

Appendix A: Alternatives Considered but Dismissed

NPS considered a wide range of alternatives for the proposed Memorial during the design process, including five initial designs selected by the memorial design competition jury. Some alternatives were ultimately dismissed from further consideration.

An American Family Portrait Wall in the Park

The An American Family Portrait Wall in the Park alternative would re-organize the site to a northwest-southeast axis, add large format photographs in framed cases across the site, and also place six large-scale statues across the site (**Figure 1**). This alternative was dismissed from further consideration because it would alter the site in a way that would threaten Pershing Park's eligibility for listing in the NRHP, raised maintenance concerns, and would not provide the desired experience or program.



Figure 1: An American Family Portrait Wall in the Park

Heroes' Green

The Heroes' Green alternative would create meandering paths through landforms across the site creating several elevation changes, embed five surface walls with historic imagery in the landforms, add an open lawn and plaza, and create a memorial tree garden composed of 116 trees (**Figure 2**). The alternative raised security and surveillance concerns, would alter the site in a way that would threaten Pershing Park's NRHP eligibility, and would not provide the desired experience or program. Therefore, this alternative was dismissed from further consideration.



Figure 2: Heroes' Green

Plaza to a Forgotten War

The Plaza to a Forgotten War alternative would place a linear, east-west oriented plaza with inground fiber-optic lights and sculptural pillars supporting inscribed monoliths into the site (**Figure 3**). Allees of trees would frame the plaza. A lawn bordered by trees would be located in the northern half of the site. This alternative was dismissed from further consideration because it would alter the site in a way that would threaten Pershing Park's NRHP eligibility and would not provide the desired experience or program.



Figure 3: Plaza to a Forgotten War

Grotto of Remembrance

The Grotto of Remembrance alternative would create a neoclassical commemorative ellipse at the center of the site (**Figure 4**). Three entrance plazas would surround the east, west, and south edges of the ellipse. A granite tower with an arched grotto and reflecting pool with an eternal flame at its base would be located at the north edge of the ellipse. This alternative would alter the site in a way that would threaten Pershing Park's NRHP eligibility and would not provide the desired experience or program. Therefore, this alternative was dismissed from further consideration.



Figure 4: Grotto of Remembrance

The Weight of Sacrifice

The Weight of Sacrifice would replace the existing cascade fountain and pool with a lawn featuring a central sculptural element, flanked on three sides with a bas relief wall (**Figure 5**). The berms would be altered, and the General Pershing Commemorative Work would be reconfigured to align with new walkways. This alternative would alter the site in a way that would threaten Pershing Park's NRHP eligibility and would not provide the desired experience or program. Therefore, this alternative was dismissed from further consideration.



Figure 5: The Weight of Sacrifice

Scrim & Green

The Scrim & Green alternative would replace the existing cascade fountain and steps on the west side of the existing pool basin with a bas relief wall. The existing empty pool basin would be replaced with a lawn and a reflective scrim of water (**Figure 6**). The park's central sunken portion would be raised in elevation and the General Pershing Commemorative Work would be lowered in elevation. A flagpole and plinth would replace the existing kiosk. This alternative's removal of the cascade fountain would substantially remove the site's auditory and visual experience and physical feeling associated with water in the air generated by the cascade fountain. Therefore, this alternative was dismissed from further consideration.

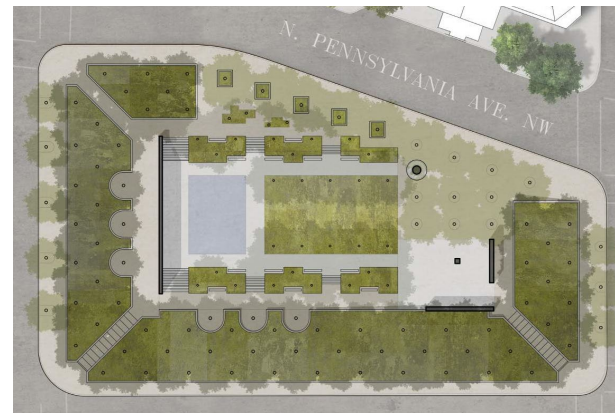


Figure 6: Scrim & Green

Upper Walkway

The Upper Walkway alternative would place two walls along the upper walkway, one clad with bas relief and another inscribed with stories of the lost generation, replacing the semicircular seating alcoves (**Figure 7**). This alternative was dismissed from further consideration due to concerns of the U.S. Secret Service and placement of the Memorial wall on the upper walkway would:

- Position the Memorial as a secondary feature outside the site's spatial organization around the central room;
- Create a dichotomous experience, with a primary urban park experience at the center and a secondary memorial experience along the perimeter;
- Require modifications to the existing west berm and may require modifications to the existing fountain and pool in order to allow for adequate viewing distances;
- Create a "corridor effect," of experiencing the memorial as a series of corridors rather than a central focal point;
- Adversely affect the existing site design's balance of three focal points (fountain, kiosk, and statue of General John J. Pershing), which has been recognized as a key component to Pershing Park's original design; and
- Create a visual barrier for inward/outward views along the west elevation of the site.



Figure 7: Upper Walkway

Distributed Memorial Alternative

This alternative would distribute commemorative elements throughout the project site. Sculptural pieces or other elements would be placed outside the pool and fountain area. The General Pershing Commemorative Work, walkways, and berms would remain. This alternative was dismissed from further consideration because it would not as appropriately commemorate World War I, as identified in the Purpose and Need.