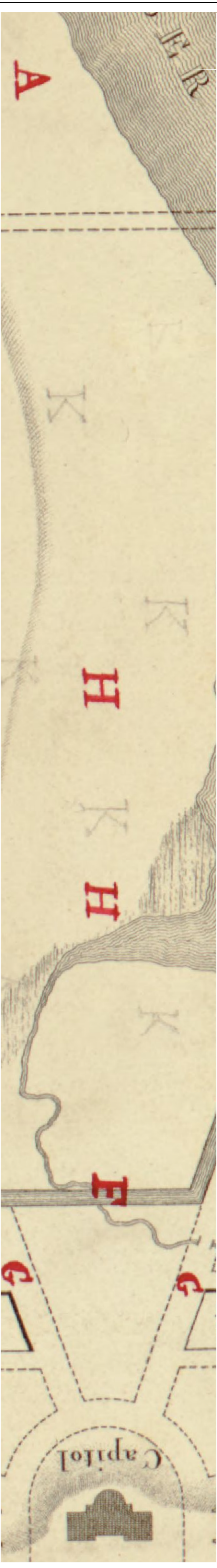


1818 LAYOUT WITH 2010 STREET CURBS




1818 KING MAP OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON

SYMBOL KEY

	STRUCTURE		WALL		ROAD
	TEMPORARY BUILDING		RIVER EDGE		WALK
	MONUMENT		WETLAND		TREE TRUNKS
	CANAL		RAILROAD		2010 STREET CURB, MALL & UNION SQUARE FOR LOCATION



- SOURCES
- ROBERT KING, "A MAP OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON", 1818. COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.

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TITLE OF SERIES  MALL MAPPING  RECONSTRUCT TURF & SOIL ON THE NATIONAL MALL NATIONAL MALL & MEMORIAL PARKS WASHINGTON, DC			
CONTRACT NO. 1443C2000091500		SHEET TITLE	
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DATE JUNE 2010		PAGE 2	



1791-1819 Initial Plans & Implementation

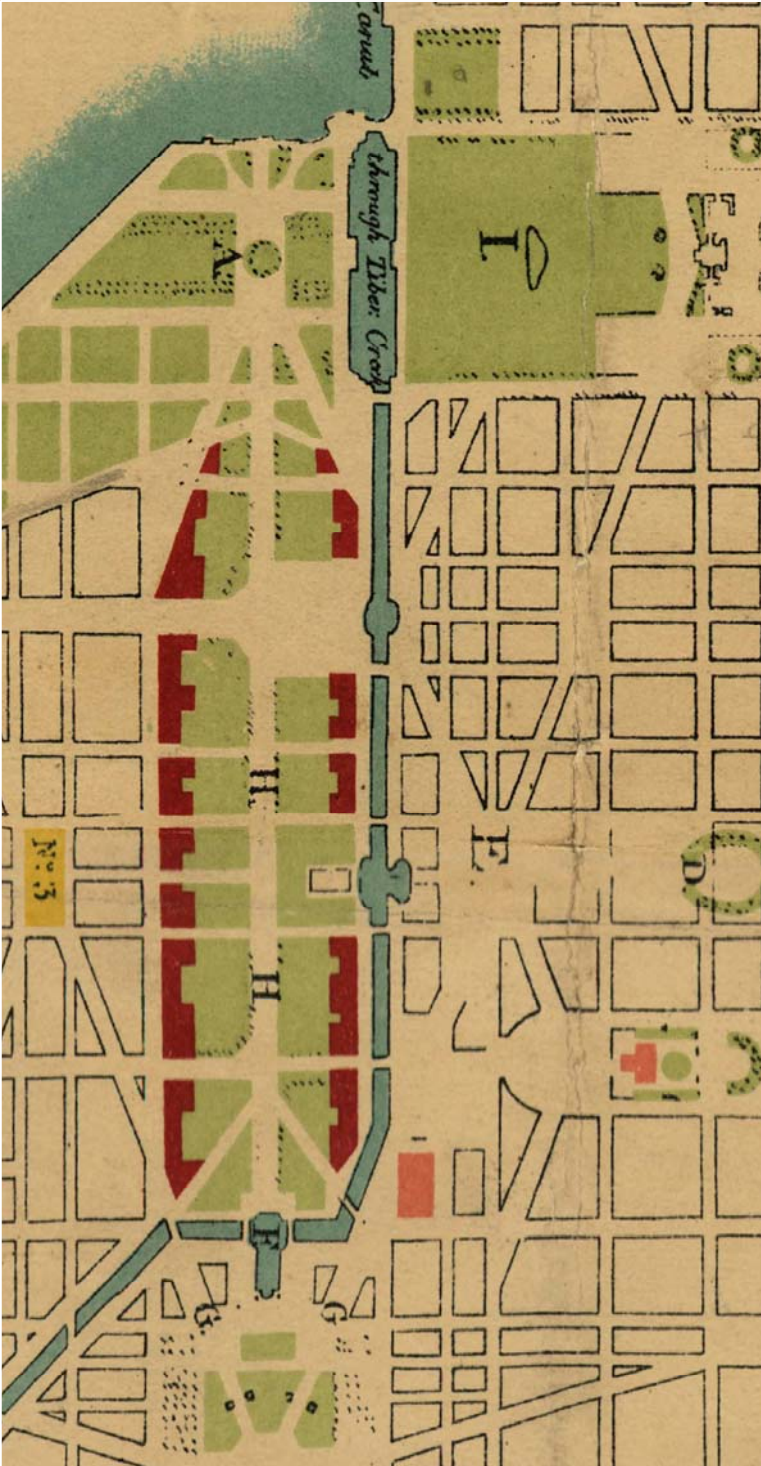
The 1791-1819 period is characterized by considerable planning efforts and modest ground disturbance. The channelizing of Tiber Creek and introduction of the Washington Canal in 1815 resulted in concentrated disturbance along the alignment of the creek and canal. The outline layout at the top of page 2 reflects the survey record during this period.

