



Executive Director's Recommendation

Commission Meeting: July 7, 2016

PROJECT GSA Buildings - AT&T Telecommunication Sites Upgrades Various sites, downtown Washington, DC	NCPC FILE NUMBER 7801
SUBMITTED BY United States General Services Administration	NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER 00:00(38.30)44369
REVIEW AUTHORITY Federal Projects in the District per 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1) and (d)	APPLICANT'S REQUEST Preliminary and final approval of site development plans
	PROPOSED ACTION Approve with comments
	ACTION ITEM TYPE Consent Calendar

PROJECT SUMMARY

The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) proposes, on behalf of AT&T, to upgrade five telecommunications sites on GSA buildings to maintain clear cell phone and data signals. Future technologies include 5G, Voice-over LTE, and mobile Wi-Fi hotspots, and are necessary for day-to-day usage and special events on the Mall, which includes the 2016 Presidential Inauguration. The five sites are located at:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. U.S. Department of the Interior Building | 1849 C St. NW |
| 2. Central Heating Plant | 325 13th St. SW |
| 3. U.S. Dept. of Energy (Forrestal Building) | 1000 Independence Ave. SW |
| 4. U.S. Dept. of Labor (Frances Perkins Building) | 200 Constitution Ave. NW |
| 5. Wilbur Wright (FAA) Building | 600 Independence Ave. SW |

The project will install one or more antennas to existing fixtures and replace a number of older antenna panels with new antenna panels. In addition, minor supporting infrastructure will also be upgraded.

KEY INFORMATION

- The Radio Frequency (RF) analysis report for each of the five sites concludes that the planned installations will operate within all applicable Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) guidelines.
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RECOMMENDATION

The Commission:

Approves the preliminary and final site development plans to upgrade private telecommunications antennas in the following locations: U.S. Department of the Interior Building (1849 C St. NW); Central Heating Plant (325 13th St. SW); U.S. Department of Energy-Forrestal Building (1000 Independence Ave. SW); U.S. Department of Labor-Frances Perkins Building (200 Constitution Ave. NW); and the Wilbur Wright (FAA) Building (600 Independence Ave. SW) for a period not to exceed five years from July 7, 2016.

Notes that the five buildings have existing rooftop antennas that are either non-operational or do not appear to have current Commission approval to operate, and **reminds** GSA to ensure that each antenna site is fully compliant with NCPC policies, with up-to-date approvals.

PROJECT REVIEW TIMELINE

Previous actions	None.
Remaining actions (anticipated)	None.

PROJECT ANALYSIS

Executive Summary

Staff finds that the proposed work meets the general criteria of Section 3 of the NCPC Antenna Guidelines, and **recommends approval of the proposed antenna installation for a period of five years**, including approval of the supporting equipment necessary for the operation of the antennas. The Commission traditionally approves private carrier telecommunications sites for five years as market-driven technology typically requires replacement within that time period.

Analysis

The GSA submission shows that the proposed sixteen (16) antenna sites on five different buildings will not adversely affect human health and safety on the ground. The antennas are all located higher than 100 feet above ground-level at each of the sites and therefore, no adverse emission levels will be encountered by the general public. This finding is supported by each of the five Radio Frequency (RF) safety reports (one for each building) that conclude that the proposed new antennas will not exceed Federal Communication Commission (FCC) occupational or general population exposure limits at ground level. In addition, all rooftop locations restrict access for trained personnel only, who may need to access the equipment for routine maintenance or replacement.

Staff has also analyzed each of the rooftop sites, and finds that the new antennas will only be minimally visible when viewed from the ground and other nearby vantage points. For most of the

sites, new antennas will replace older antennas or one additional antenna will be installed in existing sectors, thereby minimally impacting the sites. Only one new set of antennas will be installed on the roof of the FAA building, which are being relocated from another part of the roof. However, the relocation will have minimal visual impacts on the surrounding ground-level landscape.

