General Consideration of the National Mall

The cocktail, history, and existing limitations of the educational role that are now evolved through visual perceptions, most notably the U.S. Capitol and the Banneker House, but also including the Victoria Theatre and mid-20th century role, the addition of a large new structure in the midst of this historic environment must be accomplished in a way that is harmonious and respectful of existing heritages.

The distant views from higher locations such as Arlington Cemetery, the Old Post Office tower, the Washington Monument, and from the air.

The structure eliminates a significant portion of the open space of the Washington Monument Grounds and the formal, rectilinear approach to the landscape design and the scale and character of water elements within it, is expected from the Peterson and picturesque quality of the Washington Monument Grounds. Further altering the view from the top of the Washington Monument and from the air.

**Moderate adverse effect on the panoramic view that opens and widens on the approach to the Washington Monument Grounds from the Ellipse.**

The protection between the National Mall and the Washington Monument Grounds is difficult to distinguish, and the structure appears as part of the general building massing in the area.

**Minor adverse effect on long and mid-range vistas down the National Mall looking west.**

The location of the structure within the Ellipse site and the massing of the corona and plinth do not substantially alter the key vistas looking east to west along the National Mall from the center panel.

The distant views from higher locations such as Arlington Cemetery, the Old Post Office tower, the Washington Monument, and from the air.

The structure eliminates a significant portion of the open space of the Washington Monument Grounds and from locations such as the top of the Washington Monument and from the air.

**Moderate adverse effect on the panoramic view that opens and widens on the approach to the Washington Monument Grounds from the Ellipse.**

The protection between the National Mall and the Washington Monument Grounds is difficult to distinguish, and the structure appears as part of the general building massing in the area.

**Minor adverse effect on long and mid-range vistas down the National Mall looking west.**

The location of the structure within the Ellipse site and the massing of the corona and plinth do not substantially alter the key vistas looking east to west along the National Mall from the center panel.

The distant views from higher locations such as Arlington Cemetery, the Old Post Office tower, the Washington Monument, and from the air.

The structure eliminates a significant portion of the open space of the Washington Monument Grounds and from locations such as the top of the Washington Monument and from the air.

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The protection between the National Mall and the Washington Monument Grounds is difficult to distinguish, and the structure appears as part of the general building massing in the area.

**Minor adverse effect on long and mid-range vistas down the National Mall looking west.**

The location of the structure within the Ellipse site and the massing of the corona and plinth do not substantially alter the key vistas looking east to west along the National Mall from the center panel.

The distant views from higher locations such as Arlington Cemetery, the Old Post Office tower, the Washington Monument, and from the air.

The structure eliminates a significant portion of the open space of the Washington Monument Grounds and from locations such as the top of the Washington Monument and from the air.

**Moderate adverse effect on the panoramic view that opens and widens on the approach to the Washington Monument Grounds from the Ellipse.**

The protection between the National Mall and the Washington Monument Grounds is difficult to distinguish, and the structure appears as part of the general building massing in the area.

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The location of the structure within the Ellipse site and the massing of the corona and plinth do not substantially alter the key vistas looking east to west along the National Mall from the center panel.

The distant views from higher locations such as Arlington Cemetery, the Old Post Office tower, the Washington Monument, and from the air.

The structure eliminates a significant portion of the open space of the Washington Monument Grounds and from locations such as the top of the Washington Monument and from the air.

**Moderate adverse effect on the panoramic view that opens and widens on the approach to the Washington Monument Grounds from the Ellipse.**

The protection between the National Mall and the Washington Monument Grounds is difficult to distinguish, and the structure appears as part of the general building massing in the area.

**Minor adverse effect on long and mid-range vistas down the National Mall looking west.**

The location of the structure within the Ellipse site and the massing of the corona and plinth do not substantially alter the key vistas looking east to west along the National Mall from the center panel.
**Pavilion Scheme**

Top of Corona: 118'-0"  

- **Top of Penthouse:** 132'-6"  
- **Top of Corona:** 118'-0"  
- **Plinth Scheme**

**Blended Scheme**

Washington Monument Grounds including the Monument Lodge, the Monument. The "hinge" site within the larger composition of the National Mall and the surrounding urban context andarticulates parameters for avoiding or minimizing the adverse effects of new construction.

- This Effects Analysis Matrix is derived from the Design Principles developed specifically by the Smithsonian – through the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation – to guide the design process for the proposed National Museum of African American History and Culture. The Design Principles summarize the analysis of the historic character of the National Mall; the selected museum site; and the surrounding urban context and articulate parameters for avoiding or minimizing the adverse effects of new construction.

**Minor Effect:** The adverse effect is apparent and would diminish overall integrity, or would alter a character defining feature of the National Register eligible/listed property.

