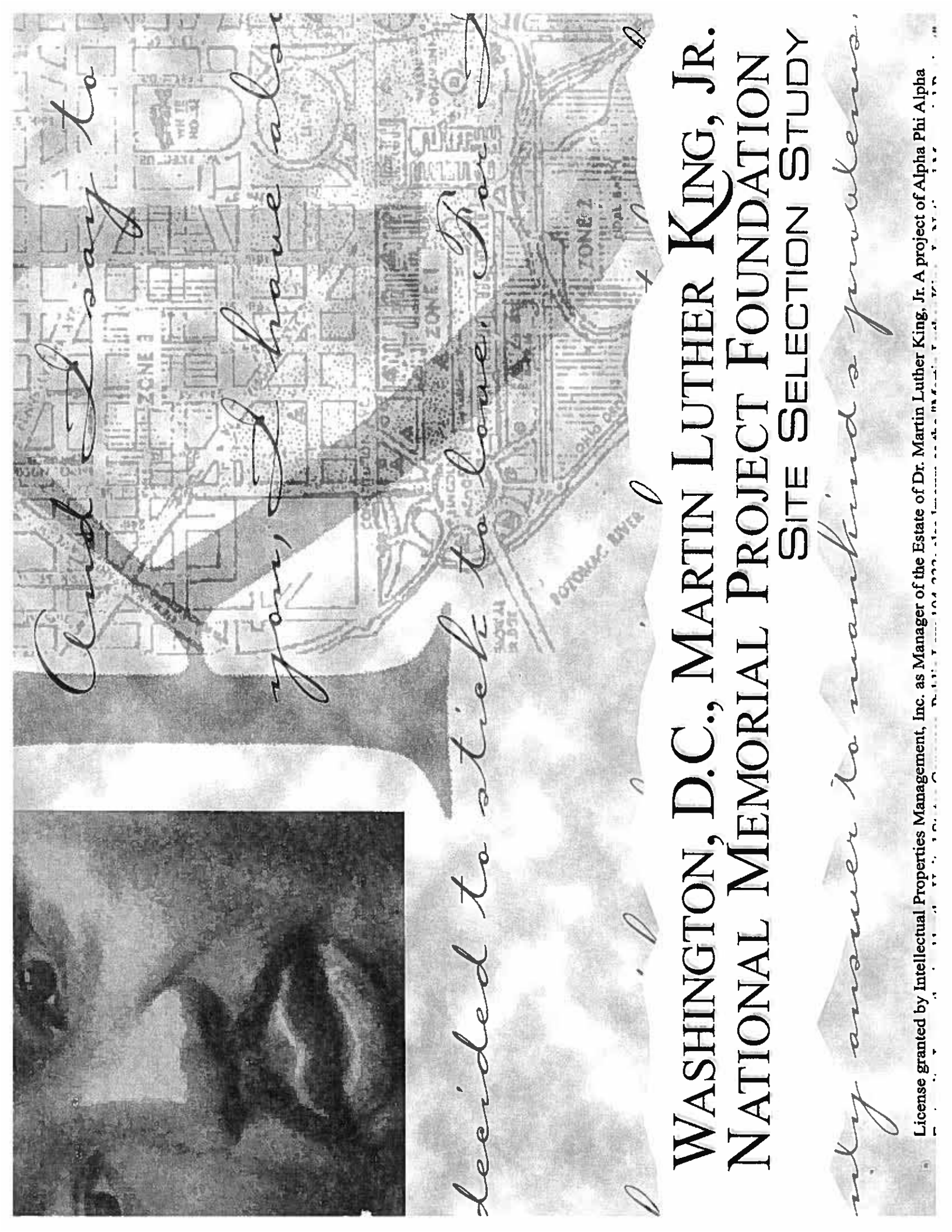


# Appendix C

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Washington, D.C., Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial  
Project Foundation – Site Selection Study (October, 1998)

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*And I say to  
you, I have also*

*decided to stick to love. For I*

# WASHINGTON, D.C., MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. NATIONAL MEMORIAL PROJECT FOUNDATION SITE SELECTION STUDY

*ily answer to mankind's problems.*

**SITE SELECTION STUDY**  
**WASHINGTON D.C., MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. NATIONAL MEMORIAL**

PREPARED FOR  
**THE WASHINGTON, D.C. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
NATIONAL MEMORIAL PROJECT FOUNDATION**

**CHAIRMAN, DESIGN COMMITTEE**  
Ed Jackson, Arch.D.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**  
James Chaffers  
Jon Lockard  
Karen Phillips  
Juanita Moore  
Richard Dozier  
Hebrew L. Dixon, III  
Christopher Tyson  
Marin Sabic

**PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIR**  
Vic Carter

PREPARED BY

**TerraDesigns, Inc.**

**LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS**  
138 A North Cortez  
New Orleans, LA 70119  
tel (504) 488-8993  
fax (504) 488-5387

**OCTOBER, 1998**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Washington, D. C. Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial Project Foundation, established by members of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, is authorized to build a memorial to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Area 1 or 2 of Washington, D.C.

Five sites located in Area 1 and Area 2 of Washington, D.C. were evaluated as potential sites for the memorial. The sites were as follows:

- Site # 1 - Constitution Gardens
- Site # 2 - Reflecting Pool
- Site # 3 - West Potomac Park
- Site # 4 - Tidal Basin
- Site # 5 - RFK Stadium

The analysis of each site was a comprehensive investigation of its development potentials and limitations. Based on the findings of the analysis, each site was ranked using the comparative site suitability developed by the Foundation's design committee. Site # 1 received the highest ranking.

Site 1 is located near the axis of 17<sup>th</sup> Street and Constitution Avenue. It is located on the east end of the Constitutional Garden's Pond. This site would make the most fitting choice for the Washington D.C. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial.

Adjacent to the reflecting pool, this site allows the proposed memorial to coexist and be contextually compatible with other memorials significant to our nation's history. This site is very accessible for both pedestrian traffic and vehicular drop-offs. It is in close proximity to both tour mobile and metro rail stops.

The site is protected from flooding by being within the flood protection system for the capital. Its physical and topographic form is well-defined. This site is in the monumental core of the capital, but has its own unique character - a character that is befitting a memorial to a figure such as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The appropriateness of this site is largely due to the pond and the vista beyond it - a vista that appears to extend forever. The minimal views into the site, due to a 20 year old tree grove planting, allows for great design freedom without imposing on existing view sheds.

The area around the pond will allow for gatherings and processions to the memorial. There are no environmental detractors or major planning restrictions on this site.

Based on these conditions, the comparative site evaluation ranking, and the analysis as presented in the site selection study, it is recommended that Site #1 - Constitution Gardens - be approved as the site for the Washington D. C., Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial Project.

## THE PROJECT

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**Civil Rights Leaders gather in the Lincoln Memorial before the speeches at The March on Washington in 1963 (Washington Post).**

### **Mandate**

On November 22, 1996, the President of the United States signed congressional legislation authorizing establishment of a memorial in the District of Columbia to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The memorial was authorized in recognition of Dr. King's enormous contributions to positive social change in America and throughout the world. The challenge now is to create an inspiring space that embraces the spirit of his distinguished life.

### **Task**

As a result, the Washington, D.C. Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial Project Foundation, Incorporated was established by Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Alpha Phi Alpha is the oldest traditionally African American Fraternity. It was founded December 4, 1906 on the campus of Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was among this organization's distinguished membership.

The task before the Foundation's Design Committee is to work with government authorities to choose a site, launch an international design competition, choose a design jury, supervise the judging of design entries, and present all findings to the Foundation's Governing Board.

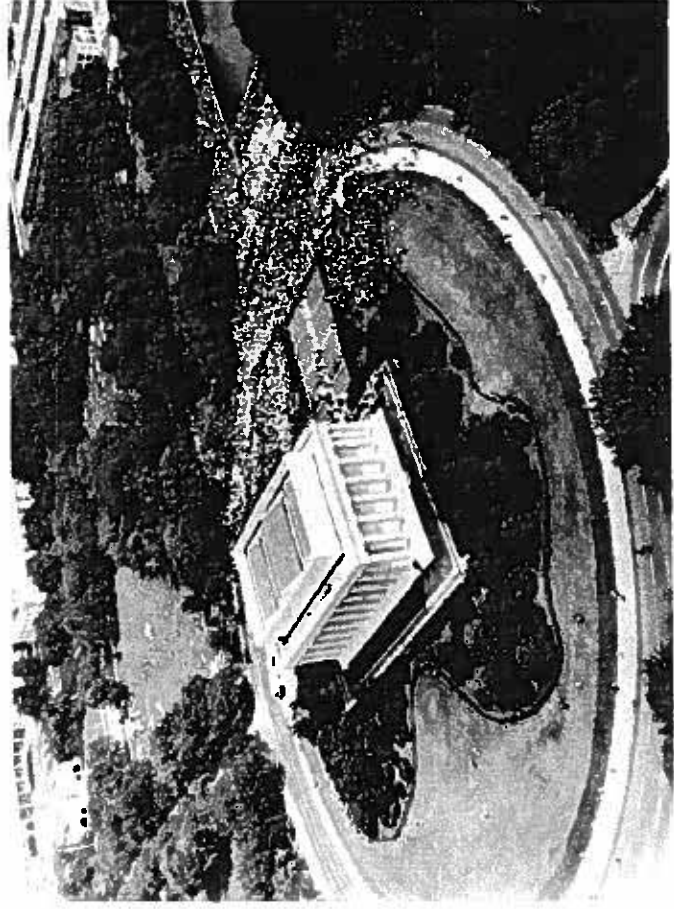
Through it all this committee and others must adhere to the concept that this memorial must reflect three distinct but interwoven program components symbolically expressed as: the Man, the Movement, the Message."

## Harmonizing Global Expectations

### *A (Vision )ary 'for the ages' . . .*

As we prepare to enter a new millennium, it is entirely possible that the primary challenge facing a world stage of aspiring human beings is the growing imbalance between activities of human enterprise and opportunities for human empowerment. The challenge can be defined as one of finding harmony between predominant values of self-advancement, consumer rights, and perpetual consumption (consumership) and a complementary set of values focused on family, ecological integrity, and civic responsibility (citizenship).

As the years have passed, it has become increasingly clear that Martin Luther King, Jr. fully understood the need for a balanced consumership/citizenship—ie... material/spiritual balance. His life's journey is living testament to the value of our own need to quest for the proper balance between material and spiritual harmony in all aspects of our lives.



***Aerial view of the Lincoln Memorial on the morning of August 28, 1963 (Washington Post).***

It can be said that Dr. King's journey was guided by an enlarged concept of citizen power and civic responsibility; a grander vision of citizenship, where "citizenship" is viewed as a unique expression of human community gained from exercising our human capacity to care, share, and trust beyond ties of kinship, friendship, and ethnicity.

Listening carefully to his speeches and to his daily conversation, one can also clearly hear Dr. King putting forth the idea of an enlarged concept of "family"—something that we might now call *public family*—the idea of an enlarged network of bonding relationships capable of engaging persons who are neither kin nor friend as something other than strangers. Such a deeply (com)passionate vision of human bonding is fundamentally guided by the idea of everyone advancing - of leaving no one behind.

A fitting memorial to Dr. King would be one that gives clearest expression to this ideal of human dignity. Stated succinctly, a memorial that best honors Martin Luther King, Jr. is one that best honors the fundamental belief that every human being is valuable and necessary and that each of us is universally deserving of equitable access to primary resources of opportunity."



## THE CHALLENGE

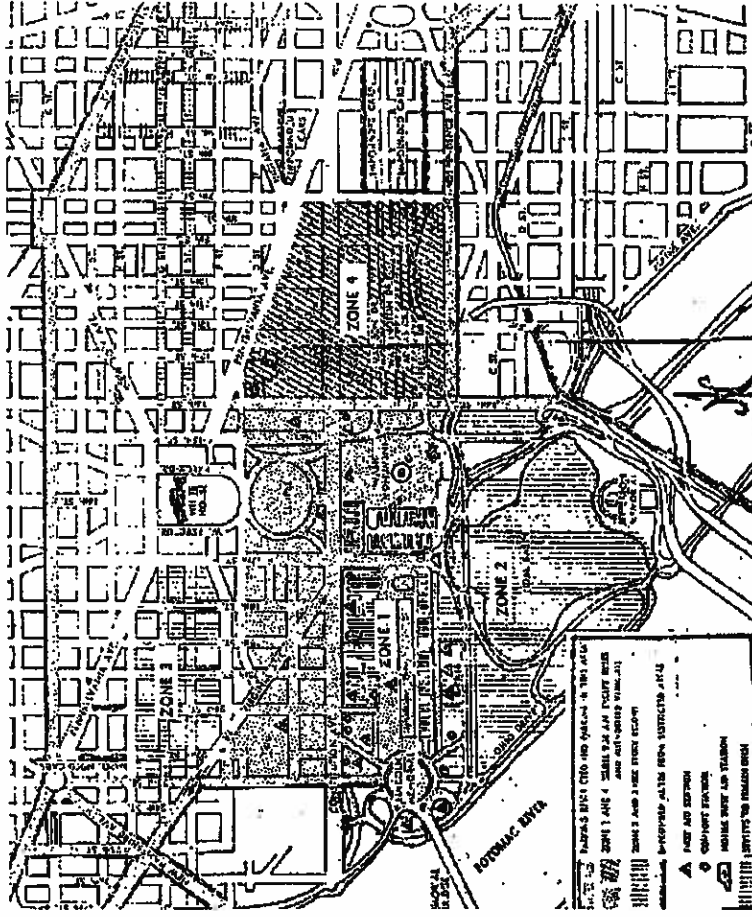
A great nation such as this must be able to strike a balance between human enterprise and social responsibility.

Linked with issues fundamental to the founding of the American Republic – i.e., linked with values of human dignity, equity of opportunity, self-governance, etc., the King Memorial offers the potential for becoming the nation's landmark testament to values of social "justice" and active citizenship.

As such, the King Memorial can be seen as providing a *fourth* pillar for the seat of American democracy – a *fourth* pillar in full harmony with the *first* pillar of revolutionary "freedom" and individual liberty dually associated with the Washington Monument. The King Memorial also offers the potential for coexisting in harmony with a *second* pillar at the seat of American democracy – i.e., with values of self "governance" and political independence historically associated with the Jefferson Memorial. Finally, the Memorial offers the potential for resonating in harmony with a *third* pillar at the seat of American democracy – i.e., with values of compassion and sacrifice (to achieve a 'more perfect union' of the people, by the people, for the people) as embodied in the Lincoln Memorial.



**Marchers gather on The Ellipse in front of the White House on the morning of August 28, 1963 (Washington Post).**



**Map showing area where facilities were to be set up for The March on Washington in 1963 (Washington Post).**

### **The Challenge of crafting a 'Global' Stage...**

All design guides are written with the intent of challenging conventional cultural boundaries, where necessary, to ensure an equitable and global sharing of information and ideas. The competition also intends to challenge professional language barriers that commonly serve to separate and undermine richer possibilities for transcultural/transdisciplinary partnerships.

### **... firmly anchored in Local Roots**

Dr. King's receipt of the Nobel Peace Prize is perhaps the most lasting reminder of his grand presence on the world stage. However, the heart of this challenge lies in crafting a memorial that also remembers Dr. King as the product of an enduring "local arena." To wit: Martin Luther King, Jr.'s earliest nurturing was through deep bonds of caring/sharing/trusting relationships centered around home, school, and church within an ever-extending family of AfricanAmericans.

### **Addressing critical design Issues**

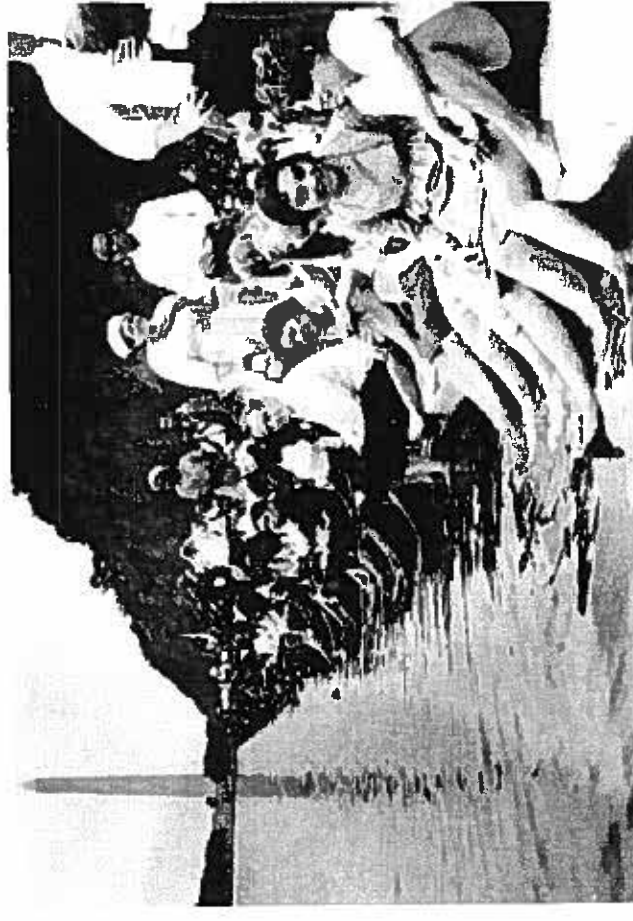
#### **Compatibility**

The jury will seek to award those designers whose submissions most clearly demonstrate that the Memorial need not suffer from the delicate proximity relationships posed by its siting within a Mall environment.

With regard to contextual issues, generally, there is an expectation that, where necessary, an appropriate sense of physical mass and physical anchorage for the Memorial will be achieved without an actual massing of physical materials. Stated another way, the jury will look favorably on those submissions where delicate plays of natural light and lighting, imaginative material selections, structural innovations, creative construction detailing, etc. combine to effectively suggest more mass than is actually present.

#### **Accessibility**

The Memorial should be both literally and figuratively open and inviting. As a quintessential public resource, it belongs to "the people." The Memorial must also be accessible to the physically and sensory impaired, the elderly, and the non-English speaking. In brief, its total composition of sheltered/open spaces needs to be 'transparent enough to convey a feeling of seamless accessibility (. . . no "front"; no "back"; no "sides" . . .)



**Marchers soothe sore feet in the reflecting pool in August, 1963 (Washington Post).**

A 'living memorial'  
commemorating

## Spiritual

power and integrity, spiritual vision and spiritual leadership.  
spirituality: -n. One's unique "source of being" - i.e., one's own awareness of one's inherent self-worth and unique identity within the larger universe; specifically, a "source" of personal 'well-being' derived from one's universal link to the greater whole of others, nature and the larger cosmos; a 'source' of connective insight - accessed directly through intuition and faith - that opens on to deeper truths of reality and deeper wisdoms of a universe within; broadly speaking, the 'source' of one's individual creative powers--i.e., one's inherent capacity to be self-guiding, self-transforming and self-directing

## Vision + Leadership

Vision: -n. An expression of our inherent human capacity to (en)vision - i.e., to imagine possible futures and desired relationships not yet spiritually-present or materially-real; the medium through which each of us translates our capacity for en(vision)ing ideas into practical ideas for daily living.

Leadership: -n. Our inherent capacity to care in ways that serve to inspire ourselves and others; an inherent and active quality of 'caring enough to act' which each of us must choose to exercise (in our own unique way) if we are to make our "vision(s)," real.

### The Man

Exemplified  
the value  
of

### Personal Empowerment

Design  
Challenge:  
capture  
the essence  
of

### Personal Empowerment (Inner Capacity)

through  
places  
of:

"contemplation,  
education,  
celebration"...

### Championed a Movement

Demonstrating  
the value  
of

### Active Citizenship

Design  
Challenge:  
capture  
the essence  
of

### Active Citizenship (common Commitment)

through  
places  
of:

"contemplation,  
education,  
celebration"...

### Bore a Message

Articulating  
The value  
Of

### 'Just Order'

Design  
Challenge:  
capture  
the essence  
of

### Perpetual quests for Justice (moral integrity)

through  
places  
of:

"contemplation,  
education,  
celebration"...

### The Man

### Championed a Movement

### Bore a Message

... places that collectively serve as intimate and public forums for engaging our intellectual, spiritual and emotional anchors; ... places that collectively serve as enduring 'beacons' for human pride and dignity; ... places that collectively serve as memorials of remembrance; ... places that collectively harmonize with rhythms of nature and larger constellations of the cosmos; ... places that collectively accommodate and strengthen relationships of family; ... places that collectively provide opportunity for reflection and connection - across racial/ethnic lines, national/international boundaries; ... places that collectively emphasize our inherent capacity to act as 'vanguards' - to 'direct' change and 'shape' the future (i.e., to "have a dream" that moves us from protest to possibility).

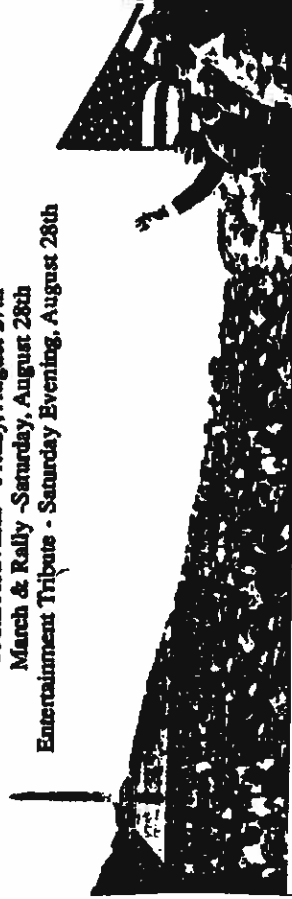
# March on Washington 30th Anniversary Mobilization

August 28, 1993

Lincoln Memorial • Washington, D.C.

## IN THE NEW COALITION OF CONSCIENCE FOR JOBS, JUSTICE & PEACE

Youth Activities • Friday, August 27th  
March & Rally • Saturday, August 28th  
Entertainment Tribute • Saturday Evening, August 28th



### CONVENORS

CORETTA SCOTT KING  
11 & CEO, The King Center

DR. JOSEPH E. LOWERY  
President, SCLC

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Southeast Office • Atlanta, GA • (404) 526-8995 or (404) 524-1956  
Washington, D.C. Office • (202) 822-7965 or (202) 822-7969

### MARCH ON WASHINGTON

P.O. Box 92486  
Atlanta, GA 30314

*Rally poster*

Introduction

Site Selection Study - Washington D.C., Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial

## DESIGN PROGRAM

### Program Outline

As previously noted, the King National Memorial is envisioned as an international center of celebration, congregation, and contemplation. In keeping with the task of giving functional spatial expression to this vision, a design brief is put forward as a basic guide for all design submissions. It reads as follows. "The King Memorial will reflect three distinct but interwoven program components symbolically expressed as: the Man, the Movement, the Message."

In addressing "the Man," all design submissions should clearly reflect a focus on Dr. King's qualities as a vanguard - particularly, his talent for tempering passion with integrity through the power of principled oratory. Within this program component there is a parallel requirement that the Memorial also serve to quietly and respectfully remind visitors of their potential to act as vanguards within their lives.