Each of the RF safety analysis reports includes an inventory of existing and proposed antennas for each of the rooftop locations. As shown in the reports, there are numerous existing antennas that are operating on each rooftop, and upon review of NCPC records, staff is unable to find current approvals for all of the existing antennas. Some of the reports list several antennas as non-operational, and these antennas should be removed if not in use. Therefore, staff recommends that the Commission **note that the five buildings have existing rooftop antennas that are either non-operational or do not appear to have current Commission approval to operate, and reminds GSA to ensure that each antenna site is fully compliant with NCPC policies, with up-to-date approvals.**

CONFORMANCE TO EXISTING PLANS, POLICIES AND RELATED GUIDANCE

Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital

Staff finds the proposed antennas comply with the goals and objectives of the Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital, in particular the Federal Environment Element, which indicates that federal actions in the region should conform to the following policy:

Evaluate the possibilities for joint-use of antennas and collocating antennas to reduce aesthetic impacts and limit the area of radiofrequency (RF) exposure. Federal agencies should also evaluate the cumulative effect of multiple transmitters at one location to ensure that the combined radiofrequency emissions continue to meet Federal Communications Commission guidelines.

National Historic Preservation Act

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), GSA submitted the project to the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer (DC SHPO) for review. The DC SHPO concurred, in a letter dated May 13, 2016, that the project will have no adverse effect to the property, which is not eligible to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

National Environmental Policy Act

The General Services Administration determined that the proposed antennas adhere to the conditions of their Categorical Exclusion 5.4(n) under its implementing procedures for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), for installation of antennae consistent with General Services Administration Bulletin FPMR D-242, Placement of commercial antennas on Federal property. NCPC staff determined that the proposed project adheres to the NCPC Categorical Exclusion requirements under §8(c)(20) of the agency's Environmental and Historic Preservation Policies and Procedures, which is for "review and approval of the installation of communication antennae on federal buildings and co-location of communication antennae on federal property

consistent with the General Services Administration Bulletin FPMR D-242 and the NCPC Submission Requirements for Antennas on Federal property.”

CONSULTATION

The Coordinating Committee reviewed the proposal at its June 15, 2016 meeting. The Committee forwarded the proposal to the Commission with the statement that it has been coordinated with all participating agencies. The participating agencies were: NCPC; the District of Columbia Office of Planning; the District of Columbia Department of Transportation; the General Services Administration; and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

ONLINE REFERENCE

The following supporting documents for this project are available online:

- Project submission
- NCPC project synopsis

Prepared by Michael Weil
06/29/2016

POWERPOINT (ATTACHED)

Project # 7801

Telecommunication Facility Upgrades

U.S. Department of the Interior Building (1849 C St. NW)
Central Heating Plant (325 13th St. SW)
Forrestal Building - Dept. of Energy (1000 Independence Ave. SW)
Frances Perkins Building - Dept. of Labor (200 Constitution Ave. NW)
Wilbur Wright Building - FAA (600 Independence Ave. SW)

Submitted by the United States General Services Administration

Preliminary and Final Site Development Plans

Project Synopsis

Commission meeting date: July 7, 2016

NCPA review authority: Approval – Federal Project in the District of Columbia (40 U.S.C. § 8722 (b)(1) and (d))

