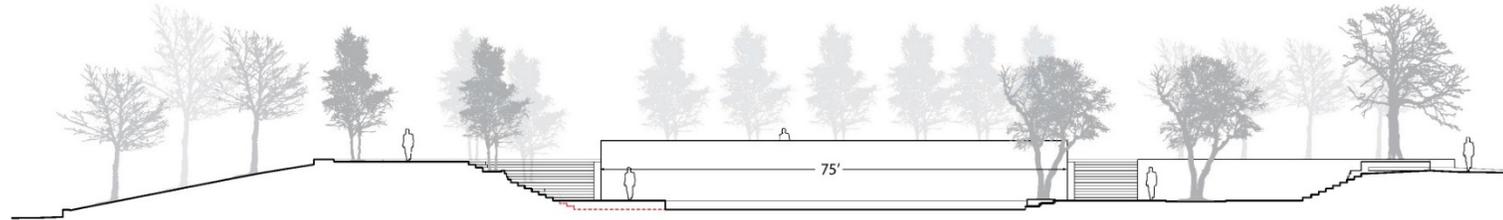


RESTORED POOL CONCEPT

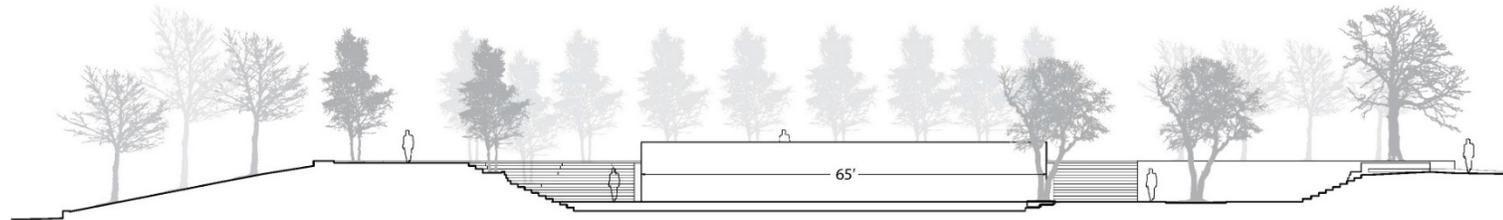
Concept Comparisons Sections



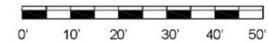
Existing section facing West



Pool and Plaza Concept section facing West

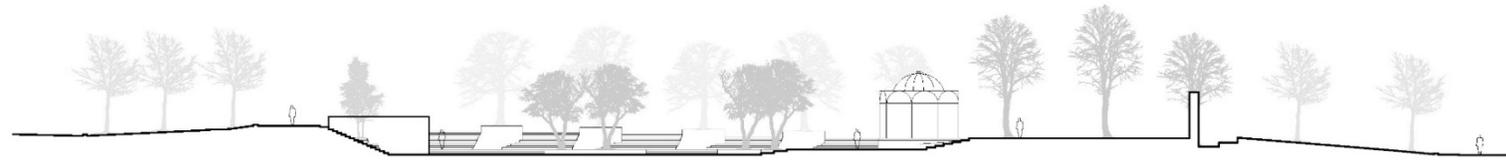


Restored Pool Concept section facing West

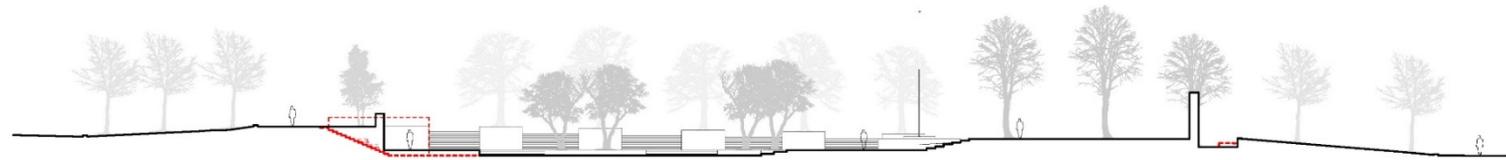


Concept Comparisons Sections

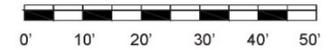
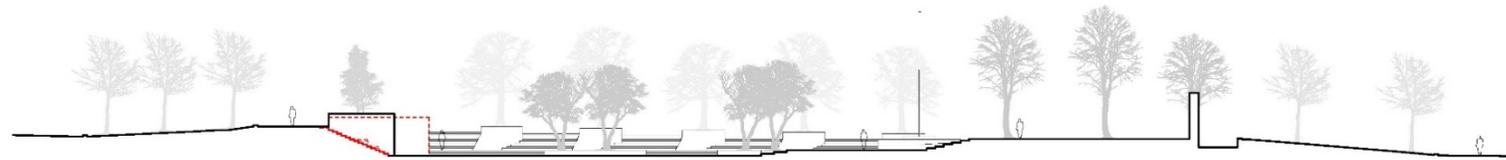
Existing section facing North



Pool and Plaza Concept section facing North



Restored Pool Concept section facing North



Restored Pool Concept



View Looking East from Upper Terrace