In addressing issues and challenges surrounding "the Movement," all submissions should clearly reflect a design response that embraces and (re)presents the 'spirit' of human journey—including the tragic and triumphal course of recent American history. Designers might seek to craft such an embracing representation through open-ended spatial narratives of people, actions, and events—narratives that would necessarily recognize that our collective human journey for dignity and *just* order is one yet-un folding and one characterized by unprecedented spiritual and political alliances; a journey of increasingly global agreements forged around the common recognition that local and global destinies are shared and that "we (each of us) can be more embracing."

In addressing "the Message", all submissions should clearly reflect a design response whose conceptual focus is fundamentally 'future' oriented; one intended to challenge Memorial visitors from all corners of the globe to move from 'protest to "possibility"'- ie., to ... have a dream.

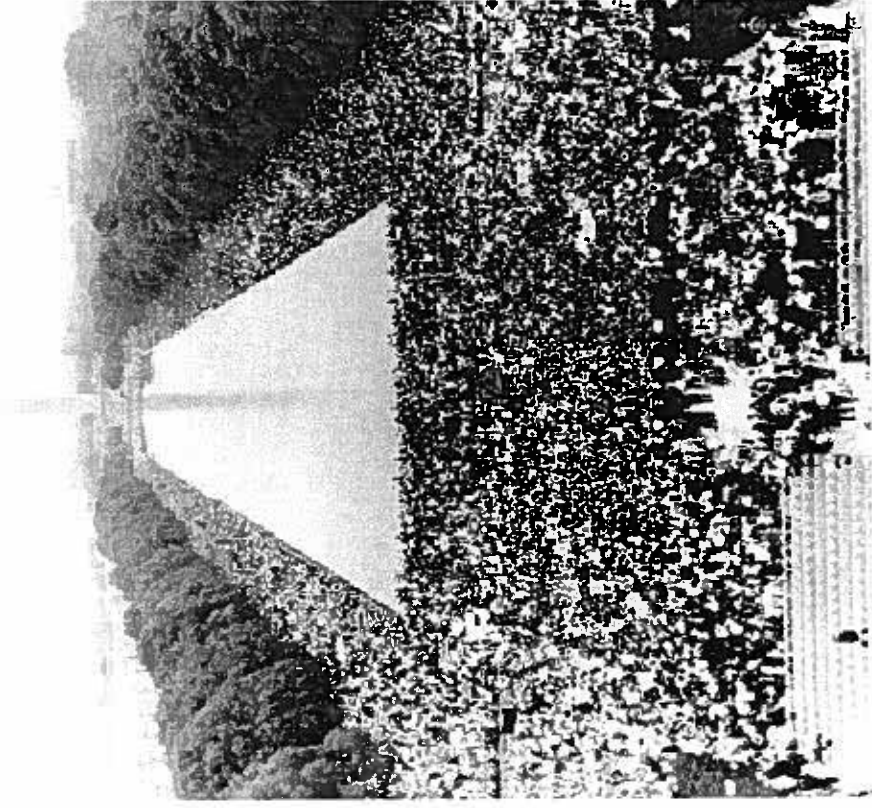
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### Program Objectives

#### Common Points of Departure

The jury expects that all *performance criteria* will be linked in some manner with one or more of the overarching Man/Movement/Message themes. It is further assumed that this three-fold theme will, itself, be skillfully woven into a common celebration of life and possibility. Creatively tapping fundamental 'life' symbols – as might be expressed through the natural purity of water, the bracing flows of wind, the transformative power of fire and the sustaining comfort of (earth)en form – each design is challenged to craft a *place* (beyond space) that makes continuing appeal to our common human capacity for integrity and goodness.

Each design entry will be expected to honor all site parameters – contextual boundaries, height restrictions, visual avenues, processional paths, etc. – without being overly concerned with exact square footage/meters. Specifically, as the designer envisions possible activities and moves to articulate appropriate spatial translations and accommodations, the jury assumes that a fluid overlap of spatial ebbs and flows will be the likely outcome.



With particular regard to possible activities and space assignments within the Memorial, the jury will rely heavily upon each designer's unique interpretation of primary performance requirements. As an international center of celebration, congregation and contemplation revolving around relationships and experiences intended to educate and inspire, some primary activities do come to mind. For example, there is an expectation that the National King Memorial may be a point of destination for reunions and other distinctive calendar celebrations.

It is expected that the King Memorial experience will engage a broad range of our sensory faculties. The memorial will expand outward from activities of personal remembrance and individual reflection to larger congregations of public procession and celebration. The jury expects the 'winning' Memorial design to clearly reflect a capacity for accommodating an ever-evolving palette of activities and expectations presently and for centuries to come.

METHODOLOGY

The following is our site selection study which includes a comprehensive investigation of the development potentials and limitations of each site. The analysis includes a study of the following:

Maps were analyzed regarding the categories of:

- Spatial development potential
- Visual characteristics
- Environmental factors
- Circulation and use
- Site limitations

TDI also performed a Social Values and Needs Analysis and an Existing Site Activity Analysis, as follows:

A set of evaluation parameters related to site use were ranked in order to understand the social and environmental aspects of each site. The "Social Values and Needs" parameters were taken from Environmental Planning and Social Science by Donald Appleyard.

Each category ranking was formulated from site observation. Behavioral observation methods included notation, checklists, mapping, and still photographs. Observation was made of the ways people use the sites and how different activities spatially relate to one another.

Social use was also observed through physical traces. Physical traces means systematically looking at physical surroundings to find reflections of previous behavior. Traces can be unconsciously left behind, e.g. paths across a field. In other cases there may be conscious changes made, e.g. a new wall built to change circulation patterns.

Finally, observation of the environment of each site was made to determine aspects of comfort, aesthetics, and site identity.

SOCIAL VALUES AND NEEDS EVALUATION PARAMETERS

Safety From:

- Natural Hazards: Flooding, steep slopes, dangerous water access
- Traffic: Vehicles cutting through the site, dangerous intersections, lack of signals

Comfort:

- Spaciousness: Open, room to maneuver
- Quiet: Lack of noise
- Air Quality: Amount of smog, car exhaust, and air pollution
- Cleanliness: Litter, availability of trash receptacles
- Light Quality: Glare protection

Access Convenience:

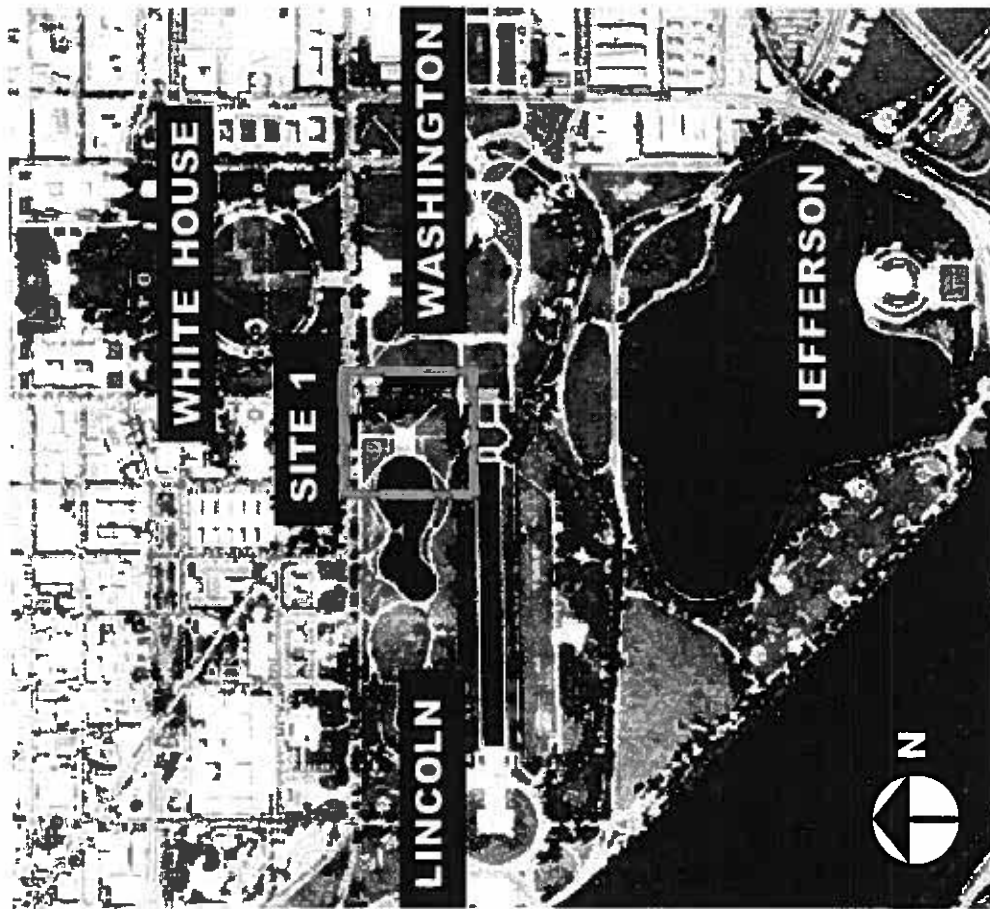
- Transit: Transit and metro stops
- Facilities: Bathrooms, visitor information

Personal Identity:

- Privacy: Opportunities for separation (personal space)
- Territorial Control: Ability to "own" or control space, in reality or perceptually
- Spatial Comprehension: Understandable boundaries and spatial relationships
- Aesthetics: Visual harmony

Social Development:

- Public Quality: Welcoming quality, openness, and availability to the public
- Social Interaction: Sociable places, places for people to be in groups





## SITE 1 - EVALUATION SUMMARY

This site is located near the axis of 17<sup>th</sup> Street and Constitution Avenue. It is located on the east end of the Constitutional Gardens pool, which is north of the World War II Memorial. It is located to the east of both the Vietnam Memorial and the approved site for the Black Patriots Memorial.

Designed by Skidmore, Owings and Merrill in 1975, this site is serene and naturalistic in character, yet the spatial layout of the site is very structured. The site feels very safe and protected in its own well-established territory. The terraced platform at the east end of the pond, once intended as a beer garden, is the focal point of the site.

The terraced platform can become to the pond what the Lincoln Memorial is to the Reflecting Pool: a celebrated gathering space and a stage commanding focus. It is a dignified space with a strong sense of place.

The site is centrally located with access to several forms of transit, and acts as a major circulation space for visitors travelling to other monuments. With a pleasing landscape setting, it offers visitors moving through the space a meaningful reason for pause and reflection.

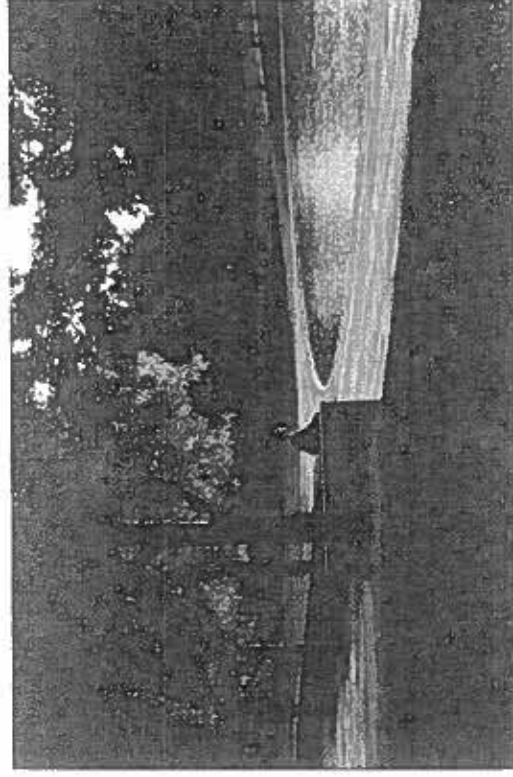
The landscaped setting is a great asset to this site, lending an uplifting, peaceful quality conducive to the development of a memorial. The lengthy vista over the pond to the west captures the imagination, instilling a contemplative state of mind.

There are no major environmental detractors or planning restrictions placed on the site, and the site is also protected from floods.

Overall, this site would make an excellent choice for the memorial location.

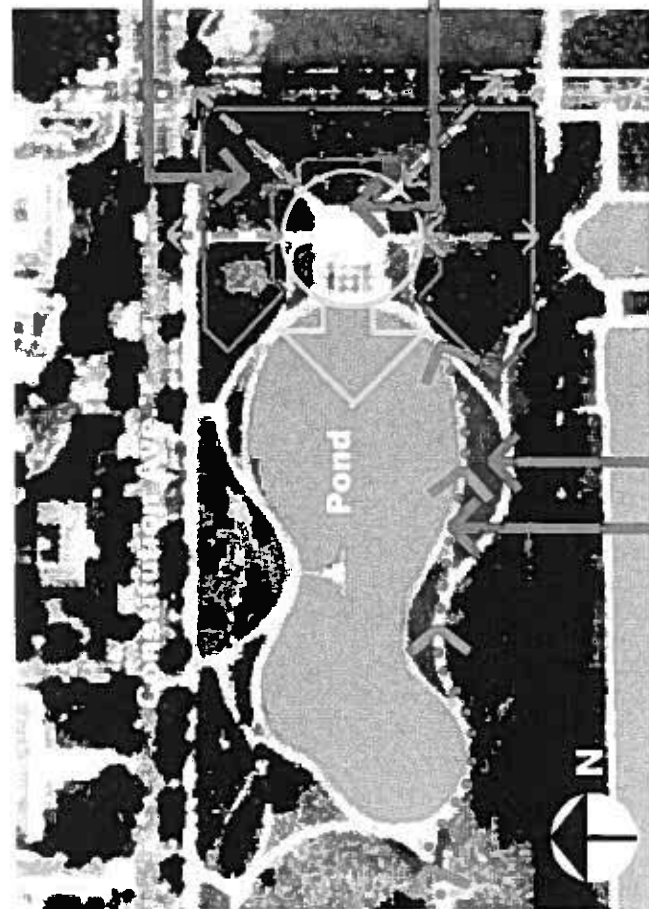


▲ ***"Endless" vista over the pond from plaza***



▲ ***Contemplative space at terrace***





#### LEGEND

- Site 1 - Main Plaza and Orientation to Garden
- Approach Walks
- - - Transitional Buffer Zone
- - - Approach walk from Lincoln and Vietnam Memorials

Space surrounding the pond is connected to the plaza by the snaking edge of the pond. The area then slopes upward in grassy knolls. These areas could be used to sit and view the memorial and to listen to speeches or watch events.

Approach from the Lincoln and Vietnam Memorials is a dynamic experience that progressively changes angle, aspect, and focal point as one walks around the pond.

## SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL

### Summary

Tree-covered transition space effectively buffers the plaza space from the bustling activity of the streets surrounding the site. The trees in this transition area should not be disturbed.

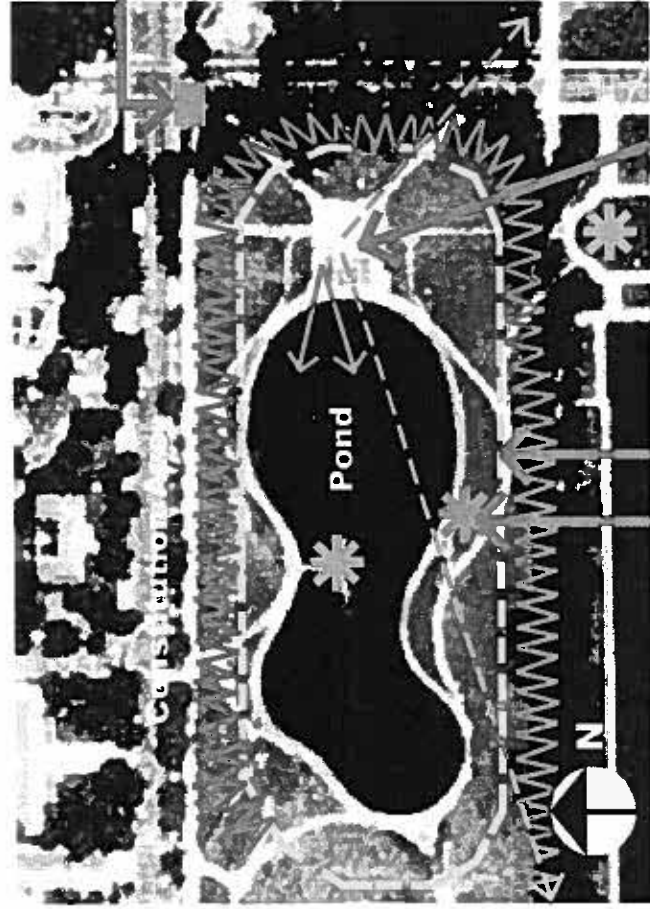
This site has a particularly structured spatial layout which will dictate the design parameters closely. While the total area is a spacious 27.5 acres, the buildable area is about 1.5-2.0 acres, including the square plaza on the east edge of the pond and the steps leading down from it.

Open plaza space has several entrance approaches, but is definitely oriented toward the pond. The plaza is nearly 10 feet higher than the pond and appears to open down to the water.

The square plaza space can be reconfigured to a certain extent, and certainly the plaza's relationship to the pond offers opportunity for a new focus to the space. The edge of the pond at the plaza can be redesigned, allowing the memorial to extend into the pond.

### Approach to plaza space





#### LEGEND

- View of Pond  
Viewshed visible from plaza space
- View to Lincoln Memorial; Washington Monument
- View Blocked by trees and landforms
- Future site of Black Patriots Memorial
- Future site of Signers of the Declaration of Independence
- Future site of WWII Memorial

The site has a well-defined visual envelope. Because of mounds and 20 year-old tree planting, the space is shaped like a bowl. It has a naturalistic, parklike, relaxing atmosphere. No nearby building masses can be seen, except for the top of the Lincoln Memorial.

Other monuments surround the site, creating a lively and dynamic interactive relationship among them. From within Constitution Gardens, however, none of these monuments have a significant visual impact on this site, so that the memorial being studied would be most prominent visually.

## VISUAL CHARACTER AND PLANNING RESTRICTIONS

### Summary

Historical stone lock house building on the corner of Constitution Ave. and 17th St. will be redeveloped as a bookstore by the National Park Service.

The most important aspect of this site is its visual isolation and privacy. It is in the monument core of the Capital, yet it has a very secluded character.

### Preserved stone building

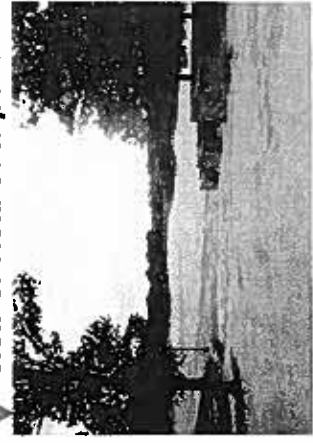


There is an element of borrowed scenery in that the plaza space opens onto the pond and to a long vista beyond the pond that seems to continue for a far distance.

Because of these factors, this site has a spacious quality without being overwhelming in scale.

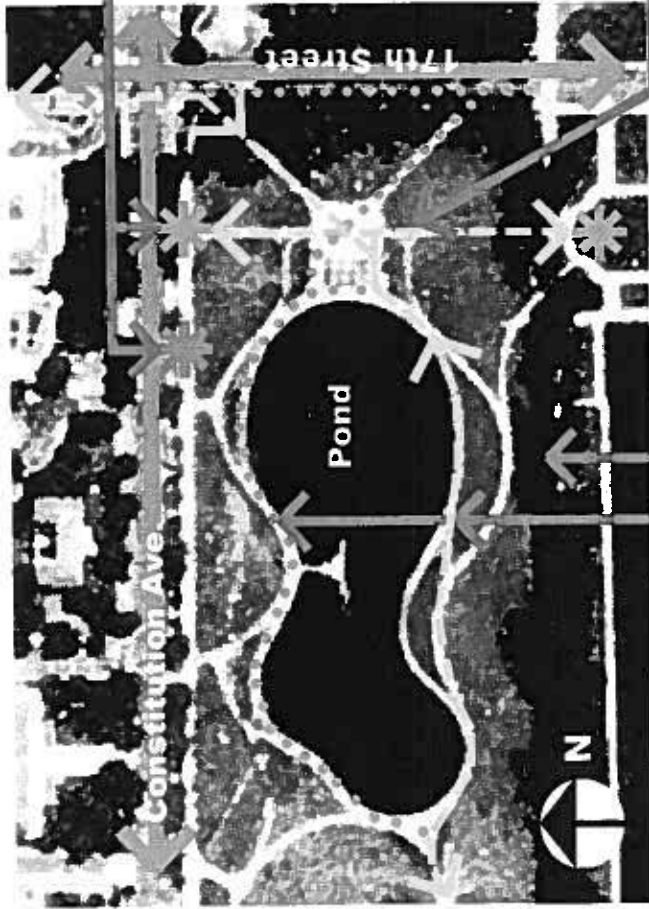
There are minimal views into and out of site from the main plaza space. The space can be seen while driving east along Constitution Ave., but this is not a prominent axial view. Therefore, the memorial could be given much design freedom with regard to built form and size without imposing on existing view sheds.

### View of vista over pond



A building or structure built here could be up to 42' tall without disturbing overall Capital views.

# PEDESTRIAN AND VEHICULAR CIRCULATION



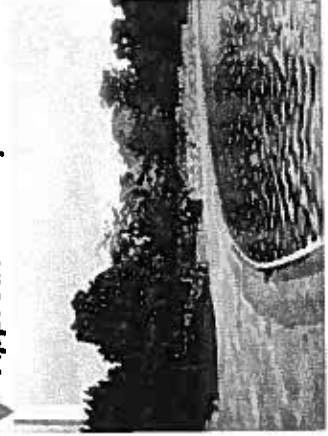
## LEGEND

- Primary pedestrian circulation.
- Secondary pedestrian and bicycle circulation.
- Vehicular circulation
- Future Tourmobile stop
- Future Tour Bus pickup site for WWII Memorial
- Future site of WWII Memorial

Circulation at this site and along Reflecting Pool is separated physically by a berm.

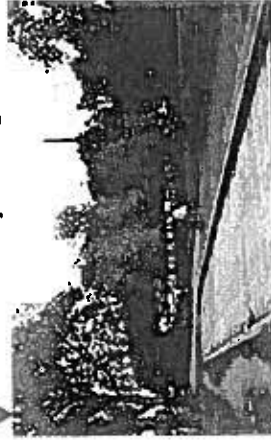
Approaches to plaza space from both sides of pond are popular paths with seating for activities such as feeding the resident waterfowl.

### Approach from pond



Future Tourmobile stop and tour bus pickup area, together with pedestrians walking from 17th St. Metro station, make this northern edge of the site a major approach and exit.

### Future bus parking area



Major circulation paths between monuments will bring tourists into contact with the memorial. A key element to consider is the steady stream of people expected to be walking from the future WWII memorial site through this site on their way to the tour bus pickup area at the northern edge of the site.

## Summary

This site has a regular stream of pedestrian traffic passing through due to the proximity of so many other popular sights in the area.