**Major Effect:** The adverse effect is apparent and would diminish overall integrity, or would alter a character defining feature of the National Register eligible/listed property.

**Moderate Effect:** The adverse effect is detectible, but slight, and would minimally diminish overall integrity, or affect the character-defining feature(s) of the National Register eligible/listed property.

**Major adverse effect:** The height, massing, and location of the structure diminish the visual impact of the Monument Lodge within the setting of the Washington Monument Grounds. The directional (north-south) massing of the structure, caused by the north and south elevation of the streets, does not respond to this hinge site and alters the character of the Washington Monument Grounds within the spatial conception of the Monumental Core.

**Moderate adverse effect:** The structure is located within a "hinge" site where the surrounding frame of buildings along the National Mall and within the surrounding urban context reaches its closest approach to the Washington Monument Grounds. The footprint alternative, however, would have an advantage over both the North Alternative and the Blended Alternative in that it would be consistent with the established relationship between the museum buildings along the National Mall and would project as far as the existing project site.

- Moderate adverse effect. The structure removes open circulation on a portion of the Washington Monument Grounds. The formal character of the landscape design conflicts with the naturalistic topography of the Washington Monument Grounds. The rectilinear treatment of the west facades of the coronas conflicts with the naturalistic topography of the Washington Monument Grounds. This scheme, however, has advantages over both the North Scheme and the Blended Scheme in that the structure and the formal treatment of the landscape design conflicts with the naturalistic topography of the Washington Monument Grounds. Additionally, this scheme includes a new topography to the peripheral "flats" of the Washington Monument Grounds. This scheme introduces a new topography to the peripheral "flats" of the Washington Monument Grounds. Additionally, the structure eliminates a portion of the visual impact of the Washington Monument by competing for its prominence within the Washington Monument Grounds.

- Moderate adverse effect. The structures are located within a "hinge" site where the surrounding frame of buildings along the National Mall and within the surrounding urban context reaches its closest approach to the Washington Monument Grounds. The unrealized sections on the north and open lawn on the west that are harmonious with the formal character of the Washington Monument Grounds.

**Hierarchical adverse effect:** The location of the structure eliminates a portion of the visual impact of the Washington Monument by competing for its prominence within the Washington Monument Grounds.

**Moderate adverse effect:** The structure removes open circulation on a portion of the Washington Monument Grounds. The formal character of the landscape design conflicts with the naturalistic topography of the Washington Monument Grounds. The structure eliminates a portion of the visual impact of the Washington Monument by competing for its prominence within the Washington Monument Grounds.

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American History and Culture. The Design Principles summarize the analysis of the historic character of the National Mall, the selected museum sites, and the surrounding urban context and articulate parameters for avoiding or minimizing the adverse effects of new construction.

**Moderate Effect:** The adverse effect is apparent and would diminish overall integrity, or would alter a character-defining feature of the National Register eligible/listed property.

**Major Effect:** The adverse effect is evident, but not as significant as Moderate Effect, and would alter the historic character of the National Register eligible/listed property.

**Severe Effect:** The adverse effect is evident, and would diminish the overall integrity and historic character of the National Register eligible/listed property.

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A major adverse effect on views is within the Washington Monument Grounds. The location and mass of the structure alters multi-directional, long, panoramic views of the Washington Monument. The landscape design includes formalized spaces and alters the traditional scenic setting of the Washington Monument.

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### Draft NMAAHC Effects Matrix

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scheme</th>
<th>Major Effects</th>
<th>Moderate Effects</th>
<th>Minor Effects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pavilion Scheme</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Top of Corona:</strong></td>
<td>118'-0&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Top of Penthouse:</strong></td>
<td>132'-6&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Constitution Avenue:</strong></td>
<td>klaud panels and reflective metallic finish, the corona has an atypical visual character that diverts attention from and alters the setting of the buildings and structures in the vicinity of the NMAAHC site.</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Relationships to Adjacent Architectural and Urban Context**

The site’s relation to each of its adjacent contexts – the National Mall, the Washington Monument Grounds, and the urban grid of the adjacent site.

- **Major Effect:** The serious adverse effect would diminish overall integrity, or alter a character-defining feature(s) of the National Register eligible/listed property.
- **Moderate Effect:** This Effects Analysis Matrix is derived from the Design Principles developed specifically by the Smithsonian – through consultation of the Interior Department, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation – to guide the design process for the proposed National Museum of African American History and Culture. The Design Principles summarize the analysis of the historic character of the National Mall, the selected museum site, and the surrounding urban context and indicate parameters for avoiding or minimizing the adverse effects of new construction.
- **Minor Effect:** The adverse effect is apparent and would diminish overall integrity, or would alter a character-defining feature(s) of the National Register eligible/listed property.
- **N/A:** The scheme is not applicable.

