

Summary of Primary Character-Defining Features and Assessment of Potential Effects

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<p>A: Primary threshold panoramas within the Washington Monument grounds. Also includes resources (buildings, landscape features, etc.) of primary importance to the significance of the Washington Monument grounds. These features are contained within the boundaries of the Washington Monument grounds, in direct proximity to the NMAAHC site and are likely to be most affected by the construction and operation of the NMAAHC.</p> <p>B: Important multidirectional panoramas within the Washington Monument grounds. Also includes features that contribute to the significance of the Washington Monument and grounds, or features that are in close proximity to the NMAAHC site. These features are likely to be affected by the construction and operation of the NMAAHC.</p> <p>C: Important multi-directional views from within the Washington Monument grounds to the outside periphery and street views along main corridors bordering the Monument grounds. Also includes features that contribute to the significance of areas surrounding the Washington Monument grounds. These resources may be affected by the construction and operation of the NMAAHC.</p> <p>D: Important contextual viewsheds and resources that contribute to the overall context of the city, but are at a greater distance from the Washington Monument grounds. These resources may be affected by the construction and operation of the NMAAHC.</p> <p>E: Important broad contextual views, such as aerials and views from across the Potomac River. These viewsheds may be affected by the construction and operation of the NMAAHC.</p>	<p>The definitions for "A,B,C,D" were initially developed at the September 19th Section 106 consulting parties meeting as a means of ranking views and vistas within the Area of Potential Effect. For the purposes of this matrix, which includes all primary character-defining features, the ranking system framework was expanded to include additional historic resources such as buildings, landscape features, and spatial organization.</p> <p>Character-defining features on this matrix are taken from the following sources: Multiple National Register of Historic Places documentation, HABS/HAER documentation, and National Park Service Cultural Landscape Inventories and Cultural Landscape Reports for the Mall and Washington Monument Grounds. The features have been discussed and augmented in a series of Section 106 consulting party meetings during the summer and fall of 2007.</p>	
<p>★★★ Major Effect: The serious adverse effect would diminish overall integrity, or alter a character-defining feature(s) of the National Register eligible/listed property.</p> <p>★★ Moderate 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.</p> <p>★ Minor Effect: The adverse effect is detectable, but slight, and would minimally diminish overall integrity, or affect the character-defining feature(s) of the National Register eligible/listed property.</p>		

Views and Vistas		Preliminary Determination of Effects
A	Panorama of Washington Monument grounds from 17th Street & Constitution (gateway panorama)	★★★major adverse Height and massing of the building would bring existing row of museums closer to the Washington Monument, diminishing the prominence of the monument within the grounds.
A	Panorama of Washington Monument grounds from 14th Street & Constitution (gateway panorama)	★★★major adverse Height and massing of the building would block a major 'gateway' view of the Washington Monument, diminishing the prominence of the monument within the grounds
A	Panorama of Washington Monument grounds from WWII Memorial and base of Reflecting Pool (gateway panorama)	★★★major adverse Height and massing of the building would bring existing row of museums closer to the Washington Monument, diminishing the prominence of the monument within the grounds.
B	Multi-directional panoramic views within the Washington Monument grounds	★★★major adverse Alters multi-directional views within the Washington Monument Grounds, diminishing the prominence of the monument and knoll as central organizing features
B	Viewshed from Washington Monument grounds to the Federal Triangle, particularly the Constitution Avenue facades	★★★major adverse Height and massing of the building would restrict the viewshed of the Federal Triangle from various points within the Washington Monument Grounds
C	Viewshed from Washington Monument grounds to U.S. Auditors Complex	★★ moderate adverse Height and massing of the building would restrict views to the U.S. Auditor's Complex
C	Viewshed from Washington Monument grounds to the White House and Ellipse	★ minor adverse Height and massing of the building would alter visual relationship between the Washington Monument Grounds and the White House/Ellipse
C	Viewshed from Washington Monument grounds to the U.S. Department of Agriculture	★★ moderate adverse Height and massing of the building would restrict views to the U.S. Agriculture Department
C	Viewshed along Constitution Avenue	★★ moderate adverse Alters the established setback of buildings along Constitution Avenue, restricting views of key urban features such as the Federal Triangle
C	Viewshed along Independence Avenue	★★ moderate adverse Height and massing of the building would bring existing row of museums closer to the Washington Monument, diminishing the prominence of the monument within the grounds along this viewshed
C	Viewshed along 14th Street	★★ moderate adverse Alters progression of space as seen down the main 14th Street corridor, establishing a more rigid urban grid on the Washington Monument grounds open space
C	Viewshed along 17th Street	★★ moderate adverse Height and massing of the building would bring row of museums onto Washington Monument grounds, altering the visual relationship with open space as viewed down the 17th Street corridor, also would restrict key views of the Federal Triangle
D	Viewshed from the White House to the Jefferson Memorial and the southern horizon	★★ moderate adverse Height and massing of the building would potentially affect peripheral views from the White House and Ellipse to the Jefferson Memorial and southern horizon,
D	Viewshed from Capitol to Washington Monument and the western horizon	No Effect
D	Viewshed from Lincoln Memorial to the Washington Monument	No Effect
D	Views to elms from walks and grass panels along the Mall	No Effect
D	Views to building facades along the Mall	No Effect
D	Views up cross streets along the mall	No Effect
E	Viewshed to and from Old Post Office tower	★ minor adverse Height and massing would potentially obstruct views of the Old Post Office tower from the Washington Monument grounds and potentially obstruct views of the Washington Monument from the tower observatory
E	Viewshed from Arlington House and Arlington Cemetery	★ minor adverse Height, massing, lighting, and materials of the building would alter the view from Arlington Cemetery and Arlington House
E	Aerial views of the Washington Monument grounds and surrounding urban area	★★ moderate adverse Height, massing, lighting, and materials of the building would alter aerial views of the Washington Monument grounds