Within very close proximity are Tourmobile and Metrorail stops. People are also walking through the site from the White House toward the Vietnam and Lincoln Memorials and vice-versa. A new circulation pattern through the site will begin when the WWII Memorial is constructed to the immediate south of this site.

Although the site is presently a transitional space, its connections to other attractions will assure that it is well-visited.

### Popular paths through site





**LEGEND**

- Drainage patterns
- Glare from sun in afternoon.
- ▄▄▄ Flood protection dike system layout.

Water quality of pond is acceptable. The pond has a hard edge and there are waterfowl inhabiting it as well. There is significant glare reflecting off of the pond in the afternoon and evening, a factor which should be taken into consideration in the design.

▼ *Glare from pond*



**ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS**

**Summary**

Line of flood protection dike includes the plaza space being studied for this memorial. The current elevation (19' above sea level) and design must be maintained along this side of site.

This site is protected from floods by being within the flood protection dike system for the Capital.

The side facing the pond may be redesigned to interact with the pond as desired.

The site plays an integral part in this flood protection system. The plaza space being studied for the memorial is a high point on the site. In the instance of a flood, sand bags would be laid from the plaza east across 17th Street to the Washington Monument site, thereby blocking the water.

Blackened areas indicate existing tree cover. These trees are an average of 20 years old and should be maintained.

The density of trees on the site creates an intimate scale.

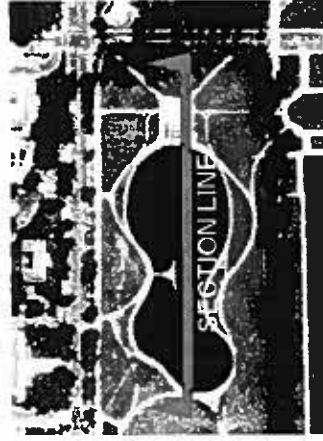
▼ *Tree grove typical of site*



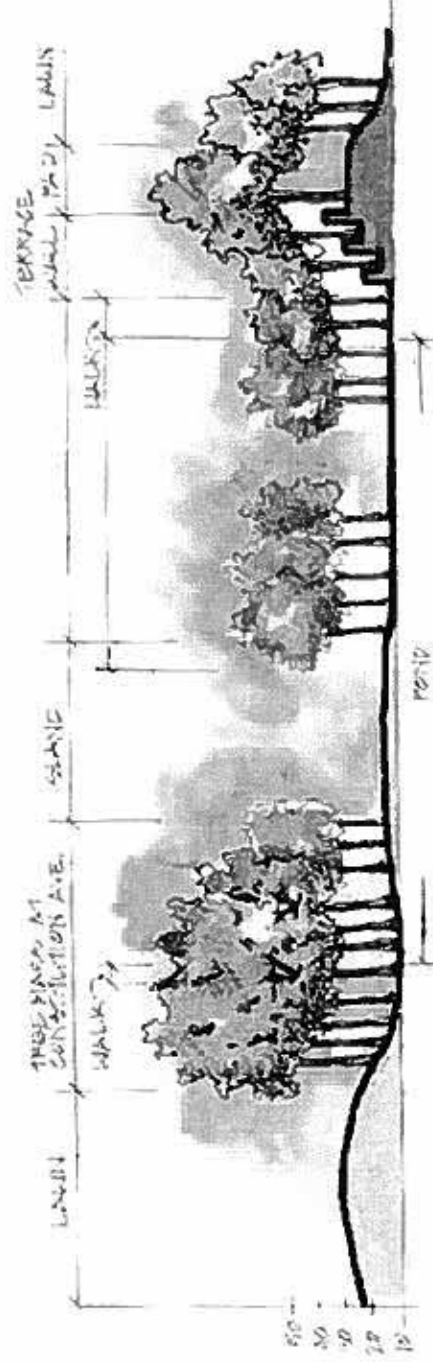
The dike system also reaches around the south side of the site along the Reflecting Pool.

These factors contribute to the site's well-defined, bowl-like shape.

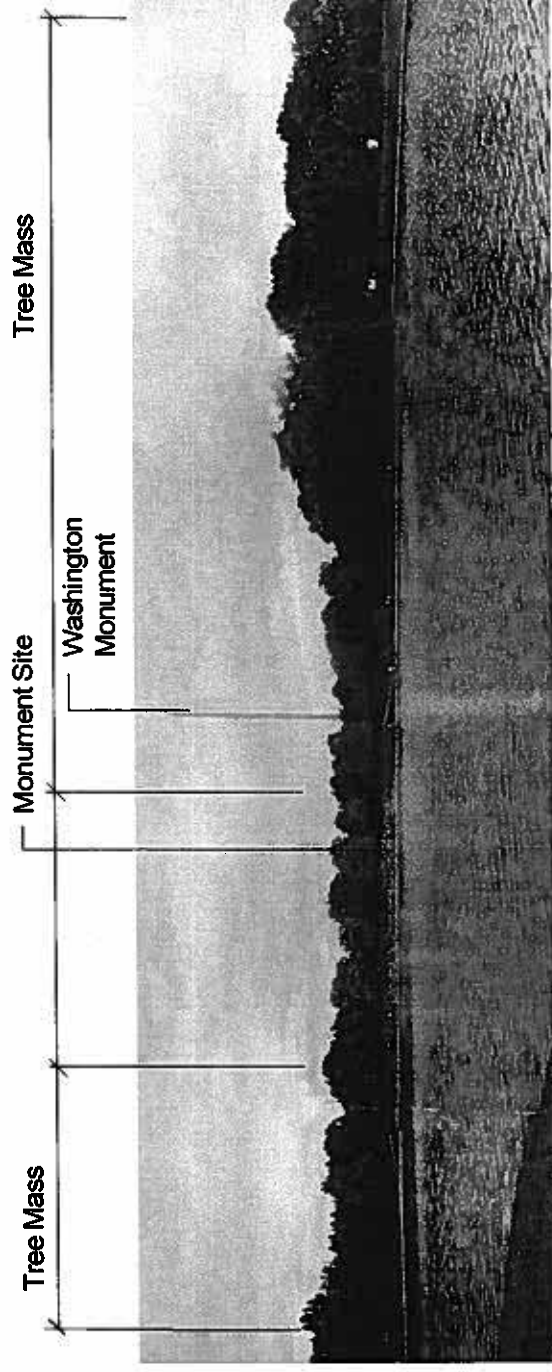
# CROSS-SECTIONAL / PHOTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS



*Section through pond*



*View across pond to site*



The view across the pond shows the connection that the site has with the pond. The backdrop of tree massing with the pond in front gives this site a strong sense of place



# SOCIAL VALUES AND NEEDS ANALYSIS

## Summary

This site scored the highest marks of all the sites in the Social Values and Needs Analysis.

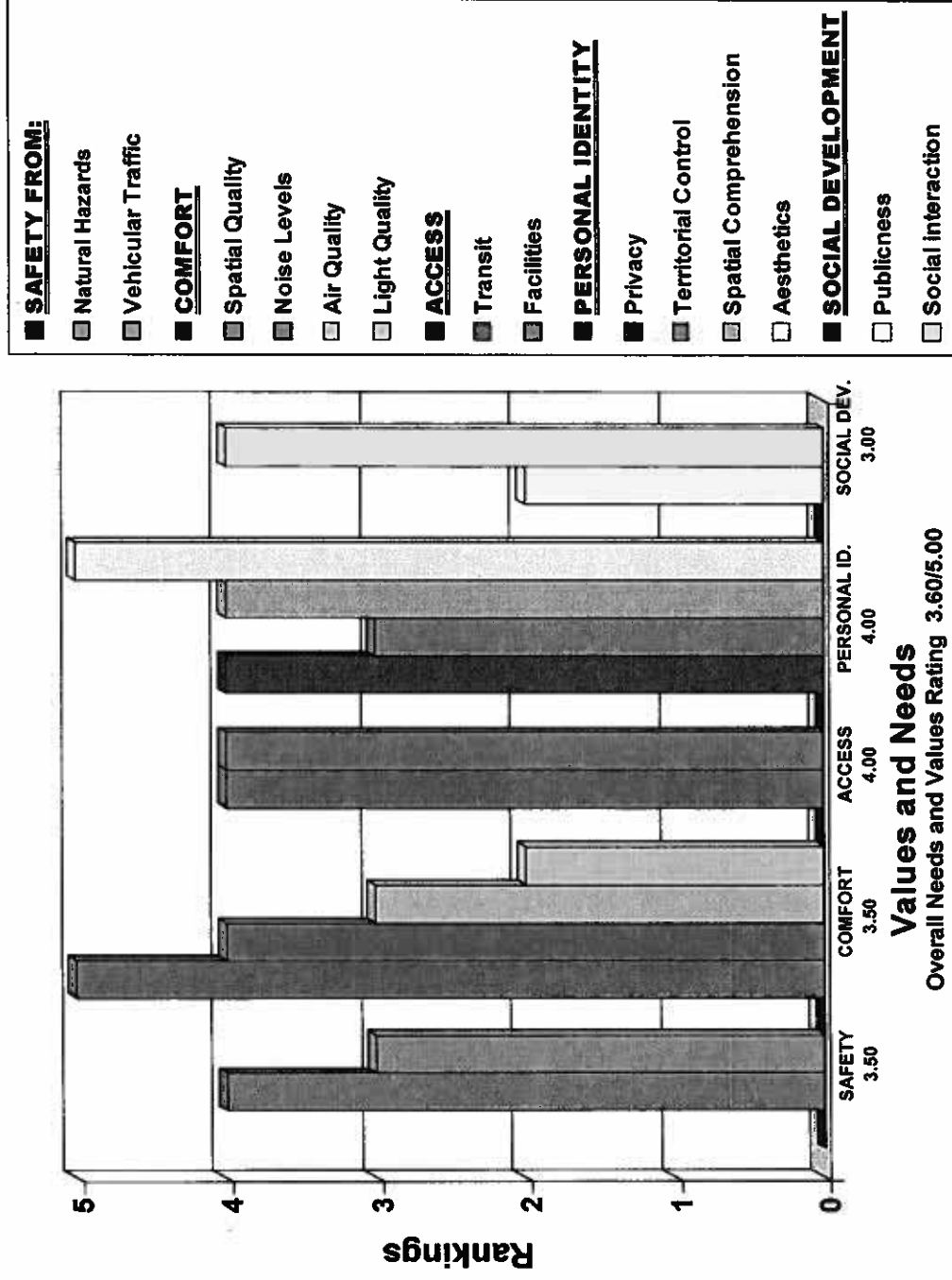
The central location provides for excellent access. The designed landscape setting and related view sheds give the site high rankings in the Personal Identity and Comfort categories.

The site also has protection from floods, and there is much social interaction due to the proximity to other attractions.

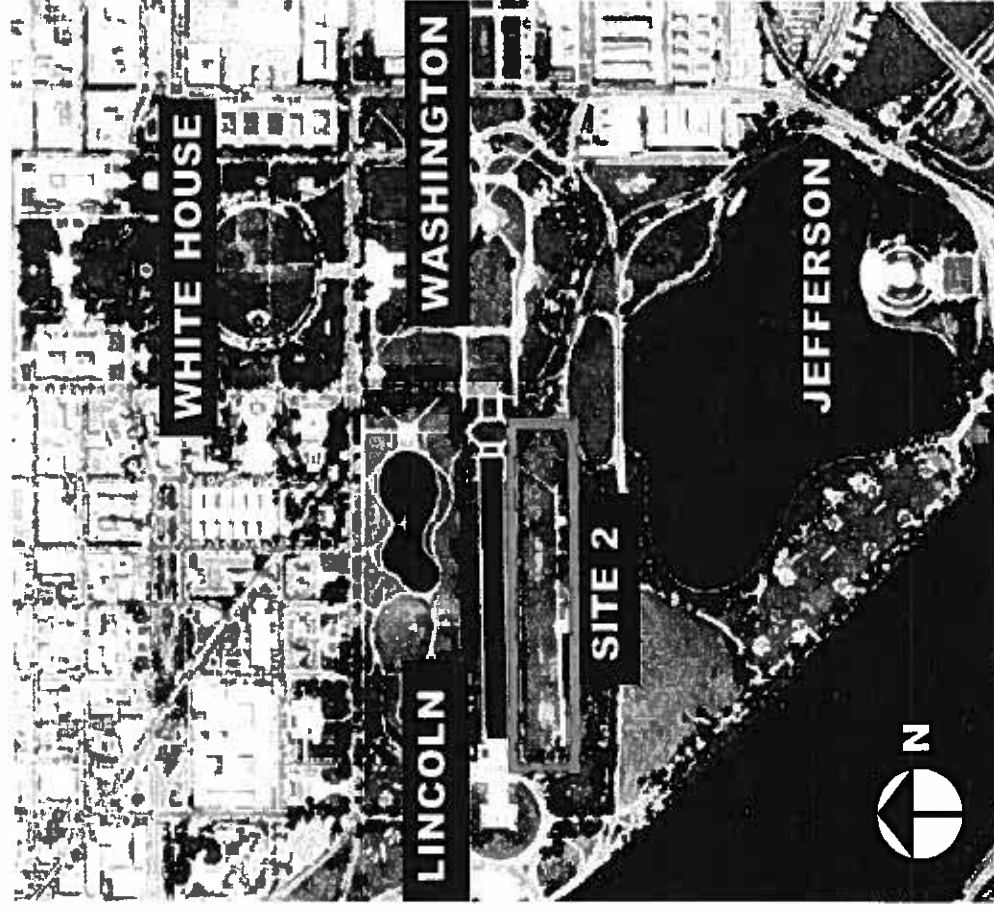
## Existing Site Activity Analysis

Most of the activity now occurring on the site centers on the paths surrounding the pond, and on the stairs and retaining walls which terrace down to the pond.

Generally, adult groups and family groups were observed strolling, bicycle riding, jogging, picture taking, and being intimate. All participants appear to focus on the pond while engaging in these various activities.



SITE 2 - REFLECTING POOL



## SITE 2 - EVALUATION SUMMARY

This site is located on the strip of land running parallel and adjacent to the Washington Monument Reflecting Pool. It is a very large piece of land near the Korean War Memorial. It is the site which is closest to the location of the 1963 March on Washington.

This site is simple and easy to comprehend. It is a flat rectangle, open in the center and bordered on each side by trees. There is a certain feeling of vastness and endlessness when standing in the center of the space. There is also easy access from other monuments and facilities.

The strongest asset of this site is that it can easily serve as an active gathering place. The simplicity of the space allows for extreme flexibility and for accommodating vast numbers of people. This is demonstrated by the fact that the site is regularly used for organized sporting activities.

However, the usage of the site for recreational sports is well-entrenched and would prove difficult to relocate. Therefore, the memorial would have to share the site with these other uses.

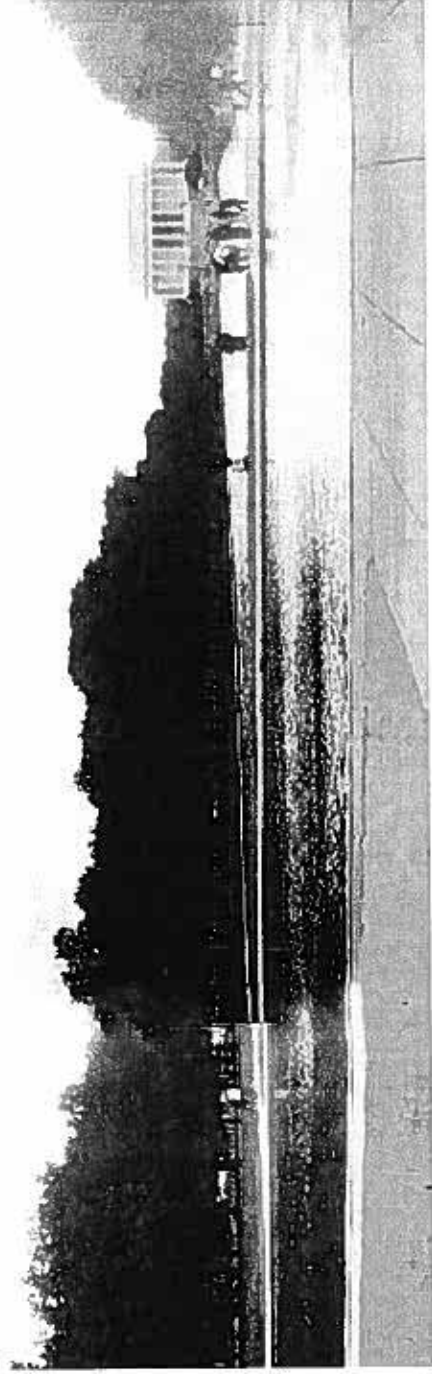
A key factor concerning this site is its proximity to the Reflecting Pool. This site was designed to be an open space extension of the Reflecting Pool space, and a clear view of the pool should be maintained.

Because of the sensitivity of this historical landscape, there are serious height restrictions and built element: open space ratio restrictions on development in this area. Any development would have to maintain the general site character as an open lawn connected to the Reflecting Pool, with no detracting vertical elements.

While the total space is about 12.5 acres in size, the allowed buildable space would likely be only 10% of that - about 1.2 acres. Another constraint includes use of the site for presidential helicopter landings.

Overall, the site has an excellent, meaningful location, but the number of developmental constraints would make it a poor candidate for a design competition site. It would also have very limited potential for becoming the site of a visual beacon or landmark.

***Site is just to the immediate left of this important landscape element.***





# SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL

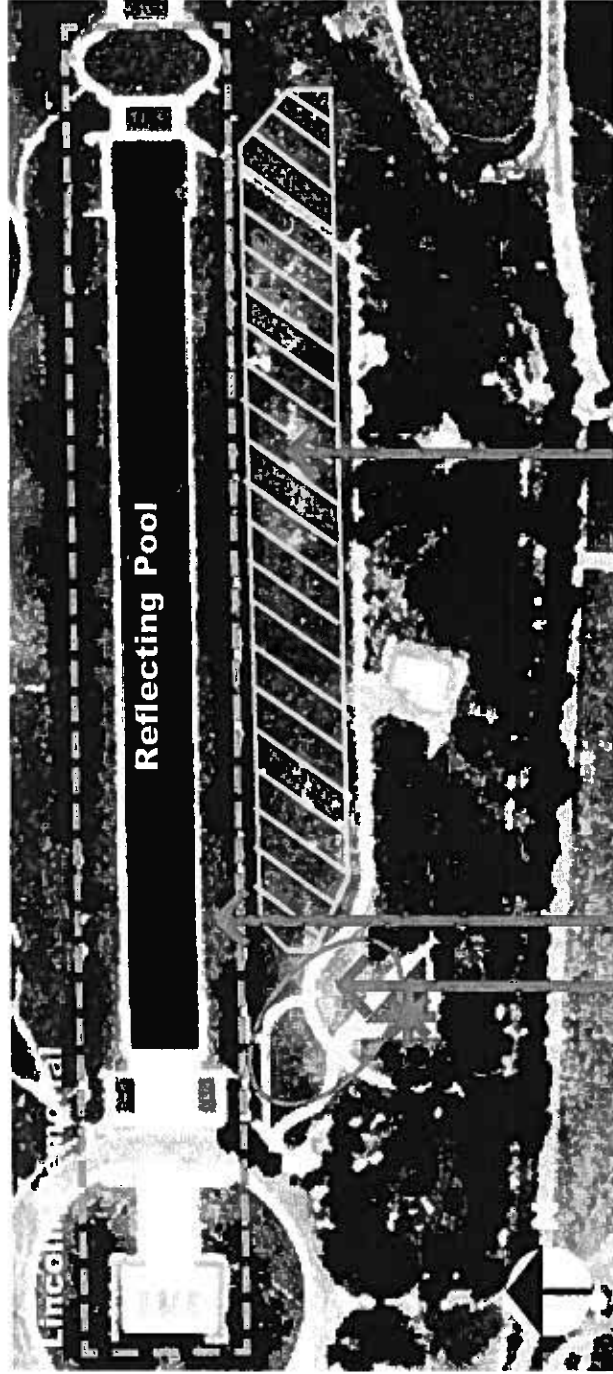
## Summary

The space lends itself excellently to a large public gathering space. It can be a forum, and its proximity to historic events is also a plus.

The total space is roughly 12.5 acres, but the buildable area may be lower than 10% of that. The National Capital Planning Commission and the National Park Service are intent on maintaining this area as open space.

Because the space is of historical significance, the general spatial form of the site must be preserved. Also, development can not be done below grade on this site due to environmental constraints.

These factors seriously limit the design potential of the site.



Reflecting Pool

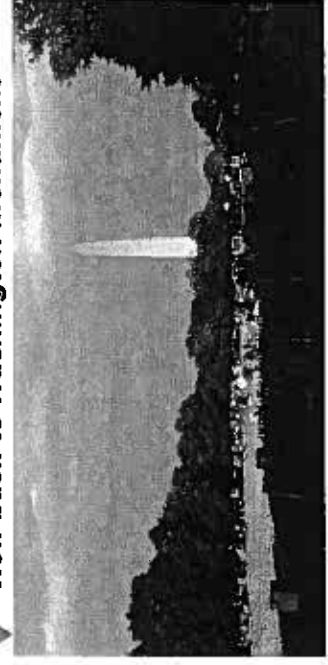
Flexible open space is ringed by pastoral walks. It is a clean, easily comprehensible, flat, rectangular space defined by large shade trees. It is currently used as recreational space for various organized ball sports with temporary facilities.

Space surrounding Reflecting Pool is in main Mall axis and must not be affected in any way. This constraint puts major design restrictions on the memorial being studied, which would have to be an extremely subdued design.

Transition space between Korean War Memorial and open field. This transition must be maintained to avoid confusion.

The spatial relationship of this site to the Lincoln Memorial will be somewhat disjointed due to the presence of this transition area and the Korean War Memorial.