**Positioning in the Blended Scheme:**

- klaud panels and reflective metallic finish, the corona has a atypical visual character that diverts attention from and alters the setting of the buildings and structures in the vicinity of the NMAAHC site.
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**Positioning in the Pavilion Scheme:**

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**Positioning in the Plinth Scheme:**

- klaud panels and reflective metallic finish, the corona has a atypical visual character that diverts attention from and alters the setting of the buildings and structures in the vicinity of the NMAAHC site.
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## Draft NMAAHC Effects Analysis Matrix*

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<th>Scheme</th>
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<th>Height (Floor Height + Plinth)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Top of Penthouse</td>
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*Draft NMAAHC Effects Analysis Matrix is derived from the Design Principles, developed in consultation with relevant stakeholders, including the National Capital Planning Commission, the National Park Service, the Smithsonian Institution, and the National Mall and Memorial Parks. The matrix assesses the potential for the proposed National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) to impact the surrounding historic context and evaluates the potential for adverse effects. The matrix identifies three levels of effect: minor, moderate, and major, each with specific criteria for assessment.

### Design Principles

- **Pavilion Scheme**: The structure is elevated above the surrounding context, creating a gateway view that emphasizes the prominence of the Washington Monument. The design features a stepped base and a cantilevered upper structure that projects vertically above the tree line, creating a wide frontage within the panoramic view.
- **Plinth Scheme**: The structure is positioned at the northwest corner of the site, adjacent to the Ellipse. The one-story design includes a landscaped roof and a prominent plaza, creating a strong architectural presence that complements the surrounding context.
- **Blended Scheme**: The design integrates elements from both the Pavilion and Plinth Schemes, combining the elevated gateway view with a more integrated approach to the site.

### Adverse Effects

- **Minor Effect**: The adverse effect is detectible but slight, and would minimally diminish overall integrity, or affect the character-defining feature(s) of the National Register eligible/listed property.
- **Moderate Effect**: The adverse effect is apparent and would diminish overall integrity, or affect a character-defining feature(s) of the National Register eligible/listed property.
- **Major Effect**: The adverse effect would diminish overall integrity, or alter a character-defining feature(s) of the National Register eligible/listed property.

### Considerations

- **Plum Island Adverse Effect on Important Non-cardinal Views from Principal Corner Street Crossings**: The location and massing of the structure affects views of the lower half and base of the Washington Monument when viewed from the corner of 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, widely perceived as a “gateway” view.
- **Moderate Adverse Effect on Important Non-cardinal Views from Principal Corner Street Crossings**: The location and massing of the structure alters the established end point of the row of museum buildings along the National Mall. The height of the structure projects vertically above the pedestrian tree line defining the eastern edge of the Washington Monument Grounds.
- **Moderate Adverse Effect on Important Non-cardinal Views from Historic National Mall Pathways**: The structure intrudes into pedestrian views of the Washington Monument Grounds from pathways along the western end of the National Mall and can be seen in direct relation to the Washington Monument, diminishing its prominence. The location of the corona alters the established end point of the row of museum buildings along the National Mall. The height of the structure projects vertically above the pedestrian tree line defining the eastern edge of the Washington Monument Grounds.
- **Major Adverse Effect on Important Non-cardinal Views from Principal Corner Street Crossings**: The location and massing of the corona blocks views of the lower half and base of the Washington Monument when viewed from the corner of 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, widely perceived as a “gateway” view. The corona structure is one half and base of the Washington Monument when viewed from the corner of 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, widely perceived as a “gateway” view.
- **Major Adverse Effect on Important Non-cardinal Views from Principal Corner Street Crossings**: The location and massing of the corona alter the established end point of the row of museum buildings along the National Mall. The height of the corona projects vertically above the pedestrian tree line defining the eastern edge of the Washington Monument Grounds.
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### Mitigation Strategies

- **Pavilion Scheme**: The design of the one-story structure at the northwest corner of the site is refined to minimize adverse effects by relocating or reducing the height of the landscaped roof. The structure also projects vertically above the pedestrian tree line, defining the eastern edge of the Washington Monument Grounds.
- **Blended Scheme**: Mitigation strategies include relocating or reducing the height of the landscaped roof to minimize adverse effects on the panoramic view that opens and widens on the Washington Monument Grounds. Minimize adverse effects on the panoramic view that opens and widens on the Washington Monument Grounds by refining the design of the one-story structure at the northwest corner of the site. The one-story structure also projects vertically above the pedestrian tree line, defining the eastern edge of the Washington Monument Grounds.

### Additional Considerations

- **American History and Culture**: The Design Principles summarize the analysis of the historic character of the National Mall, the selected museum site, and the surrounding urban context and articulates parameters for avoiding or minimizing the adverse effects of new construction. The principles ensure that the new museum is integrated into the existing historic fabric, respecting the character-defining features of the National Register eligible/listed properties.