The key source for the 1791-1819 period is the “Map of the City of Washington” by Robert King, 1818 (pages 2 and 4). The King map reflects the layout of the National Mall in the early 19th century. Topographic rises are shown to the east at the Capitol and to south at the location of the Smithsonian Castle. Tiber Creek extends east from the broad Potomac River across the area that becomes the northern edge of the National Mall before dipping south and narrowing to a winding tributary. This tributary snakes north across the edge of Union Square. The King map also illustrates the integration of Tiber Creek into the Washington Canal system, which opened in 1815. The Washington Canal stretches north from the Eastern Branch of the Potomac River, crossing through the area that becomes the National Mall at Third Street before turning west to follow the northern edge of the National Mall, along what would later become Constitution Avenue. The Canal joins Tiber Creek, which had earlier flowed westward, and flows into the Potomac River south of the President’s House.

Significant planning efforts for the capital marked the beginning of this early period. In the late 18th century, George Washington commissioned Major Pierre Charles L’Enfant to develop the plan for the capital city of Washington, DC. L’Enfant’s 1791 plan (page 3) utilized a rectilinear street grid with squares and ceremonial boulevards connecting important sites and structures. The focus of the plan was the visual and spatial relationship between the “President’s House” and the “Congress House” (Capitol). The axes of these two buildings were extended south and west to create a “Grand Avenue four hundred feet in breadth, and about a mile in length” west of Capitol. This grand expanse was to be composed of central roadway and broad lawns or *topis verts*. L’Enfant anchored the intersection of the axes with a memorial honoring President Washington.