View back to Washington Monument



# VISUAL CHARACTER AND PLANNING RESTRICTIONS

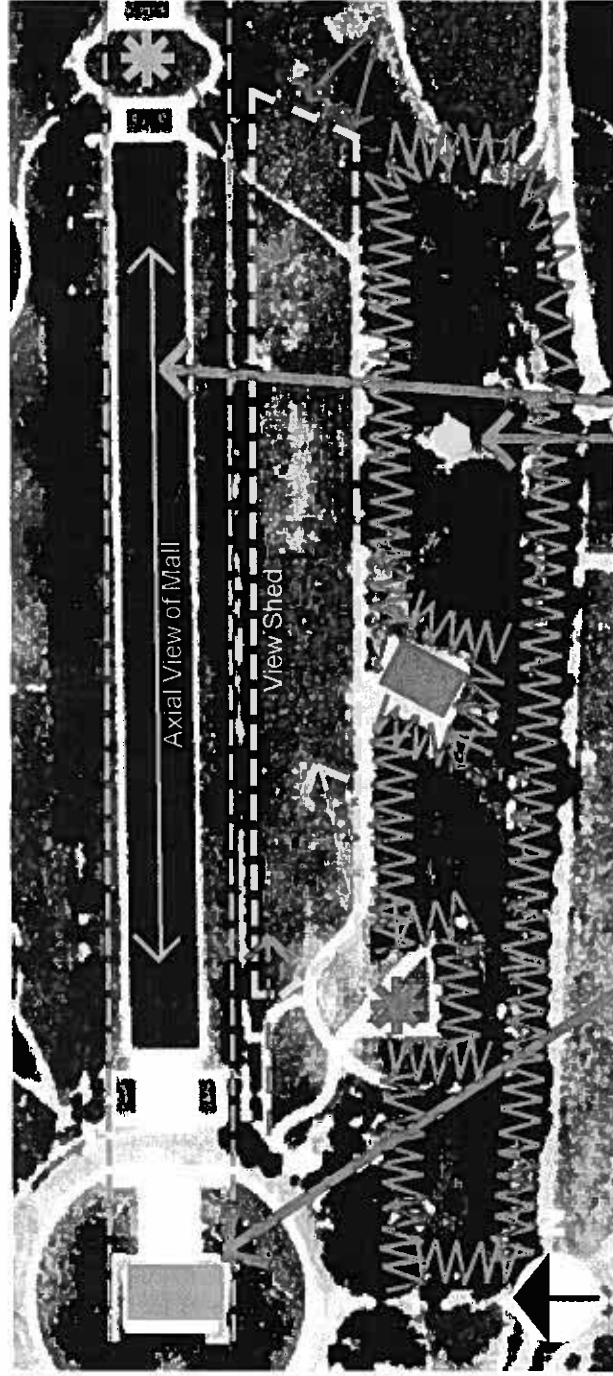
## Summary

The site has a very simple shape and flat topography, making it clearly visible from any location.

The complete openness of the site promotes active recreation. But the site currently lacks a strong visual approach or focus area.

There are serious planning constraints affecting this site. The site is intensely used for various organized sports, and also serves as an emergency helicopter landing area for the president. An attempt to relocate these uses would likely face serious opposition.

As an element of the historic landscape built to support the Lincoln Memorial, the formal open space quality must be preserved.



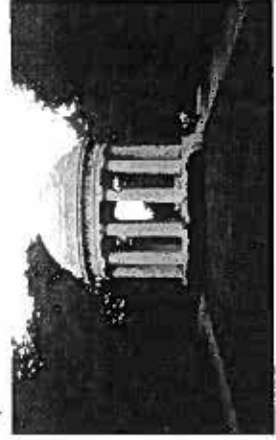
## LEGEND

- [ ] Viewshed visible from site.
- View from Road to Site
- Main Approach
- Main Mall View Corridor
- View of Washington Monument
- Forest Buffer
- Lincoln Memorial
- ✱ Korean Memorial
- ✱ Future Site of WWII Memorial
- Horse Stables

View from reflecting pool is sensitive. There must not be anything visibly overpowering seen through trees to compete with the Lincoln Memorial.

Monuments and horse stable facilities at south side of site must maintain accessibility. Therefore, this memorial would most likely be approached from the north and northeast.

## WWII Memorial near site



Site 2 - Reflecting Pool

# PEDESTRIAN AND VEHICULAR CIRCULATION

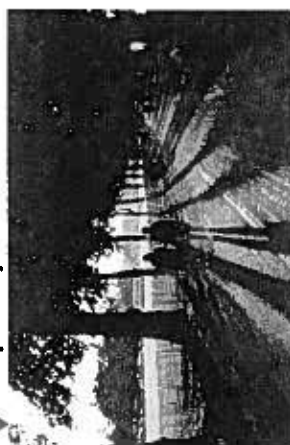
## Summary

Most everyone who visits the Mall area uses the walk around this site to access the Lincoln, Vietnam War, and Korean War Memorials. Many walk from the Mall, others are dropped off in front of the Lincoln Memorial.

Because of the location in the Mall, this site has many people walking all around it, giving it a magnetic quality that attracts many activities. Even the paths themselves are used for a variety of activities.

The social aspects of this site are among the most interesting of all sites.

## Popular paths around site



## LEGEND

- > Primary pedestrian circulation.
- • • Secondary pedestrian and bicycle circulation.
- Vehicular circulation
- \* Drop-Off and Pick-Up Areas
- Informal Parking

Temporary car parking for sports events conflicts with the other activities on the site.

People can commonly be seen walking through the forested area as a shortcut. Tourists walk through this area when going from the FDR Memorial to the Lincoln and Vietnam Memorials. Athletes approach the playing field through this area after having parked their cars near the river.

There is free circulation within the space, and thus it can be used for multiple purposes.

Circulation around the site is simple and continuous, but there are no well-defined entry approach points.

## ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

### Summary

This site is protected from outside detractors by its location within a historical landscape area. Traffic noise, pollution, and winds are all buffered by the large trees and open spaces surrounding the site.

Flooding, however, is a serious potential detractor for this site. The site is in the 100 year floodplain, outside of the flood protection dike.

No open-air below grade memorial should be built here. This factor, together with the planning restrictions on building above ground in this area, means there are serious limitations on any kind of development on the site.



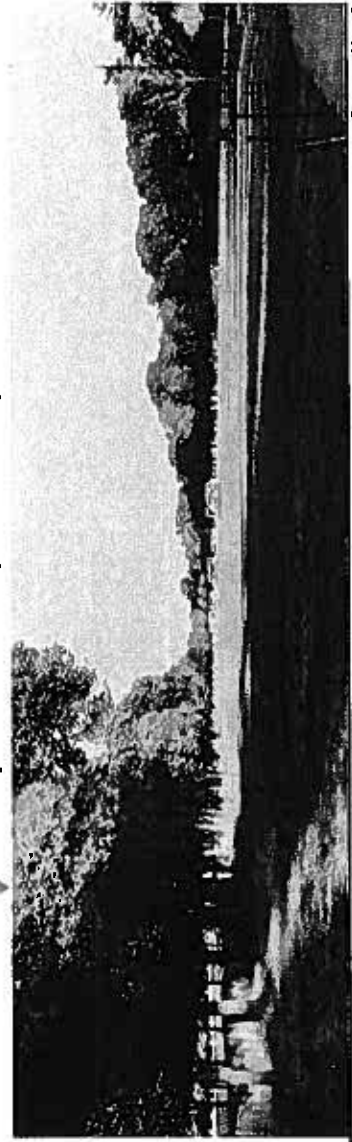
#### LEGEND

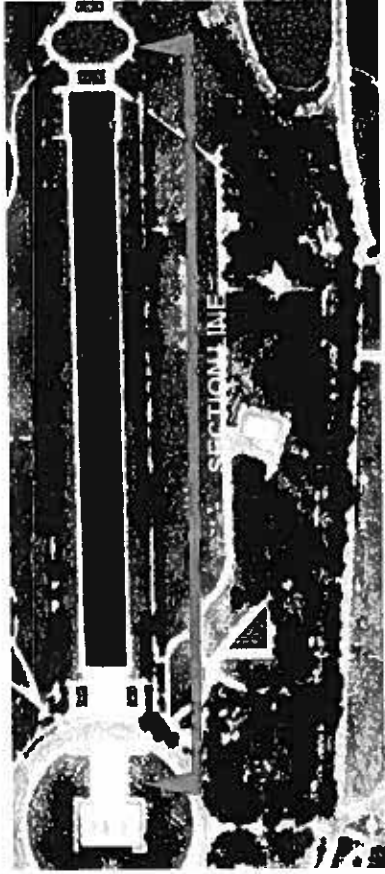
→ Glare from sun in afternoon.

AAA Formal line of trees surrounding site acts as an environmental buffer.

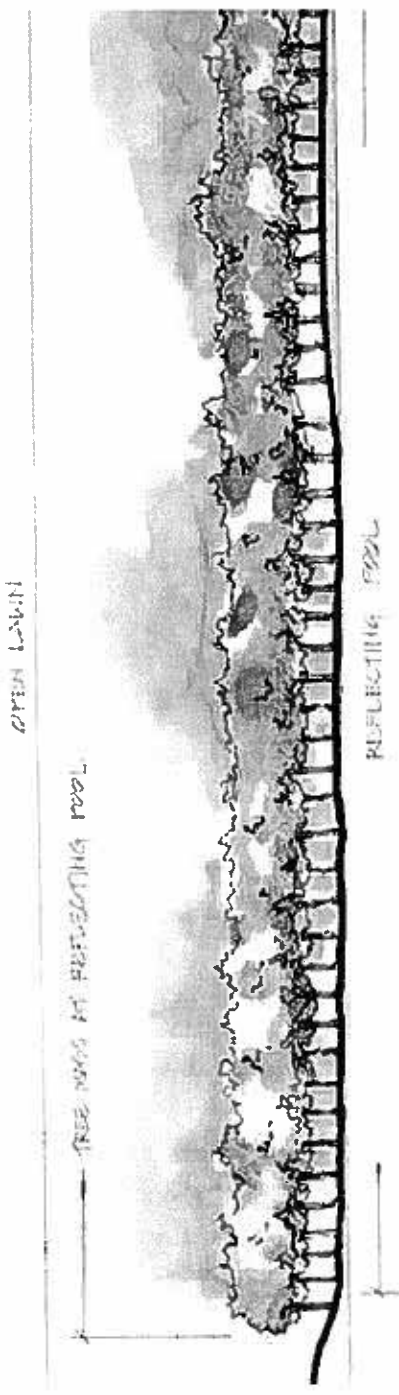
Trees cannot be planted here because the Planning Commission wants to maintain the open space in keeping with the Master Plan.

▼ Flat open meadow space is in a protected environment.



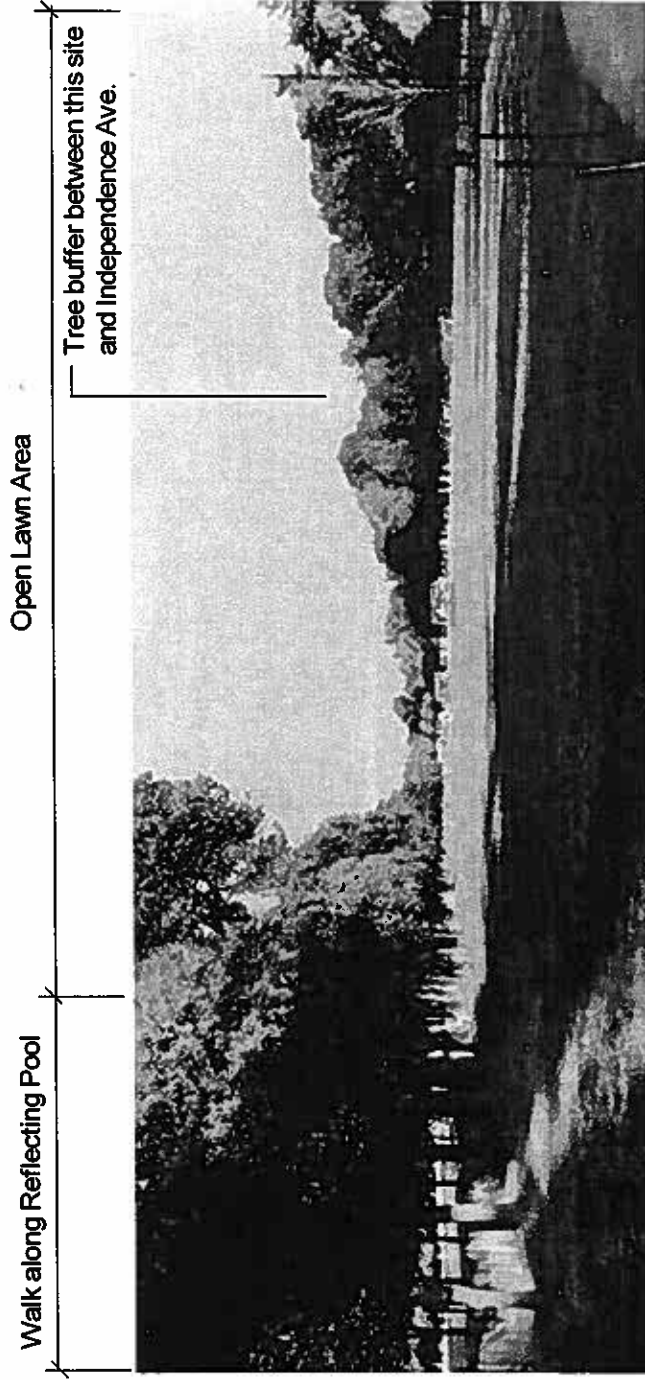


Section through open field shows continuous row of large shade trees along site perimeter.

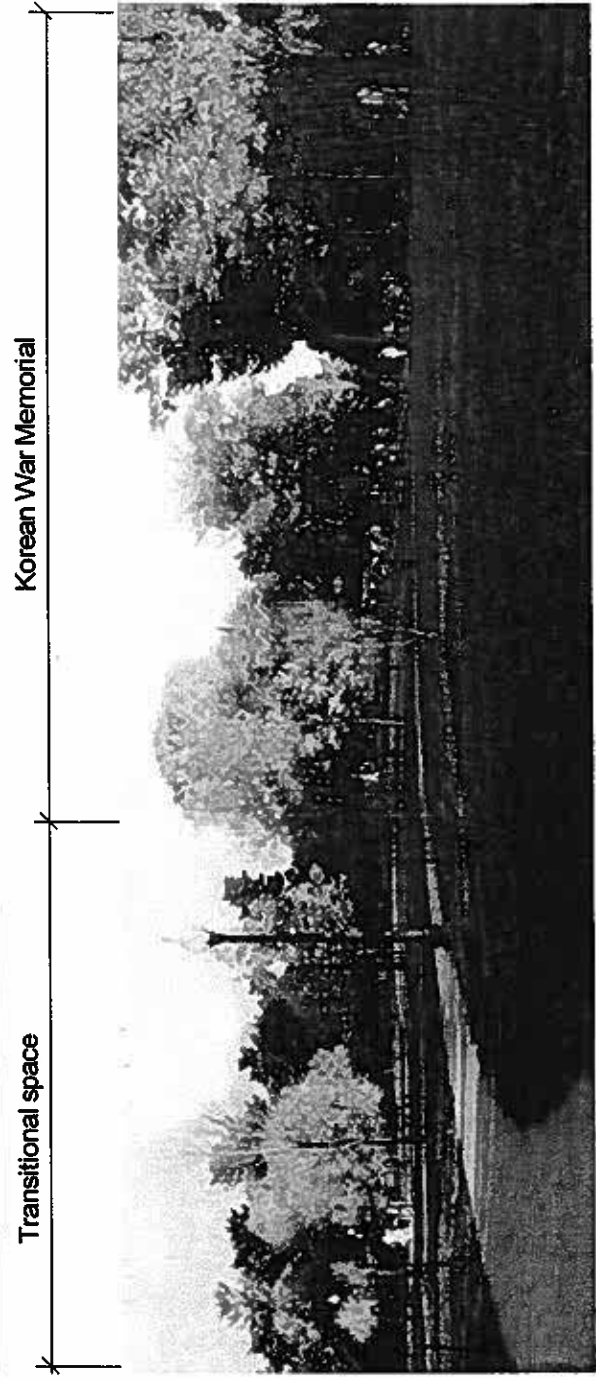




# PHOTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS



*View of open field from Lincoln Memorial side of site. Rectangular shape of site is clearly visible.*



*Transitional area with view to Korean War Memorial. This transition should be maintained as a buffer between memorials.*

# SOCIAL NEEDS AND VALUES ANALYSIS

## Summary

This site scored the second highest marks of all the sites in the Social Values and Needs Analysis.

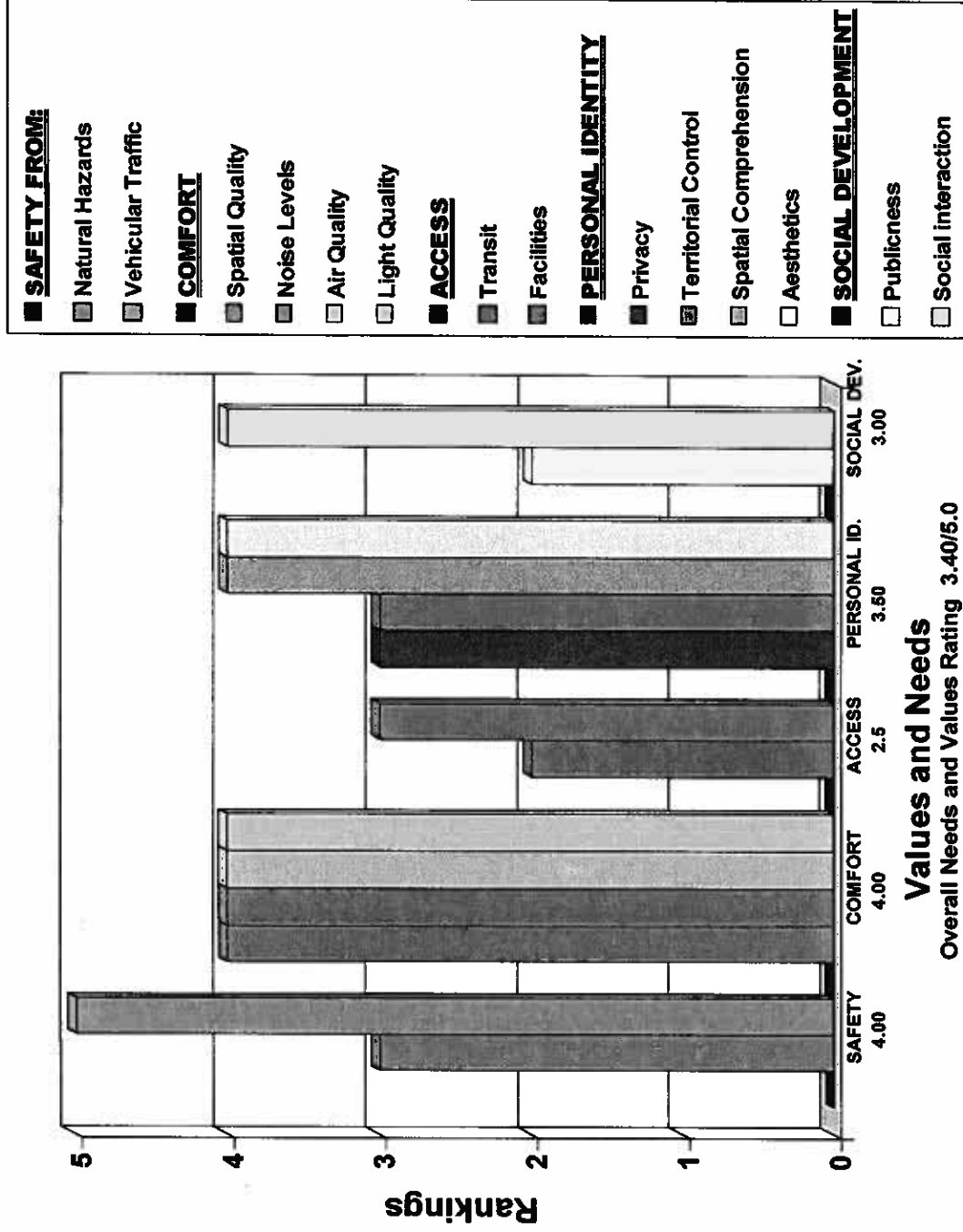
The site location within a protected landscape area provides for a consistently high comfort level across all categories. This factor also accounts for the safety from vehicular traffic.

Personal Identity is strong in this site as well, though it suffers somewhat due to the massive scale of the space. Access and publicness issues could be addressed through design.

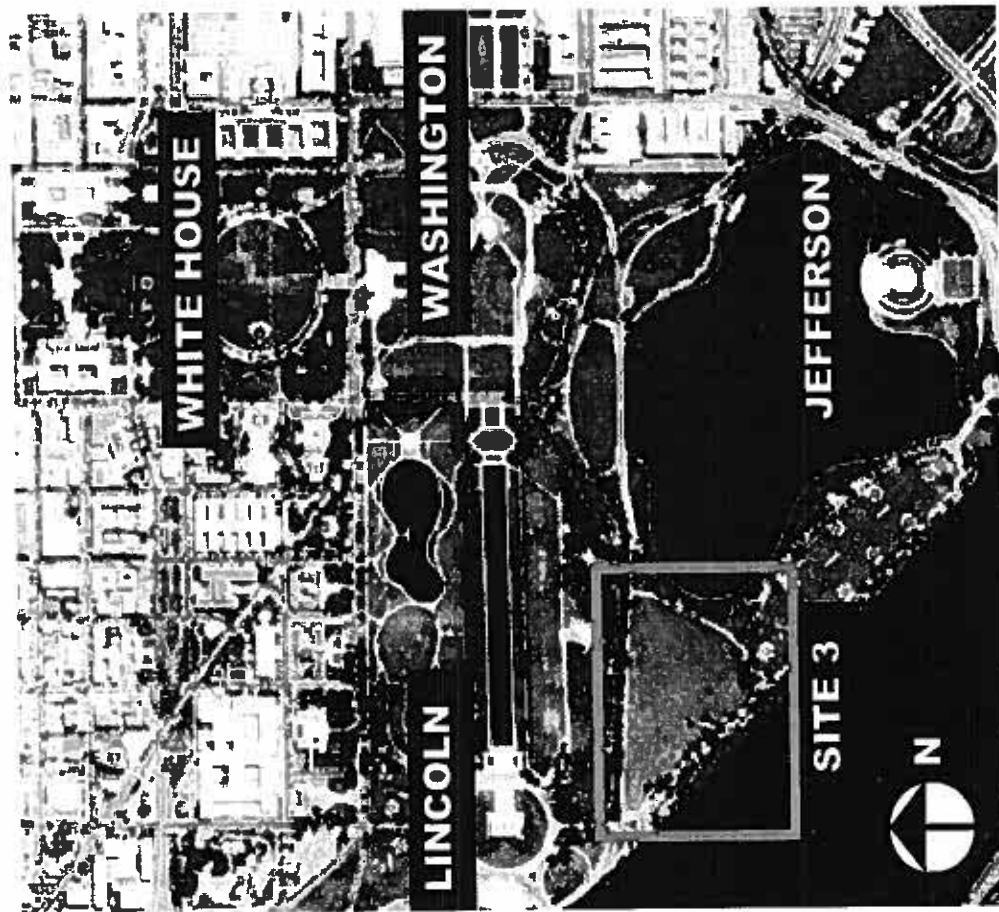
## Existing Site Activity Analysis

Organized sports activities by local groups of teens and adults occupy most of the site's interior, with temporary fences used as boundaries.

The paths surrounding the site host a variety of passive and active uses by both locals and tourists, including strolling, bicycle riding, jogging, spectating, sitting. These paths are especially popular in the late afternoons and evenings.