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Spatial Organization			
A	Original Appropriation No. 3 (Washington Monument grounds) bounded by 14th Street, 17th Street, Constitution and Independence Avenues	★★★major adverse	Alters spatial organization of the Washington Monument Grounds and fundamentally alters the spatial concept for Original Appropriation No. 3
A	The knoll as organizing feature of the Washington Monument grounds	★★★major adverse	Height and massing of the building affects the prominence of the knoll
A	Open landscape within the Washington Monument grounds	★★★major adverse	Removes portion of open landscape
B	Original Appropriation No. 1 (President's Park), including the White House and Ellipse	★★ moderate adverse	Causes a loss of symmetry of the elements designed to flank the Ellipse (open space on 17th Street vs. built space on 14th/15th Street); and alters the visual relationship with the open space of the Washington Monument grounds
C	Flat landscape along the Mall from Capitol to Washington Monument grounds	★★ moderate adverse	Alters the perception of the progression of space in the areas surrounding the NMAAHC site
C	Original Appropriation No. 2 (Capitol grounds and the Mall) Mall framed on either side by trees	★★ moderate adverse	Alters the visual boundaries of the west side of the Mall, extending row of museums into Washington Monument Grounds
D	Reservation No. 332 (West Potomac Park)	★ minor adverse	Alters views of east end of West Potomac Park toward Washington Monument grounds and Federal Triangle facades
D	Orthogonal grid of the city	No Effect	
D	Radiating avenues of the city	No Effect	
D	Washington Monument as organizing feature of the city	No Effect	
Buildings and Structures			
A	Washington Monument	★★★major adverse	Diminishes visual impact of the Washington Monument
A	Monument Lodge	★★★major adverse	Diminishes visual impact of the Monument Lodge
A	Bulfinch Gateposts (flanking 15th Street, one on NMAAHC site)	★★★major adverse	Diminishes visual impact of the Bulfinch Gateposts
B	Survey Lodge	No Effect	
B	Jefferson Pier	No Effect	
B	Federal Triangle, particularly the Constitution Avenue facades	★★★major adverse	Intrudes on the setting of the Federal Triangle, competing with the south portico of the Department of Commerce, and diminishes the visual impact of the five-part building composition that is centered on the Mellon Auditorium
C	White House	No Effect	
C	U.S. Auditors Complex	★★ moderate adverse	Intrudes on the setting of the U.S. Auditors complex, altering the visual relationship with the open space of the Washington Monument grounds
C	U.S. Department of Agriculture	★ minor adverse	Intrudes on the setting of the U.S. Agriculture Department building, altering the visual relationship with the open space of the Washington Monument grounds
D	Northwest Rectangle	★ minor adverse	Intrudes on the setting of the buildings located in the southeast section of the Northwest Rectangle, altering the visual relationship with open space along the Constitution Avenue corridor
D	Seventeenth Street Historic District	★ minor adverse	Intrudes on the setting of the buildings located in the south section of the Seventeenth Street historic District, altering the visual relationship with open space along the Constitution Avenue corridor
D	Smithsonian Castle	No Effect	
D	Freer Gallery	No Effect	
D	Arts & Industries Building	No Effect	
D	National Museum of Natural History	No Effect	
D	National Gallery of Art West Building	No Effect	
D	U.S. Capitol and Grounds	No Effect	
D	Lincoln Memorial	No Effect	
D	Jefferson Memorial	No Effect	
D	Old Post Office Tower	No Effect	

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Vegetation			
A	Open turf lawn on Washington Monument grounds	★★★major adverse	Removes portion of open turf lawn within the Washington Monument grounds
A	Street trees (elms) on Washington Monument grounds	★ minor adverse	Diminishes the visual impact of the trees
B	Tree plantings around Survey Lodge, Sylvan Theater	No Effect	
B	Groves of cherries on Washington Monument grounds	No Effect	
B	Ellipse	★★ moderate adverse	Intrudes on the setting of the Ellipse; causes a loss of symmetry of the elements designed to flank the Ellipse (open space on 17th Street vs. built space on 14th/15th Street); and alters the visual relationship with the open space of the Washington Monument grounds
D	Flat grass panels along the Mall	No Effect	
D	Tree panels lining the Mall	No Effect	
Land Use			
A	Free/informal public gathering space on NMAAHC site	★★ moderate adverse	Removes public space and alters free/open space to more defined/formal space
A	Free/informal recreational space on NMAAHC site	★★ moderate adverse	Removes public space and alters free/open space to more defined/formal space
Topography			
A	Gentle rise of the Washington Monument knoll	No Effect	
C	Overall level topography from the Capitol to 12th Street along the Mall	No Effect	
C	Discernable downward slope to 14th Street along the Mall	No Effect	
Circulation			
C	Constitution Avenue	★ minor adverse	Alters the established streetscape/setback along Constitution Avenue
C	Independence Avenue	No Effect	
C	14th Street	No Effect	
C	15th Street	No Effect	
C	17th Street	No Effect	
D	Jefferson and Madison Drives along the Mall	No Effect	
D	3rd, 4th, 7th, 14th Streets	No Effect	
D	East/West walks along the Mall (including sidewalks along Jefferson & Madison and North/South Vista Walks)	No Effect	
D	Cross-axial walks along the Mall (5th, 6th, 9th, 10th, 12th & 14th)	No Effect	