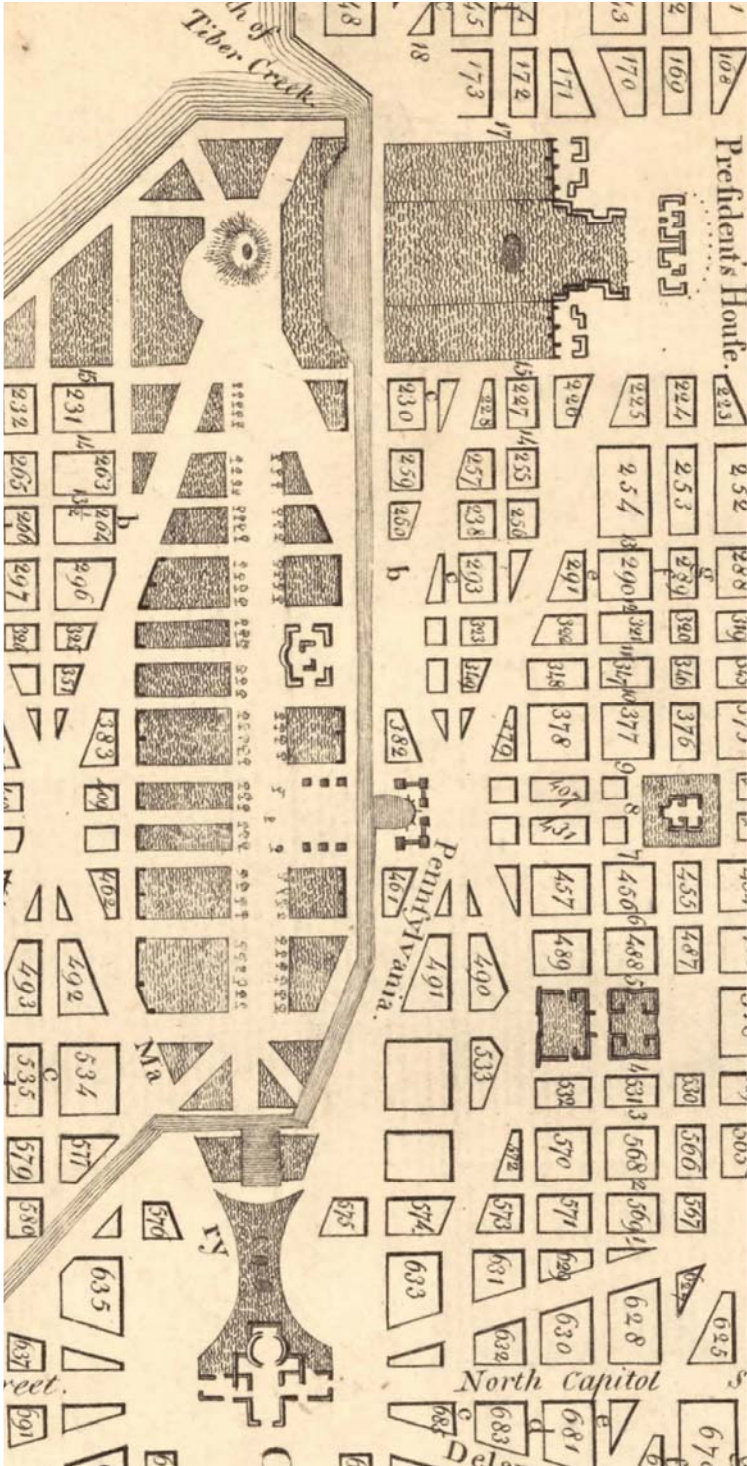
After Washington released L’Enfant in 1792, his successor, surveyor Andrew Elliccott, refined and modified the plan. Elliccott’s plan (page 3) retained the essential tenets of the L’Enfant scheme while clarifying some details. The 1792 plan show a more articulated Grand Avenue as an axial roadway flanked by tree rows and *topis verts* panels, extending between the Capitol site and the site of a major monument shown as a mound. Initial implementation began with the cornerstone for the President’s House laid in October 1792 and the Capitol cornerstone laid in September 1793 on a rise known as Jenkins Hill. While the details of L’Enfant’s vision for the axial National Mall were not implemented promptly, his scheme provided the fundamental organization for the National Mall as a green expanse with open lawn panels and tree plantings extending between the Capitol and the Tiber Creek. The Grand Avenue of L’Enfant and Elliccott was conceived as a green swath extending from the banks of the Tiber Creek.

Study of period documents reveals details of the character of the early National Mall landscape. The meandering creek and connecting tributary indicate that the ground here was low, wet, and marshy with two rises shown on the King map to the east and south at the location of the Smithsonian Castle. The circa 1800 Birch painting (page 4) depicts the Capitol under construction on a topographic rise above the currently low lying areas of the future Union Square and National Mall landscape to the west. Also, higher ground is noted at the sites of the future Washington Monument, President’s House, and Smithsonian Castle in early mapping. In this early period the ground plane of the National Mall and Union Square was generally low-lying, with creekside and wetland areas mapped by King (pages 2 and 4), with excavation for the Washington Canal waterway and the remainder possibly gently undulating with higher ground in the adjacent locations noted.




Source: P.C. L’Enfant, “Plan of the City,” 1790. Courtesy Library of Congress. MMP–LOC–L’Enfant–1790–detail

1790 L’ENFANT PLAN DETAIL



1792 ELLICOTT PLAN DETAIL

Source: A. Elliccott, “Plan of the City,” 1792. Courtesy Library of Congress. MMP–LOC–Elliccott2–1792–detail

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