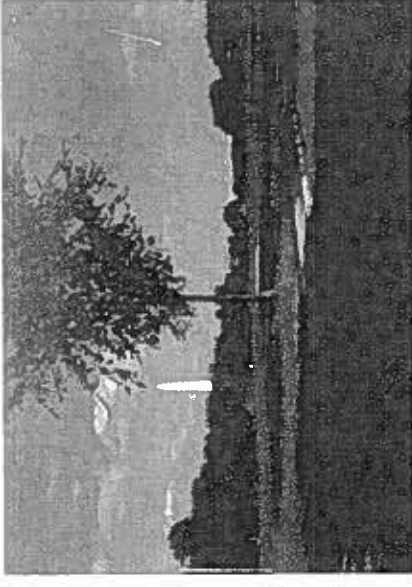
## SITE 3 - EVALUATION SUMMARY

This site appears at first to be the largest of the sites. It is a triangular space of approximately 27 acres surrounded by roads. The site is located on the south side of Independence Avenue, adjacent to the Tidal Basin and the FDR Memorial.

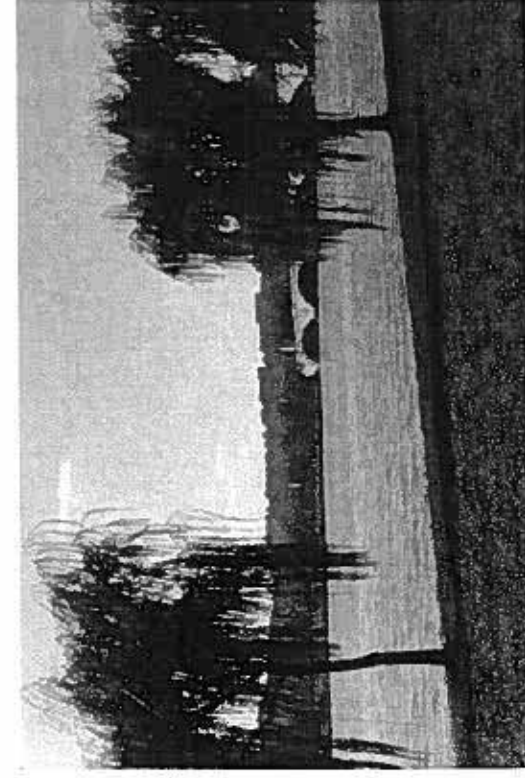
This site is flat and open and can be approached from all sides. It is currently used for recreational green space, including polo fields.

The site is somewhat noisy as vehicular traffic and overhead air traffic surround it. The view to the river from the site does offer some respite and natural beauty.

This site does not have major height restrictions, but the visual connection from the Lincoln Memorial to the FDR Memorial must not be blocked. This site is within the area that is now named FDR Memorial Park.



▲ *Open view across site.*



▲ *Riverside environment near site.*

Environmental detractors such as noise and traffic are amongst the key problems with this site.

But this site is also lacking in contextual compatibility. It has no logical connections with other memorials nor with sites of historical significance. The site is also not of significance from a planning point of view.

Though it is a pleasant space, these (dis)parities with the mission of this memorial make it an unlikely choice for the memorial site.

# SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL



## LEGEND

-  Site 3 - Buildable space.
-  Main vehicular approach.
-  Softball Field
-  Polo Field
-  Buffer Area

This triangular Space on Independence Avenue is the most logical location for a memorial. It has a high level of visibility for people coming from Virginia, and can be designed as a real landmark or beacon seen from a distance.

Recreational sports field. This area is primarily used as a softball field by local high school students. Using this space would require relocation of the sports field.

## Summary

A triangular space of approximately 27 acres, this site is the largest of all those studied. Yet the buildable area under consideration is approximately 2.2 acres.

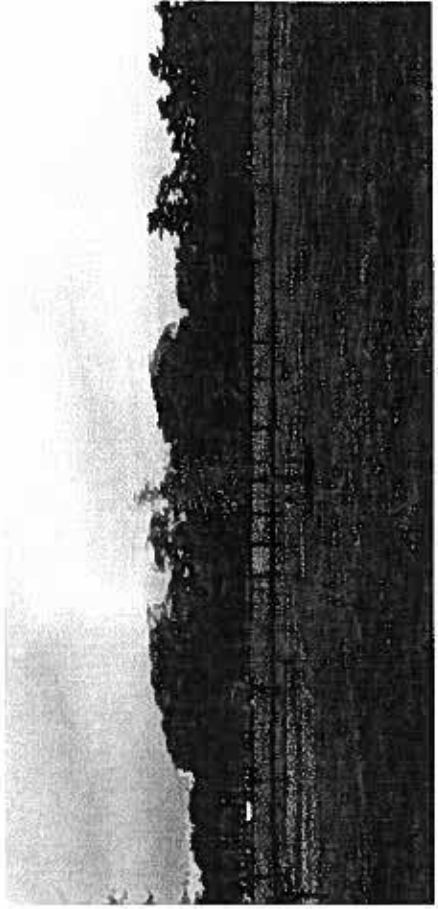
The remainder of the site is occupied by sports fields, or is restricted from building.

There are few restrictions placed on the buildable area. The site is currently a flat, open space which can be designed freely.

This space has traditionally been used as a Polo Field since the 1950's. This recreational use is entrenched and may be very difficult to relocate.

Buffer space separates FDR Memorial from this site. This space has many existing trees, and should remain as a buffer space.

▼ *Flat open site can be developed liberally.*





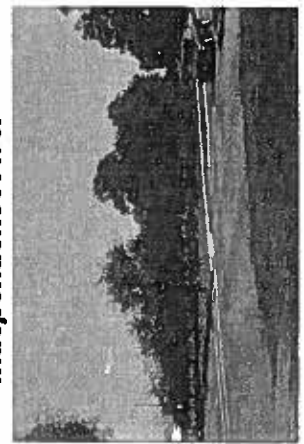
#### LEGEND

- Important View Points
- - - Site line from Lincoln Memorial to FDR Memorial
- \* FDR Memorial

Site can be viewed from all sides, with no particular visual focal point apparent.

View to Potomac River from Riverside Park is very peaceful.

Main approach at Independence Ave.



Monument at beginning of riverside drive.



## VISUAL CHARACTER AND PLANNING RESTRICTIONS

### Summary

Sight line from Lincoln Memorial to FDR must not be blocked. This is a planning issue.

Open space for Polo Fields should be maintained and unaffected.

Visual connection to Tidal Basin is not possible from the site, and the Basin has no affect on atmosphere of site.

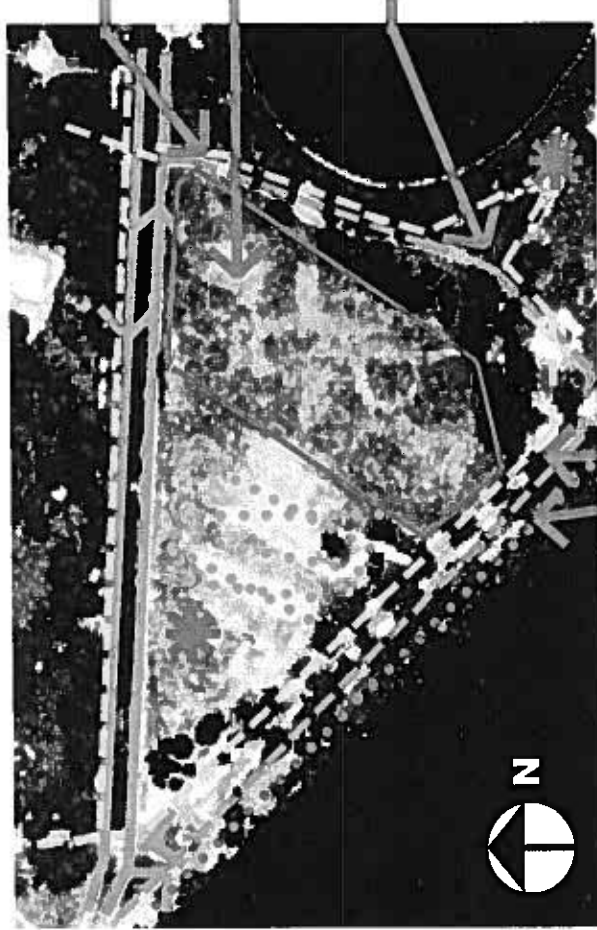
FDR Memorial is now the key feature in this park. In fact, the entire park is currently named FDR Park. Therefore, a memorial in this space would actually be located within the FDR Memorial Park.

The site is flat and has very few planning restrictions. A structure in this area could be up to 50 feet tall. It can be a beacon viewed from the river and across.

However, the site is also near parking areas along the river and is viewed equally from all directions. From within the site, the space is overwhelming in scale. There is no definable view shed, and the site is completely exposed.

The site doesn't have much connection to historical events and appears disconnected with the surrounding monumental core.

# PEDESTRIAN AND VEHICULAR CIRCULATION



## LEGEND

- Pedestrian circulation between monuments.
- ... Jogging and strolling along river.
- ... Trace paths from people cutting across playing field
- Major vehicular circulation
- - - Minor vehicular circulation
- \* Memorial Site
- \* FDR Memorial

Parkway along river has parking and is a nice approach to the site.

Connection of Riverside Park to Potomac River is pleasant for passive activities.

Parkway between site and river.



Confused and unsafe crossing for pedestrians between the Lincoln and FDR Memorials.

Most likely, the Polo Field will remain surrounded by a fence; however, it may need to be redesigned.

Roadway and entry drop-off for FDR Memorial separates the site from the FDR Memorial.

## Summary

The vehicular circulation around this site is what defines the site's edges. There is a flow of cars all around the site, but these roads are not so large as to be dangerous.

Because of this circulation all around the site, the memorial would be very visible in the city landscape.

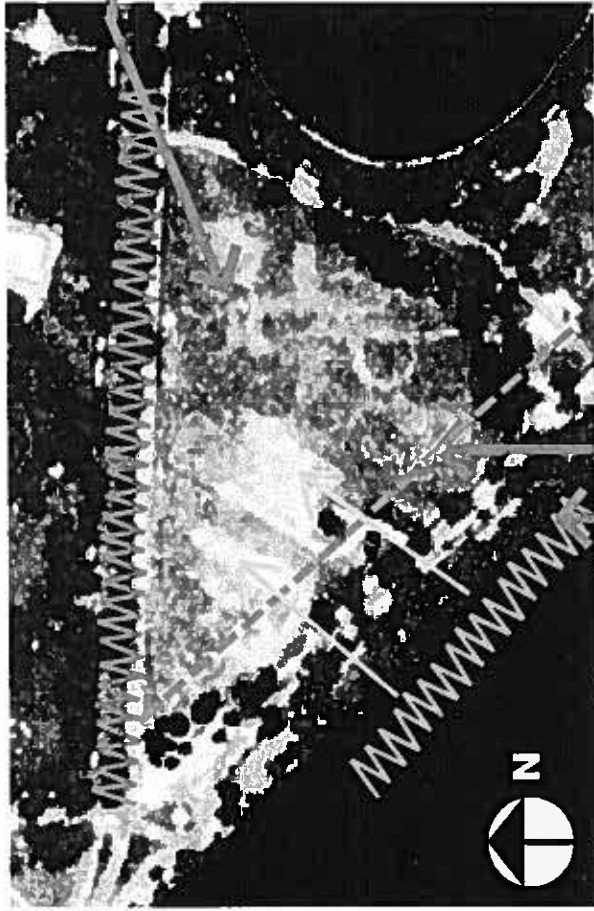
However, there is no well-defined way for pedestrians to approach the site.

This is a problem with which the FDR Memorial is struggling. Because no other attractions share an axis or circulation corridor, a new way of approaching the site will have to be addressed.

Crossing to Lincoln Memorial.



# ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS



## LEGEND

--- 96" Sewer line

→ Strong Wind Condition

W Noise from airplane traffic

W Noise and air pollution from cars on Independence Ave.

96" diameter sewer line running underground cannot be built upon.

This site is in the flight path of approaching airplanes to Washington International Airport. The noise is very loud, with a frequency of one plane every few minutes during the day. It is more pronounced here than at any other site.

This is all newly filled land so construction costs would be greatly increased by the need for foundation works in reclaimed land.

Bedrock is approximately 60' below grade in this area.

## Summary

Because of this site's relative isolation, it does not have many environmental constraints. Being next to the river, however, brings a close relationship with this natural element.

There are strong winds from the river and the site will be subject to periodic flooding since it is low lying. Any design will have to account for this wind and flooding, as the FDR Memorial did through berming and elevating of equipment rooms.

Exposure to traffic and sun are other factors as the site (now) is totally open.

▼ Site is very exposed to outside influences..



# CROSS-SECTIONAL ANALYSIS

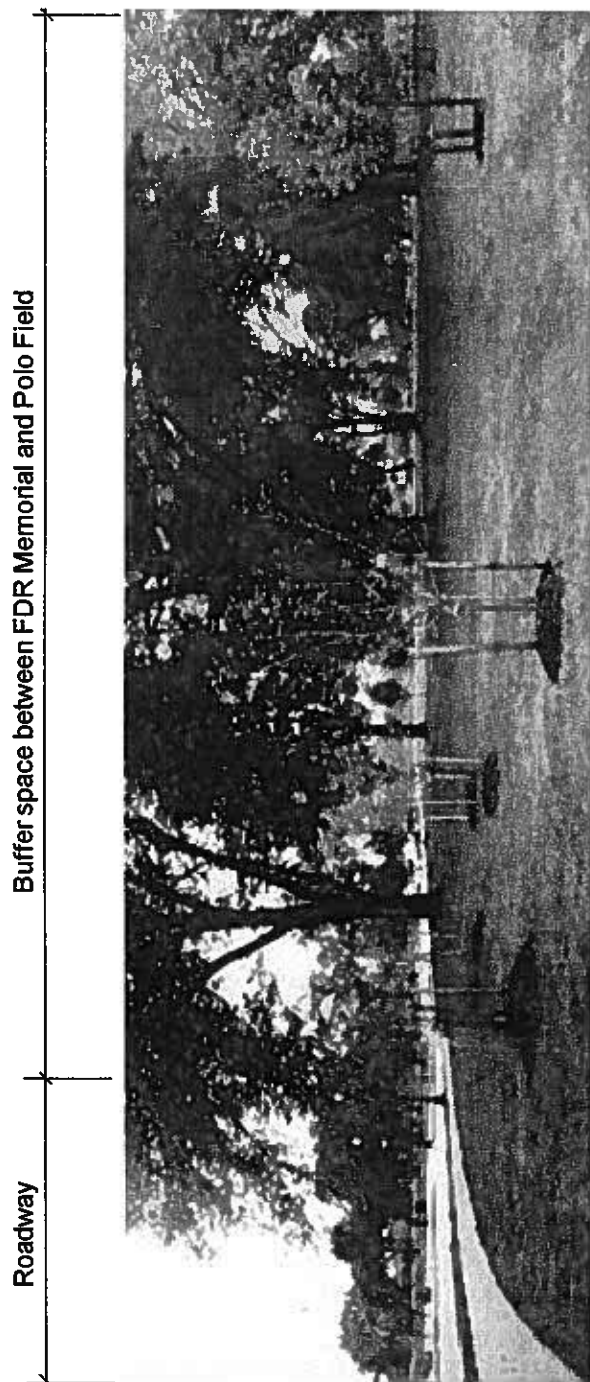


**Cross-section through site  
from Independence Ave. to  
riverfront.**





## PHOTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

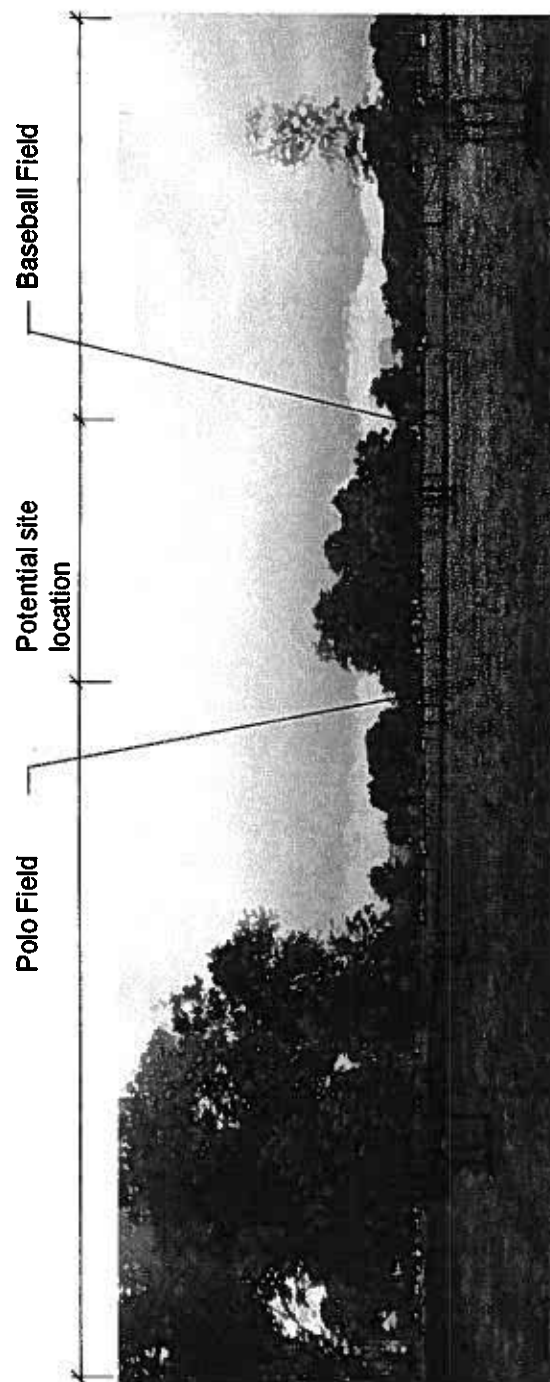


Buffer space between FDR Memorial and Polo Field

Roadway

### ***View of Buffer between FDR Memorial and Polo Field***

This buffer space is approximately 200 feet and provides a pleasant separation from passive recreation at FDR to the active recreation on the polo field.



Polo Field

Potential site location

Baseball Field

### ***View of potential site location beyond the baseball field***

The triangular portion of land beyond the baseball field can be used as a site location. The adjacent baseball field can either be developed or a buffer would have to be incorporated into the design to separate the two activities from competing.

## SOCIAL VALUES AND NEEDS ANALYSIS

### Summary

This site has a fair ranking in Publicness and Aesthetics due to its prominent location on the riverside surrounded by roads. It is also spacious.

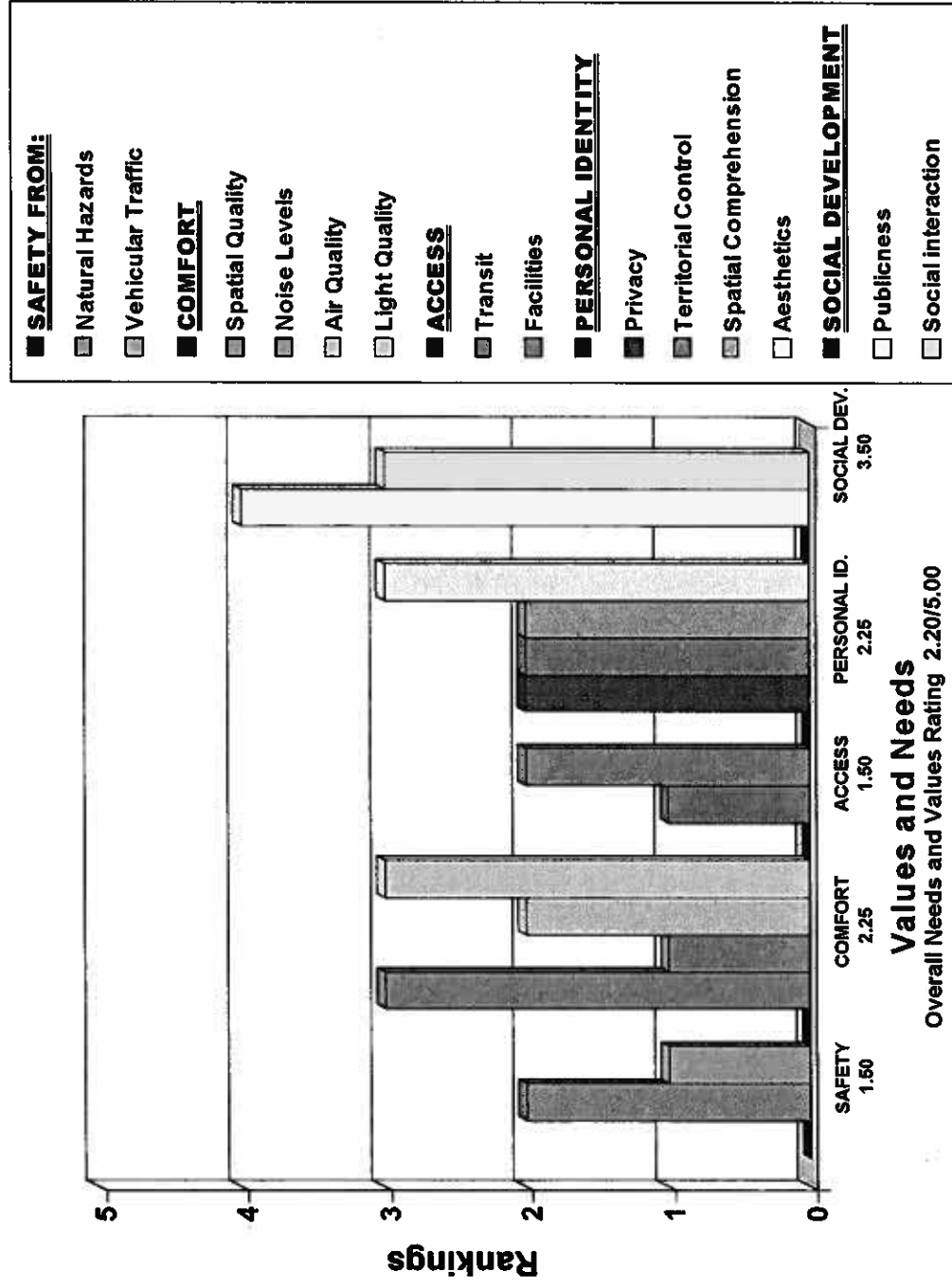
But the site has serious detractors with regards to lack of access, airplane noise, vehicular traffic, flood proneness, and spatial definition.

Because of these detractors, the site gets an overall below average ranking.

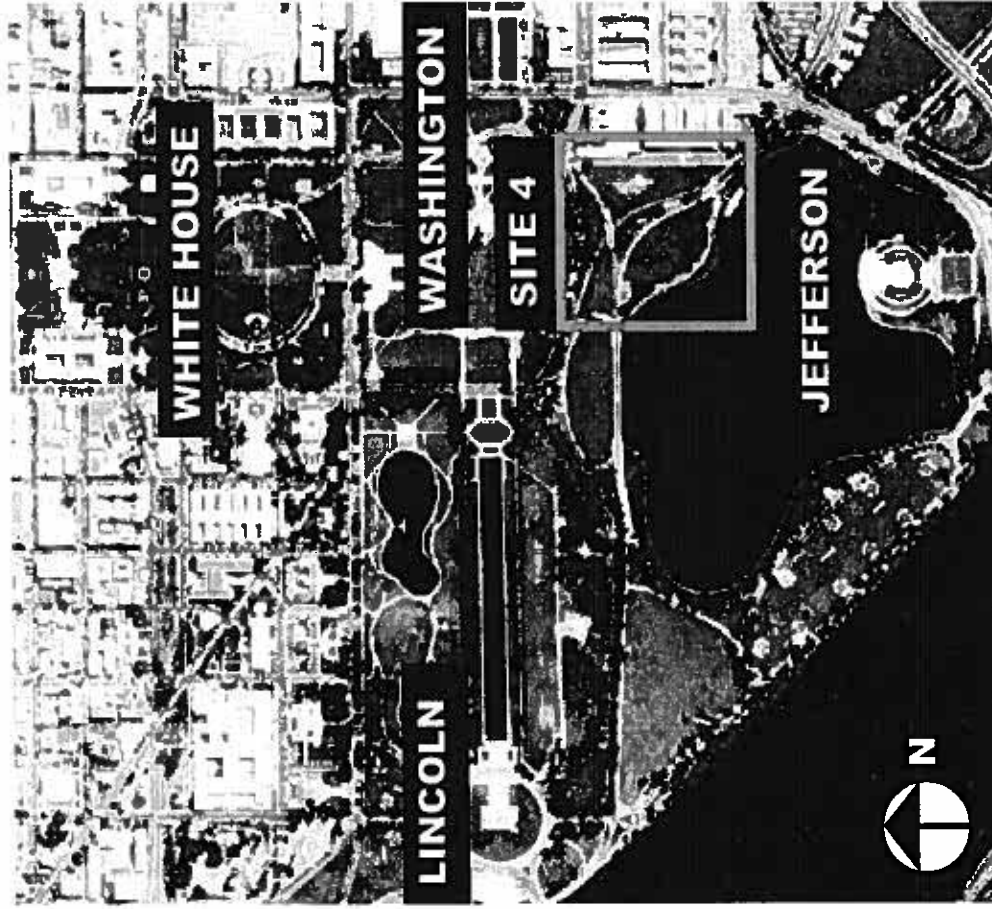
### Existing Site Activity Analysis

Most of the activities now occurring on the site are competitive sports including softball, soccer, and polo.

Other activities tend to occur next to the site along the riverside park. All age groups were observed participating in strolling, jogging, sitting, and interacting with the river. There are also people sight-seeing in private cars and parking cars to view the scenery for short time periods.



## SITE 4 - TIDAL BASIN



## SITE 4 - EVALUATION SUMMARY

This site is located along the northeastern side of the Tidal Basin, directly between the White House and the Jefferson Memorial.

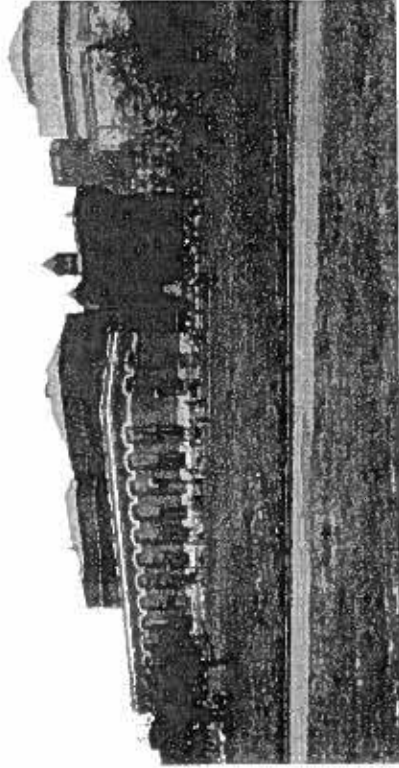
The site is divided by a roadway which causes it to appear to be two sites rather than one. The upper portion of the site is adjacent to the Holocaust Memorial. This portion of the site is currently being used as a sports field. The site is surrounded by traffic and is somewhat dangerous for pedestrians to access.

The lower portion of the site that is located on the Tidal Basin feels safer and more protected even though a long stretch of parking lot separates the green space from the water.

Several zoning restrictions impact this site. There is a 12-foot height limitation to protect the Tidal Basin view shed. There is a no-build corridor to preserve the axial relationship of the White House to the Jefferson Memorial - a view which cannot be interrupted. Also, the Cherry Blossom Festival occurs all around the Tidal Basin in the beginning of April, and the cherry trees within this site must be protected.

The roadway, topography, and numerous zoning restrictions together would effectively limit the memorial to one of the two smaller spaces available as buildable sites. These two sites lack some key elements important to the mission of this memorial, such as contextual compatibility, strong connections to other memorials, prominent location, and spaces for public gatherings.

Although the site has some wonderfully private, contemplative spaces, the lack of the above elements effectively disqualifies this site as a potential site for this memorial.

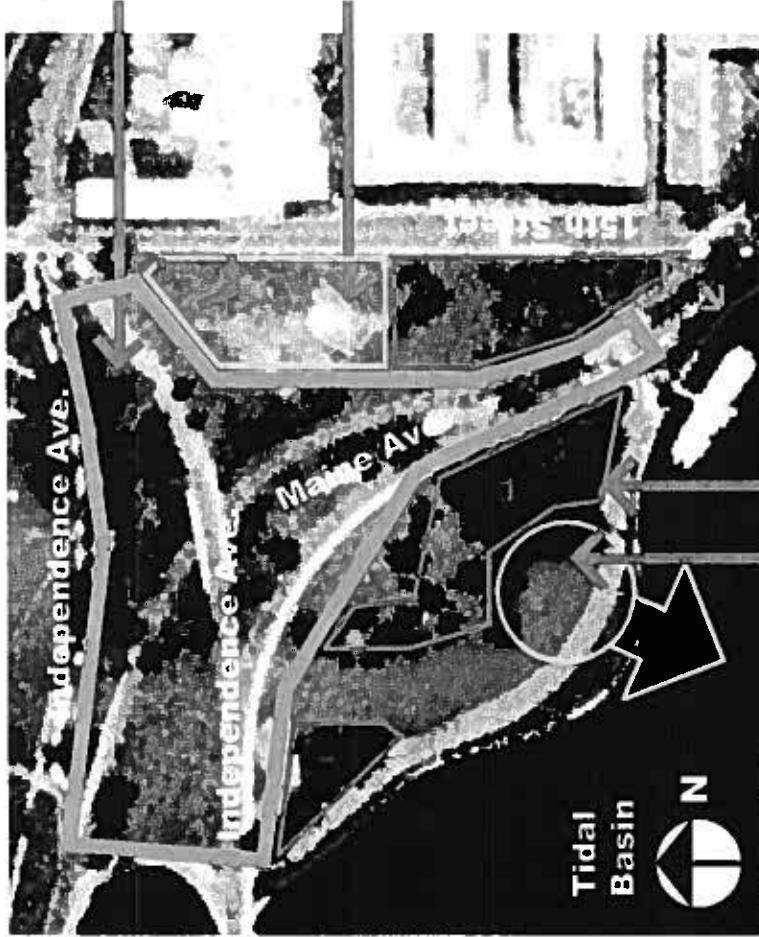


**▲ Exposed upper site with view to Holocaust Museum**



**▲ View from lower site to Jefferson Memorial**

# SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL



## LEGEND

- Site 4 - Buildable spaces and their respective orientations
- Approach Walks
- Densely Forested Area
- ⬢ Dangerous Area

Forested areas at southeast corner of site are well-established and would not be suitable for development. But they provide a comfortable setting for the space at the Tidal Basin.

This 3/4 acre space is the most logical location on the site for building a memorial. The surrounding forest provides a peaceful setting, and with the removal of the parking lot, a new connection to the water's edge could be created.

Roadway interchange occupies much of the site. This is a dangerous, fast-moving traffic route. The roads effectively divide the site into two separate spaces.

One of the potential buildable sites for the memorial, this 1.4 acre space is currently used as a sports field - typically rugby leagues use the field.

The space appears exposed, with no sense of privacy and no particular spatial character of its own. It is particularly unsafe because it is on an open high point with slopes falling off down to the busy roadways below.

## Summary

With generous topographic changes, stands of mature trees, and a waterfront location, this site has spatial variety and interest. But due to the level of variety, there are serious spatial constraints to consider before developing this space.

The dangerous roadway interchange dividing the site, the axial sight line running through the site, the well-utilized sports field, and the celebrated grove of cherry trees all make space a precious commodity on this site.

Of a total space of approximately 17.5 acres, there are two buildable footprint spaces. One near the edge of the Tidal Basin is about 3/4 acre, the other space bordering 15th Street across from the Holocaust Museum is about 1.4 acres.

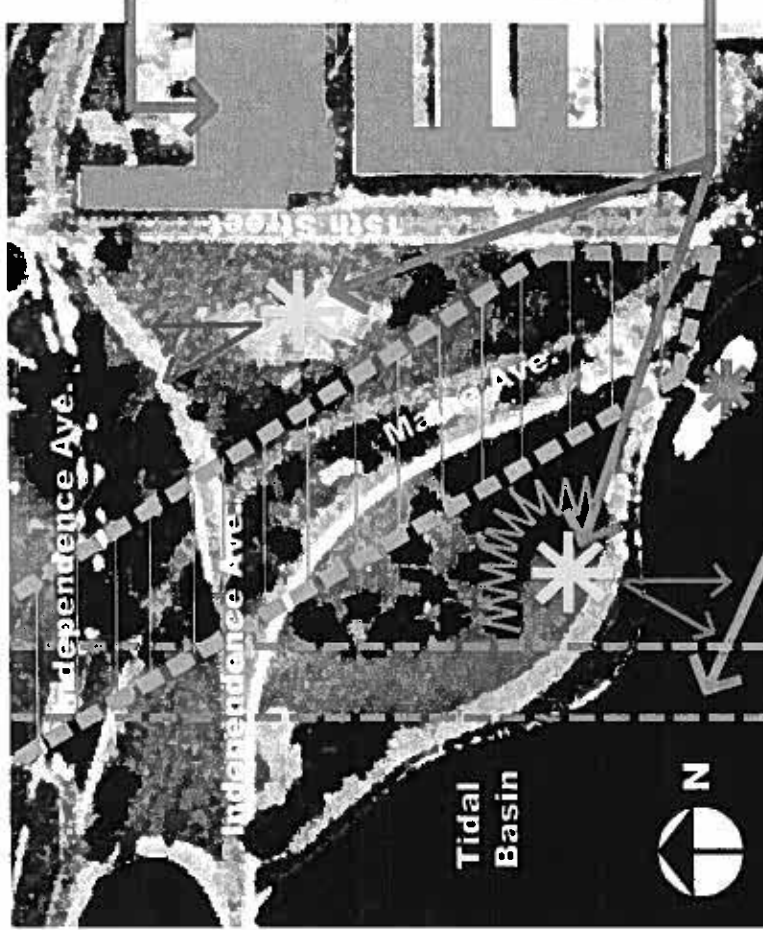
## ▼ Rugby field looking north



## ▼ Roadway dividing site



# VISUAL CHARACTER AND PLANNING RESTRICTIONS



## LEGEND

- View to other monuments.
- == Protected view corridor
- AAA View Blocked by trees and landforms
- \* Potential memorial locations
- \* Recreational paddle boat dock
- == Visual space divider
- Large building masses

View corridor between the White House and the Jefferson Memorial is off limits. All effort should be made to keep built objects away from this area.

Building facades on 15th Street are a very powerful visual element from the upper part of the site. A visual buffer would be needed to create a sense of spatial identity.

### Building facades at 15th St.



Locations most suitable for siting the memorial. The 15th St. space is like a promontory overlooking the roadway to the west. It may be difficult to relocate the organized sports groups using this area, as they have been playing here for several decades.

## Summary

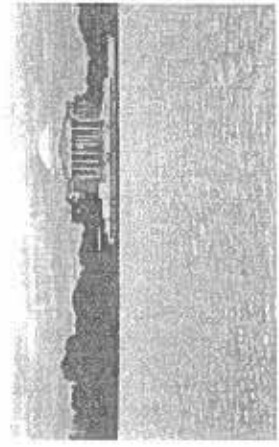
Visually, the site is divided into two sites by the roadway interchange. Two visual rooms are apparent, but neither of these rooms has a powerful character of its own.

The rugby field at the northeast end of the site is exposed to the elements, yet the field seems disconnected with those elements.

The space near the Tidal Basin is an intimate space as it sits cradled at the bottom of the hill between the water and the grove of trees. But this space shares the view of the Tidal Basin with the Jefferson Memorial, which is most prominent on the waterfront.

Both spaces carry a buildable height restriction of 12' for walls, 50' for vertical elements.

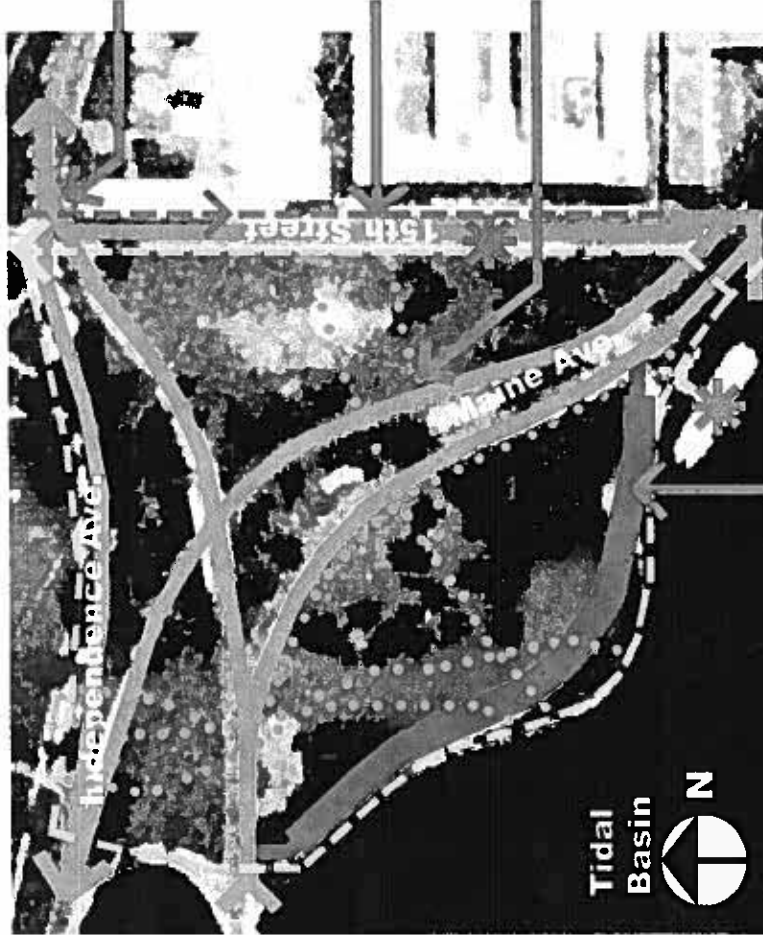
### View from waterfront space



The waterfront space is a quiet, reflective space with views out over the water. People come in the spring to stroll around the Tidal Basin and view the cherry blossoms - the trees were donated by Japan as a symbol of goodwill. Families can be seen picnicking here as well.



## PEDESTRIAN AND VEHICULAR CIRCULATION



### LEGEND

- Primary pedestrian and bicycle circulation.
- Secondary pedestrian circulation.
- Vehicular circulation
- Tourmobile route
- Tourmobile stop
- Paddleboat rental dock
- Parking Lot

Parking lot is heavily used by picnickers and tourists alike. The National Park Service will permit removal of the parking lot if desired, in keeping with the plan to encourage mass transit and walking.

If the parking lot is removed, the relationship between the space and the water is greatly enhanced.

The intersection of 15th St. and Independence Ave. is the main point of crossing for pedestrians to enter the site. It is not a well-known crossing, so many pedestrians are crossing the streets at unappointed spots.

With the Tourmobile, cars, and pedestrians moving along 15th St., this is the busiest site boundary.

The lack of clear spatial orientation causes pedestrians to take random, unsafe paths across the roadway interchange.

### Summary

This site has the most complicated and confusing circulation patterns of all of the sites. The site lacks order and hierarchy.

There are no dominant approaches, but the vehicular circulation patterns dictate the flow of the site.

A new approach would have to be devised in order for the site to be used for a memorial. Particular attention would have to be paid to creating a clearer spatial layout so that pedestrians could orient themselves better.

### Dangerous circulation patterns





## ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

### Summary

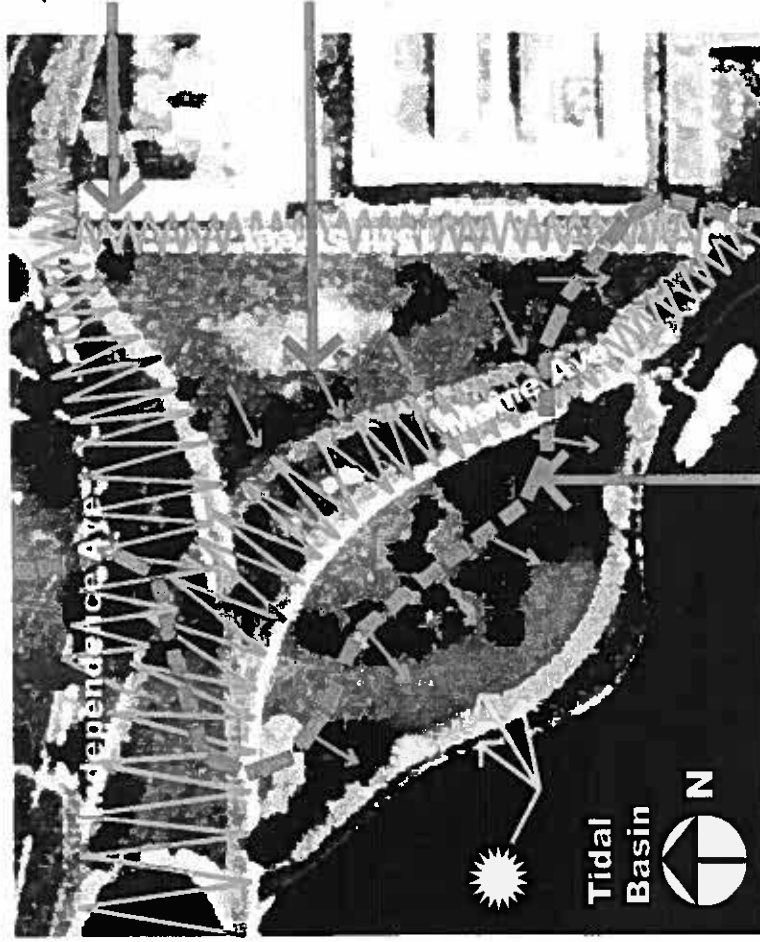
Noise and air pollution from the streets around and through the site is a key detractor from the environmental quality and atmosphere.

The entire site slopes down toward the Tidal Basin. The resulting drainage is very good. A variety of well-established, healthy trees can be found on these slopes.

The total elevation change is about 27 feet. The high point is at the intersection of Independence Ave. and 15th St. at 33 feet above sea level. The site then slopes down to the seawall at the Tidal Basin edge at 6 feet elevation.

Of all the sites, this one has the most environmental problems. The complexity of things happening in and around the site would dictate that a design program address these issues.

It would be difficult to create the right environment for a contemplative memorial in a grand and dignified setting within the context of this site.

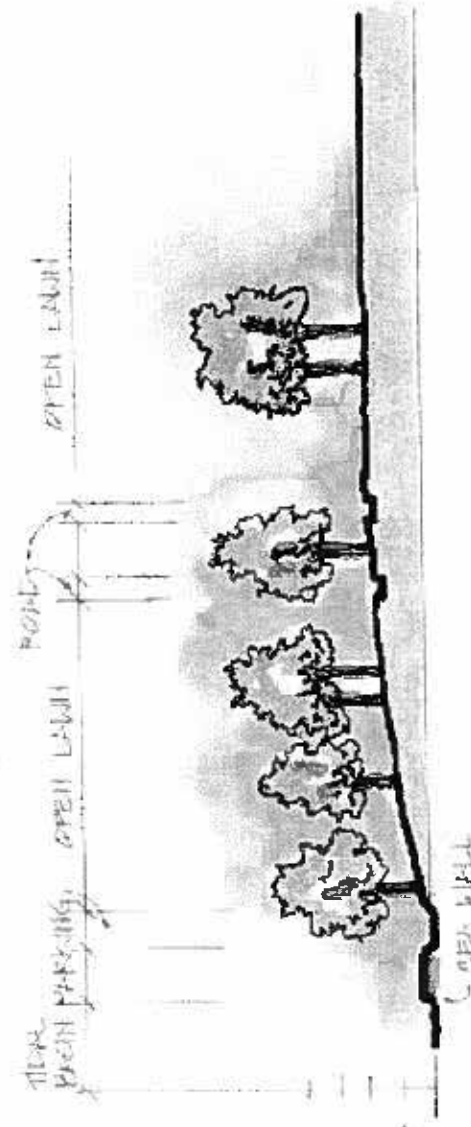
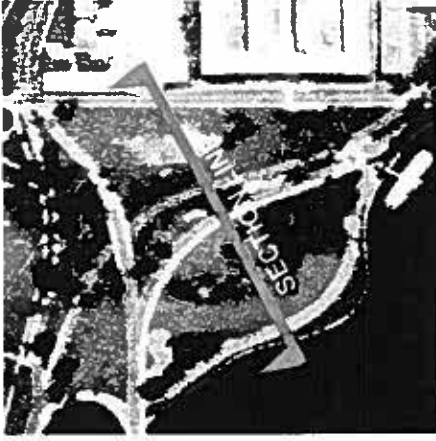


### LEGEND

- Slopes and drainage patterns
- Glare from sun in afternoon.
- ~~~~~ Noise and air pollution areas.
- 100 year flood peak level

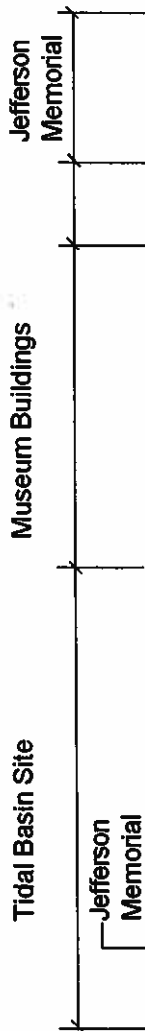
In the event of a 100 year flood, the water may rise up to 17'-18" above sea level. This would effectively put the lower site under water as indicated.

# CROSS-SECTIONAL ANALYSIS



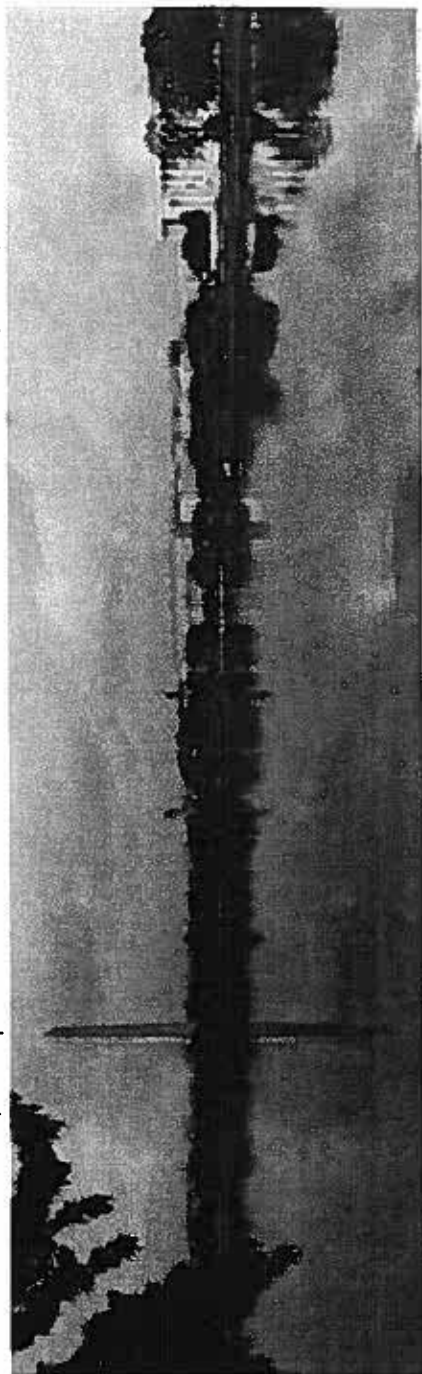
**Cross-section from 15th St.  
down to Tidal Basin**

# PHOTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS



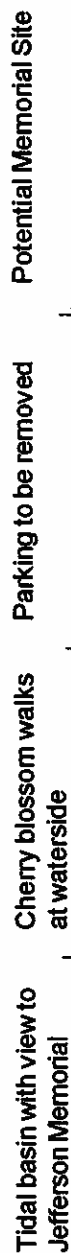
**View across tidal basin to site**

The view across the basin exemplifies the naturalistic character of the site. Height restrictions of 30'-40' would be imposed to protect this view.



**View from parking area**

The parking lot may be removed at the expense of the memorial developer. This would allow a much more useful space to be created near the water and the cherry grove.

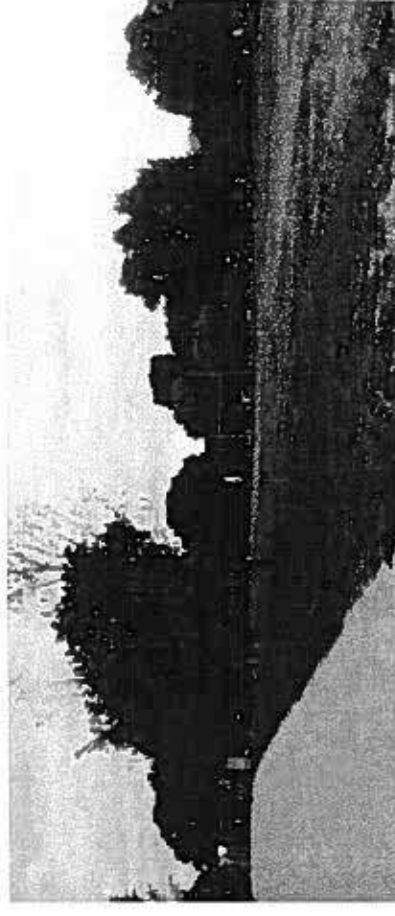


## PHOTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

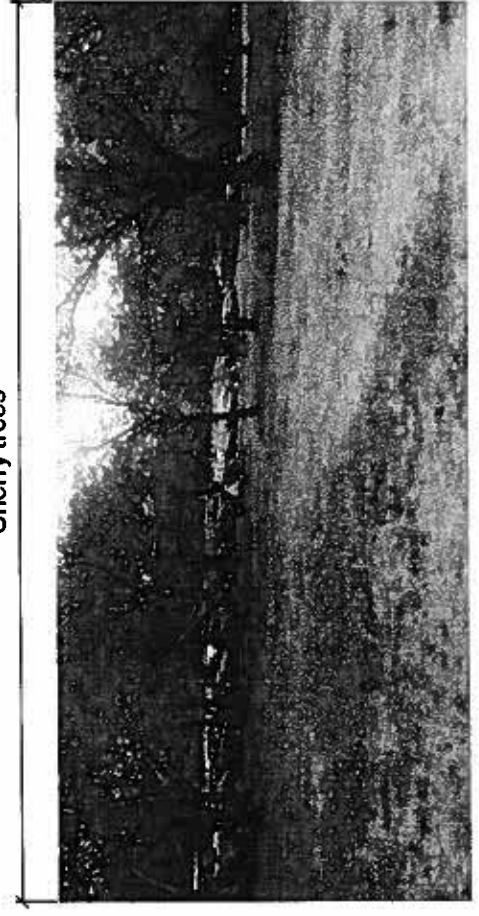


### ***View of Rugby Field***

Under the jogging path lie utility lines which cannot be disturbed. The rugby field can be used for development.



Cherry trees



### ***View of cherry trees***

The cherry trees must be remain. The lawn space in front of them can be used for development, however, the cherry trees should be protected and complimented with the design.

# SOCIAL VALUES AND NEEDS ANALYSIS

## Summary

This site has an interesting variety of spaces, some of which are quite beautiful. This spatial variety provides for many different activities, and a high level of social interaction.

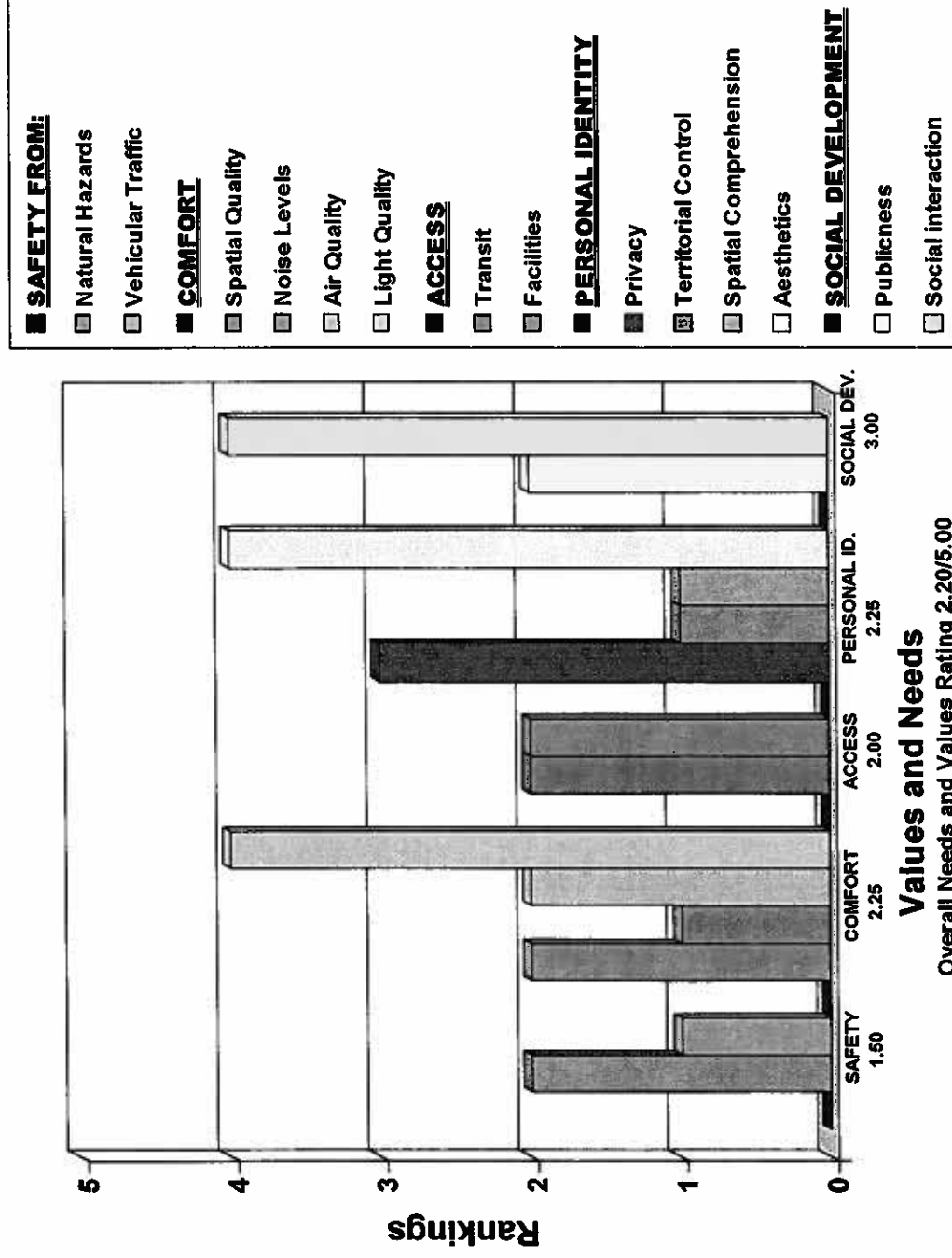
But the site fails in areas of safety and comfort due to the roadway interchange that splits the site into two halves. The site's Personal Identity suffers from the site's spatial disjuncture.

Consistently low level rankings in key categories show the weakness of this site as a memorial location.

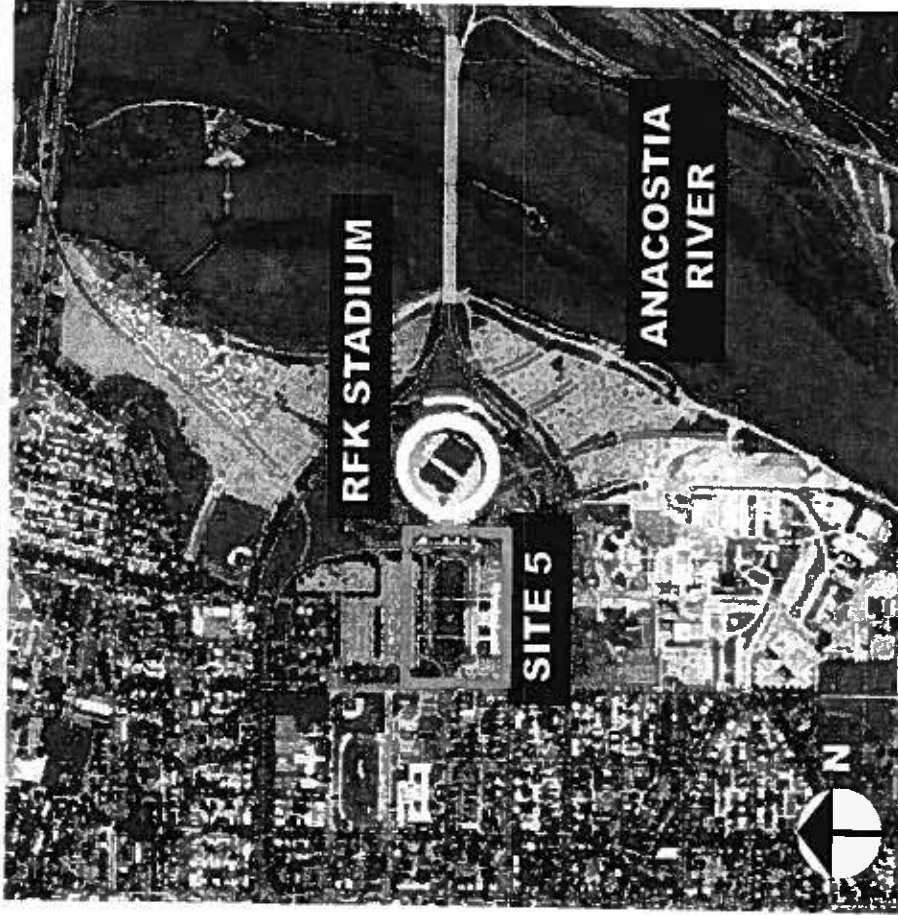
## Existing Site Activity Analysis

This site has the most variety of existing activities of all the sites. Observed activities include walking, bicycle riding, jogging, physical training, paddle boating, picnicking, rugby playing, and sight-seeing.

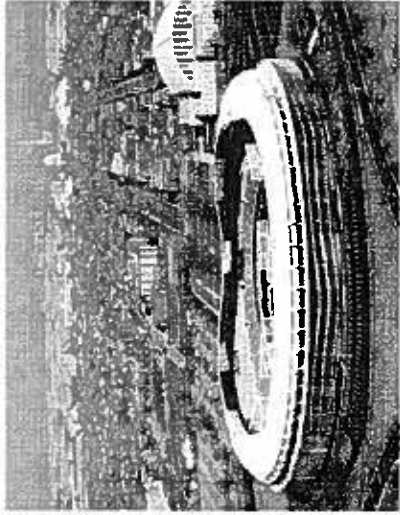
These activities were spread out over the site, with the more public activities happening at the top area near 15th Street, and the more private activities at the lower area near the Tidal Basin.



## SITE 5 - RFK STADIUM



## SITE 5 - EVALUATION SUMMARY



The site, which currently houses RFK Stadium, is the fifth site under consideration. It is located on a direct axis with the Lincoln Memorial, Washington Memorial and the Capitol Building. This site is at the end of East Capitol Drive and the beginning of the Anacostia Waterfront.

Currently the stadium site is surrounded by parking and traffic that almost obscures the view to the Anacostia River. The neighborhood surrounding stadium site is mostly residential but there are industrial facilities across the river whose smokestacks are clearly visible from the site. A metro station is also within walking distance of the site.

The future plans for the Stadium site as outlined in the National Capital Planning Commission document, *Extending The Legacy*, include building a major memorial, surrounded by new housing, commercial development and an environmental center. It should be determined if the Dr. Martin Luther King Memorial will be the focus of the site.

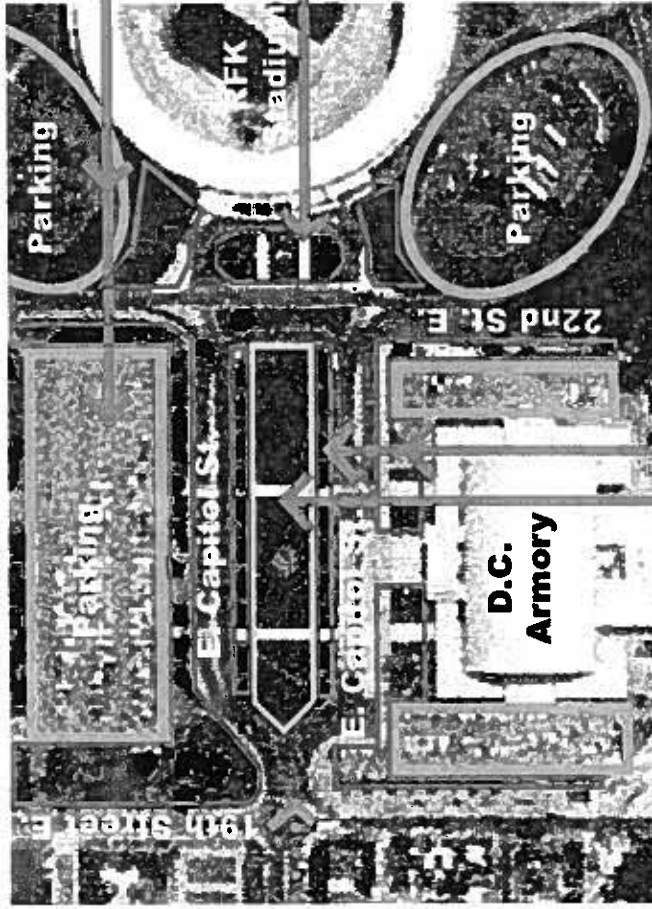
The Memorial could be placed in the median in front of the stadium on East Capitol Drive. This piece of land would allow for more spacial freedom and more monumental scale than the currently proposed site. The monument could be placed there before the stadium is removed and would not depend as much on what happens to the land on which the stadium sits.



A memorial at this site could be a catalyst for development and growth in the area. However, the site will probably never become the focal point of the redeveloped stadium site because other developments are planned there.



# SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL



## LEGEND

-  Site 5 - Buildable space approximately 3.2 acres.
-  Planting buffers to be strengthened.
-  Main approach from Capitol Hill.
-  Parking Areas

The potential memorial site is the center of a residential community, and can prove to be a vibrant area of activity if treated well.

The Armory can also be coordinated to have activities connecting with the site, thereby acting as a facility for the memorial.

Large parking areas are heavily used. The lots are more than 10 feet lower than the memorial sites, and can be screened well by a new planting scheme.

This small planting island was considered by the design committee for the memorial site. However, this site contains a bust of Robert F. Kennedy facing toward the stadium, and the space is actually not big enough to accommodate a landmark-scale memorial.

Spaces surrounding the site can be revitalized to create a more austere setting for a memorial. There are already numerous large trees here.

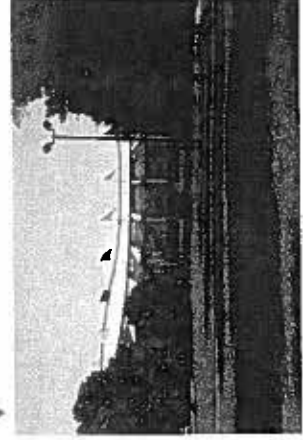
## Summary

The site is actually two plots. One is the small island (4/5 acre) just to the west of the stadium entrance. The other is the larger planting island (3.2 acres) to the west of that. For a number of reasons, the focus should be placed on the larger plot for this analysis.

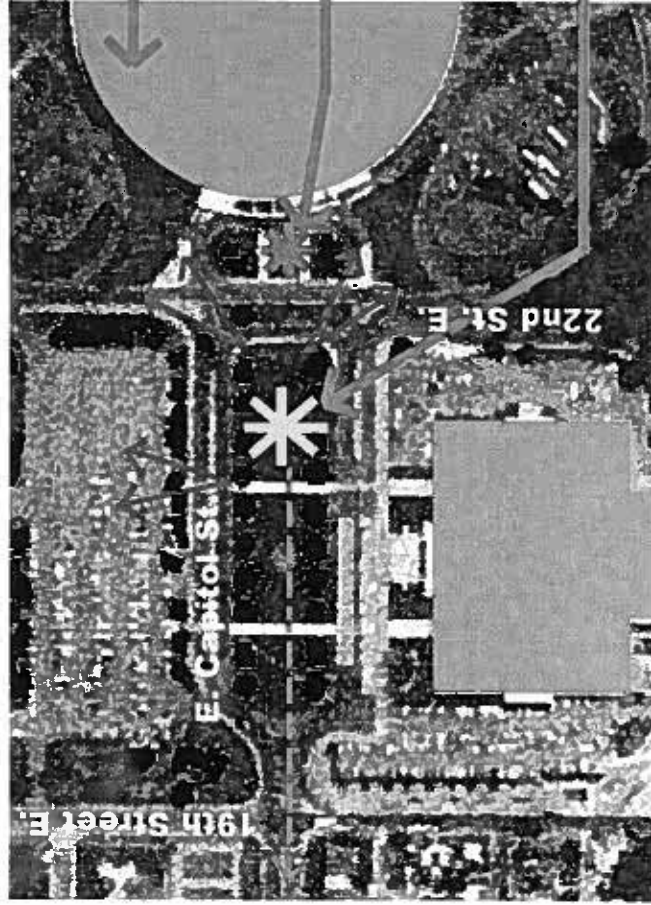
The site layout is designed much like that of the Lincoln Memorial area at the opposite end of the city plan. That layout includes a central open space at the end of an axis. This open space is completely circled by a road, thereby setting the monument in its own space, and allowing people to view it from all sides.

The site is not, however, large enough to create a landscape setting suitable for a memorial of such importance. Neither is the space surrounding the site capable of functioning properly as a setting.

## Looking toward stadium



## VISUAL CHARACTER AND PLANNING RESTRICTIONS



### Summary

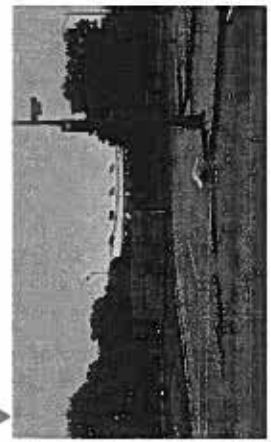
The selection of this site would be encouraged by the National Capital Planning Commission, and would likely win approval by other parties as well.

The site is part of the plan to extend the axis of the mall out to the Anacostia River. That future development will make this an important site in the overall city plan, and the memorial could serve to stimulate new growth in the area.

### LEGEND

- Bad views to parking and industrial areas
- Axial view to Capitol
- \* Potential memorial location
- \* RFK Memorial
- Large building masses

### Approach to site along East Capitol St.



If the stadium were someday removed, this site would have a clear view down to the Anacostia River. In the other direction, the top of the Capitol building and the Washington Monument are visible from eye level. If something was built up higher, this view would be improved greatly.

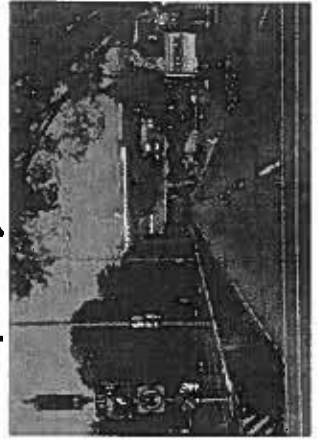
This is a flat space with a row of mature oak trees on each side. It is the highest point in the area, with an elevation of about 52 feet above sea level.

Bust of RFK is located in the center of this space, facing the stadium.

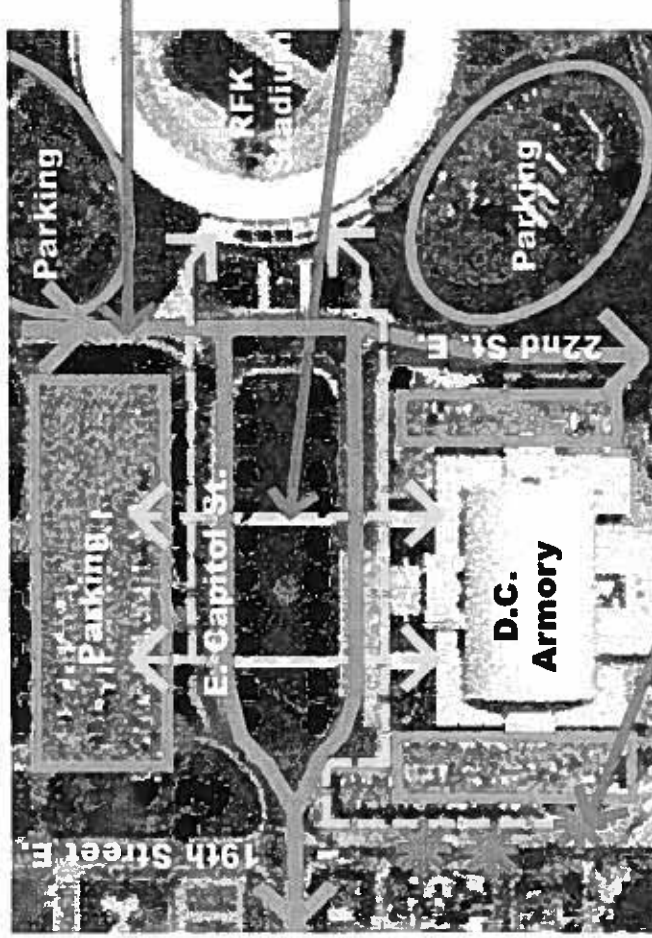
Building mass surrounding site is imposing, and would detract from the atmosphere of the memorial.

This is the only site with no height restriction. If a structure high enough were built and people could climb to the top, they would be able to visually connect the axis to the Capitol and the Mall.

### Axial view to stadium and Capitol beyond.



## PEDESTRIAN AND VEHICULAR CIRCULATION



### LEGEND

- Primary pedestrian and bicycle circulation.
- Secondary pedestrian circulation.
- Vehicular circulation
- Public bus stop
- Metrorail station
- Parking Lot

Nearby Metro station is a great asset that will be able to attract large numbers of people. The Stadium-Armory station may be renamed MLK Memorial Station in this case.

### Summary

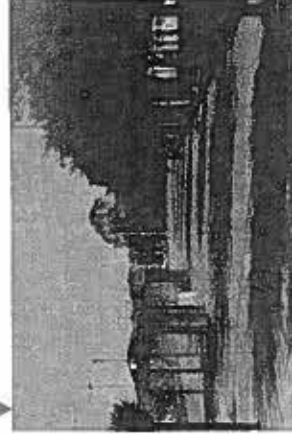
Major connector road from Interstate 295 has a continuous flow of fast-moving traffic. There are no stop lights. This is the main approach to the Capitol Hill neighborhood.

Pedestrian circulation from Armory to parking area must be maintained because buses full of people arrive this way for events in the Armory.

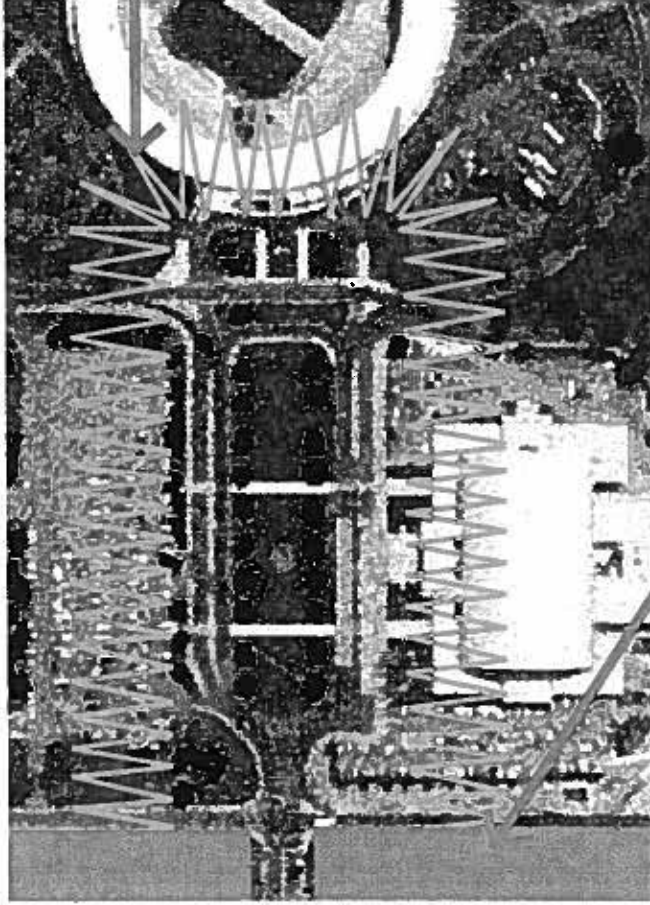
The circulation in and around the site is suitable for a monument development. In keeping with the style of other monuments in the City Plan, the site has a roadway around the island -- like the Lincoln Memorial.

This traffic pattern is conducive to building a memorial in this space. Something grand in scale would suit the space well.

View to site from Metrorail exit.



## ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS



### LEGEND

Environmental disturbances

Surrounding neighborhood

A well entrenched community around the site will affect and be affected by the shape of this memorial. It should be addressed closely.

Visual detractors are apparent throughout the site. These elements could be screened with a careful replanting scheme.

### Summary

The site has a fair amount of visual and environmental pollution to deal with.

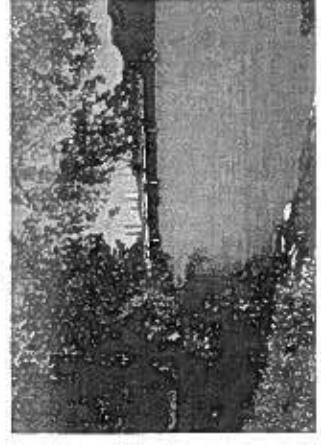
This situation can be mitigated by redesigning some of the surrounding elements near the site.

The key attraction of this site is the high profile in the Capitol Plan for the future, where the site takes on more importance in the next millennium.

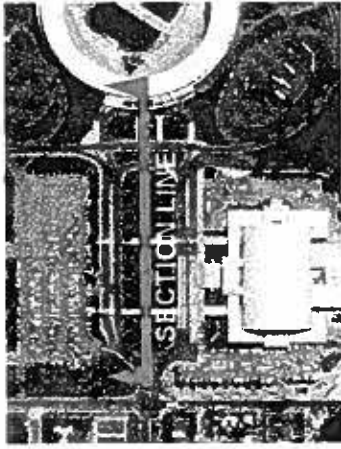
Working class neighborhood surrounds site



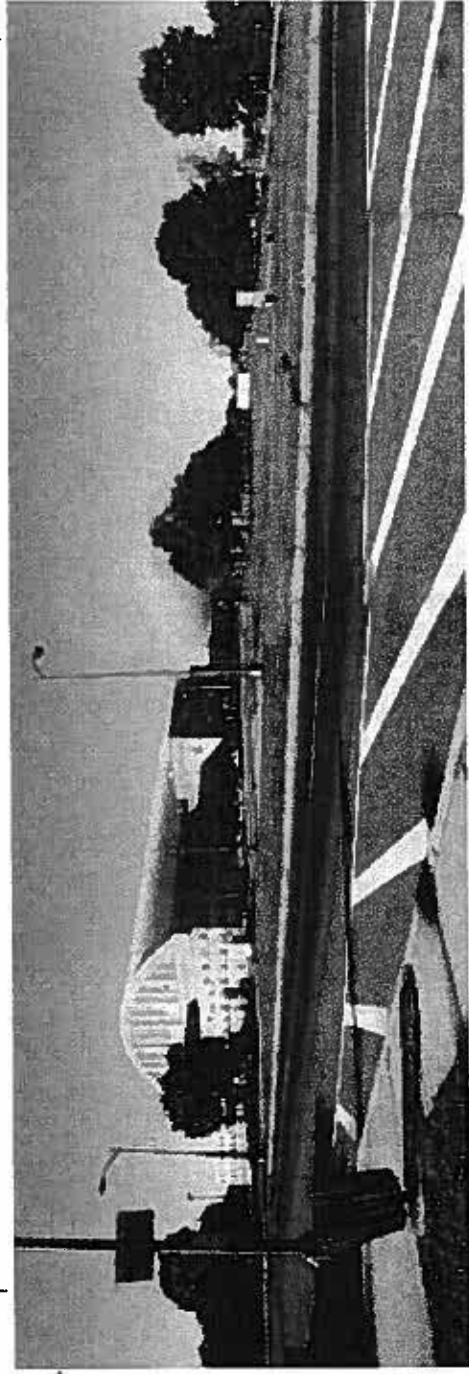
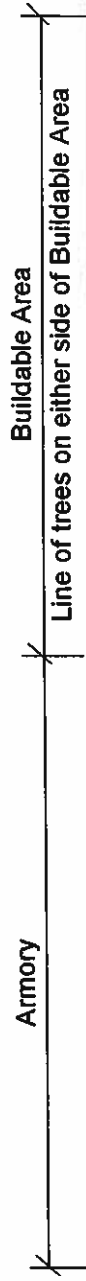
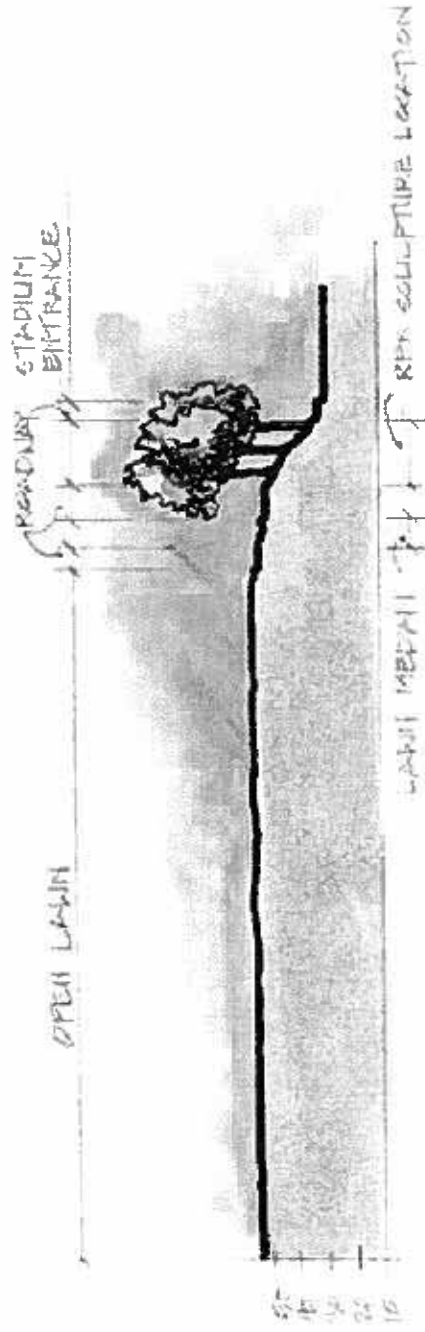
Anacostia river is neglected and polluted by factories



# CROSS-SECTIONAL / PHOTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS



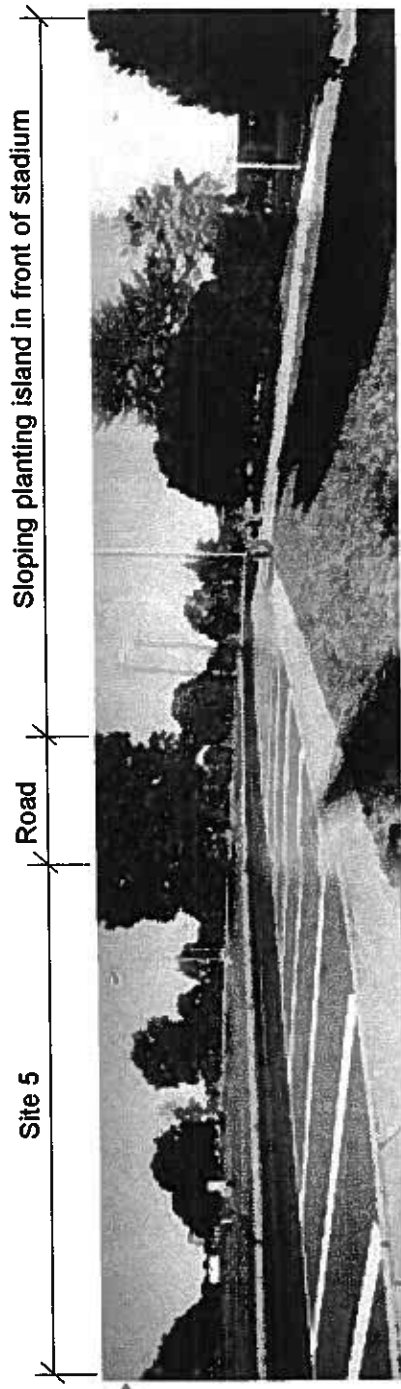
**Section through site.**



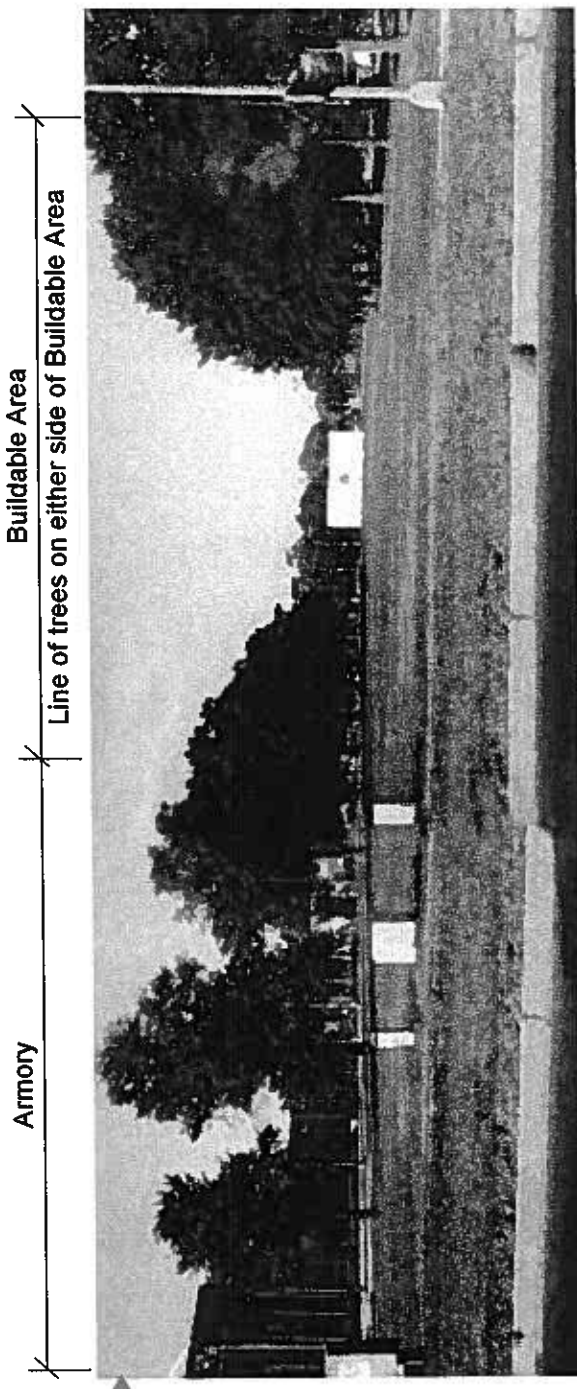
**View east from stadium to Capitol Hill.**



PHOTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS



View North and East at 22nd Street  
with both planting islands visible.



View East toward Capitol from RFK  
Stadium.

# SOCIAL VALUES AND NEEDS ANALYSIS

## Summary

This site is currently a very simple public open space. It is visible from all points, but mainly from the viewpoint of vehicles passing by the site. For this reason, it receives a below average ranking for Social Values and Needs.

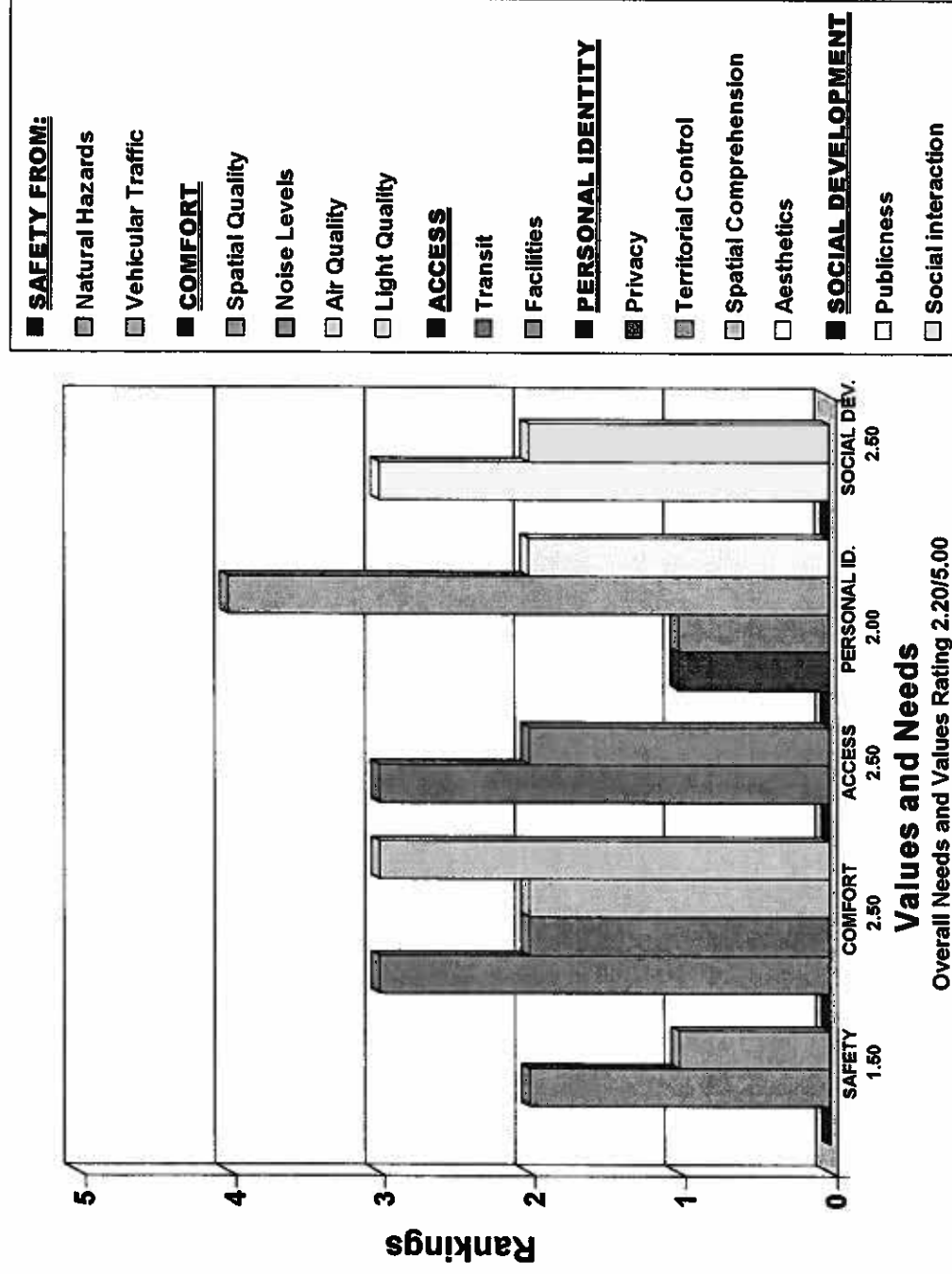
The site does not have the mediating aspects that are found in the landscaped areas of the Mall.

## Existing Site Activity Analysis

There is currently no landscape or tourist related activity occurring in or around the site.

People driving around the site, people buying tickets at the stadium, and people attending events in the Armory were the only activities observed.

With the layout of the site, a memorial located here would most likely be a visual beacon rather than a 'living memorial.'





## Criteria and Parameters

Based on the Challenge set by the Foundation's Design Committee of creating an elegant and inspiring expression of our nation's commitment to values of active citizenship, a set of criteria was created by which to objectively rank the five sites in the Site Selection Study.

The site analysis data was reviewed, and certain elements were given weight as to their level of importance in choosing a site that would best meet the Foundation's goal.

Specifically, importance was placed on appropriate visual alignment, buffering lawn areas, ease and volume of access, and other important features that would assure the memorial's place among the hallowed 'symbolic landscape' of national landmarks honoring America's heritage.

The criteria were divided into Macro and Micro scales, with each level then further divided into parts as follows:

### MACRO LEVEL

**Contextual Compatibility** - the site should be in harmonious relationship to surrounding landmarks and other Mall amenities

**Ease of Access** - walking distance to tour bus parking, walking distance to Metro, ADA compatibility, etc.

**Proximity to Existing Mall Attractions** - Tidal Basin, cherry blossoms, public lawns, Reflecting Pool, etc.

**Topographical Orientation** - prevailing storm winds, solar profile, and other energy issues

**Geographical Orientation** - opportunity for multiple 'avenues of approach' and entry

### Micro LEVEL

**Vistas to Site** - from other landmarks, from approaching bridges, from other parts of the city

**Vistas from within Site** - to other landmarks, to larger city

**Potential for Accommodating Ceremonial Gatherings and Processions** - opportunity for 'public staging' and large pedestrian flows

**Site Development Potential** - potential for building structures on the site, potential for earthen berming or below grade construction

**Maintenance Compatibility** - for 'service access' and natural and/or artificial drainage demands

**Landscape Index** - relative to landscaped surroundings that provide color, foliage and screening from intrusive noise and sight

# COMPARATIVE SITE SUITABILITY EVALUATION

## Issues

### Weighted Scores

Weight Site 1 Site 2 Site 3 Site 4 Site 5

## Macro Level

|                                        |   |    |    |    |    |    |
|----------------------------------------|---|----|----|----|----|----|
| Contextual Compatability               | 4 | 20 | 16 | 8  | 4  | 16 |
| Ease of Access                         | 4 | 20 | 20 | 12 | 8  | 12 |
| Proximity to Existing Mall Attractions | 3 | 15 | 15 | 12 | 9  | 3  |
| Topographical Orientation              | 2 | 8  | 8  | 4  | 6  | 6  |
| Geographical Orientation               | 5 | 15 | 10 | 15 | 5  | 20 |
| Weighted Score for Site                |   | 78 | 69 | 51 | 32 | 57 |

## Micro Level

|                                                                   |   |    |    |    |    |    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|---|----|----|----|----|----|
| Vistas to Site                                                    | 4 | 4  | 4  | 20 | 8  | 20 |
| Vistas from within Site                                           | 3 | 9  | 9  | 15 | 12 | 12 |
| Potential for Accommodating Ceremonial Gatherings and Processions | 5 | 20 | 25 | 15 | 5  | 10 |
| Site Development Potential                                        | 4 | 16 | 4  | 20 | 12 | 20 |
| Maintenance Compaitlity                                           | 3 | 15 | 15 | 9  | 12 | 15 |
| "Landscape Index"                                                 | 4 | 20 | 20 | 12 | 12 | 8  |
| Weighted Score for Site                                           |   | 84 | 77 | 91 | 61 | 85 |

Total Score  
Percentage

|     |     |     |     |     |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 162 | 146 | 142 | 93  | 142 |
| 88% | 79% | 77% | 50% | 77% |

## Ranking Methodology

The issues were weighted based on the judged importance of each parameter.

Weights were given on a scale from 1 to 5, with 5 being the most critical level.

Each site was then given a score based on the documented analysis. The scores given were on a scale from 1 to 5, with 5 being the most suitable for the memorial.

The weighted scores were calculated from these two combined scores, and added together for a final score and percentile rating.

Their weighted scores, shown on the Site Suitability Evaluation Charts on the next page.

The sites in order of ranking are:

- Site 1 - Constitution Gardens
- Site 2 - Reflecting Pool
- Site 5 - RFK Stadium
- Site 3 - West Potomac Park
- Site 4 - Tidal Basin

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