Applicant request: Preliminary and final approval of site development plans

Delegated / consent / open / executive session: Consent Calendar

NCPA Review Officer: Michael Weil

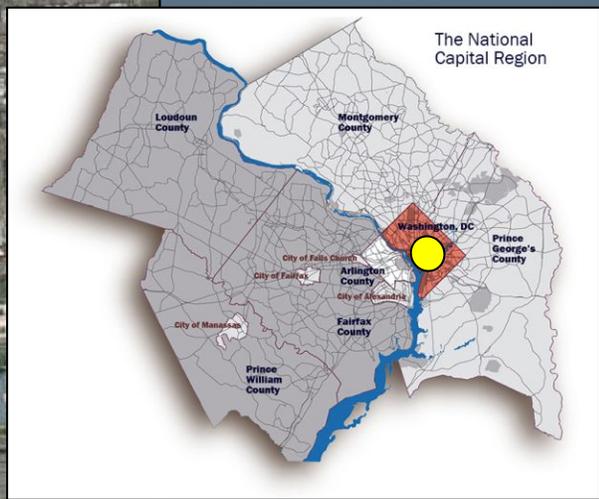
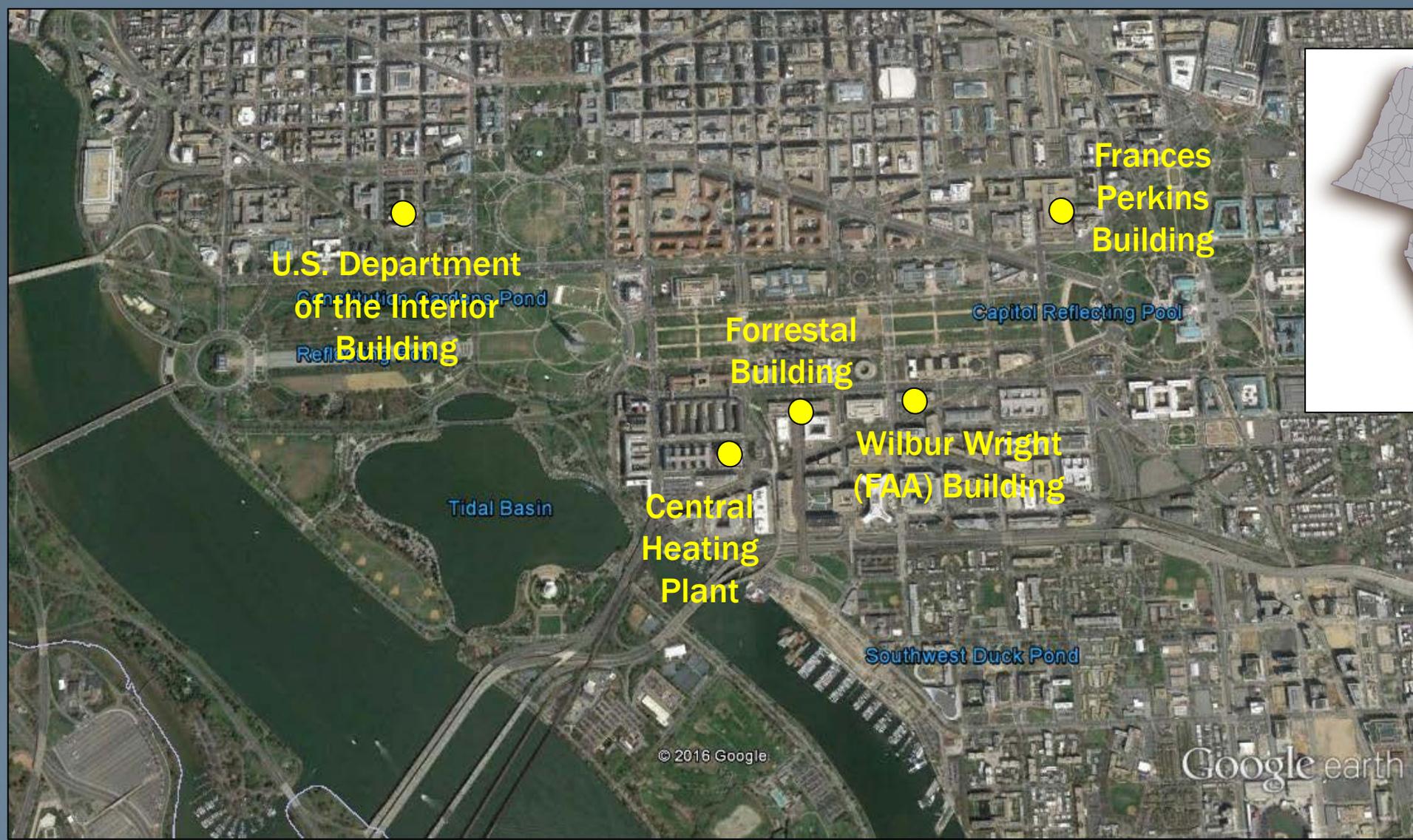
NCPA File number: 7801

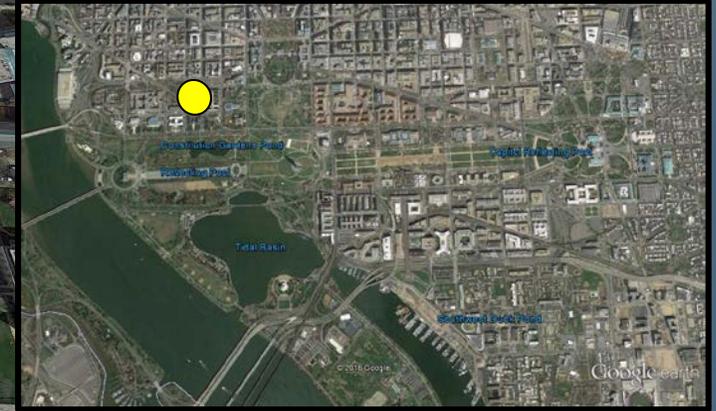
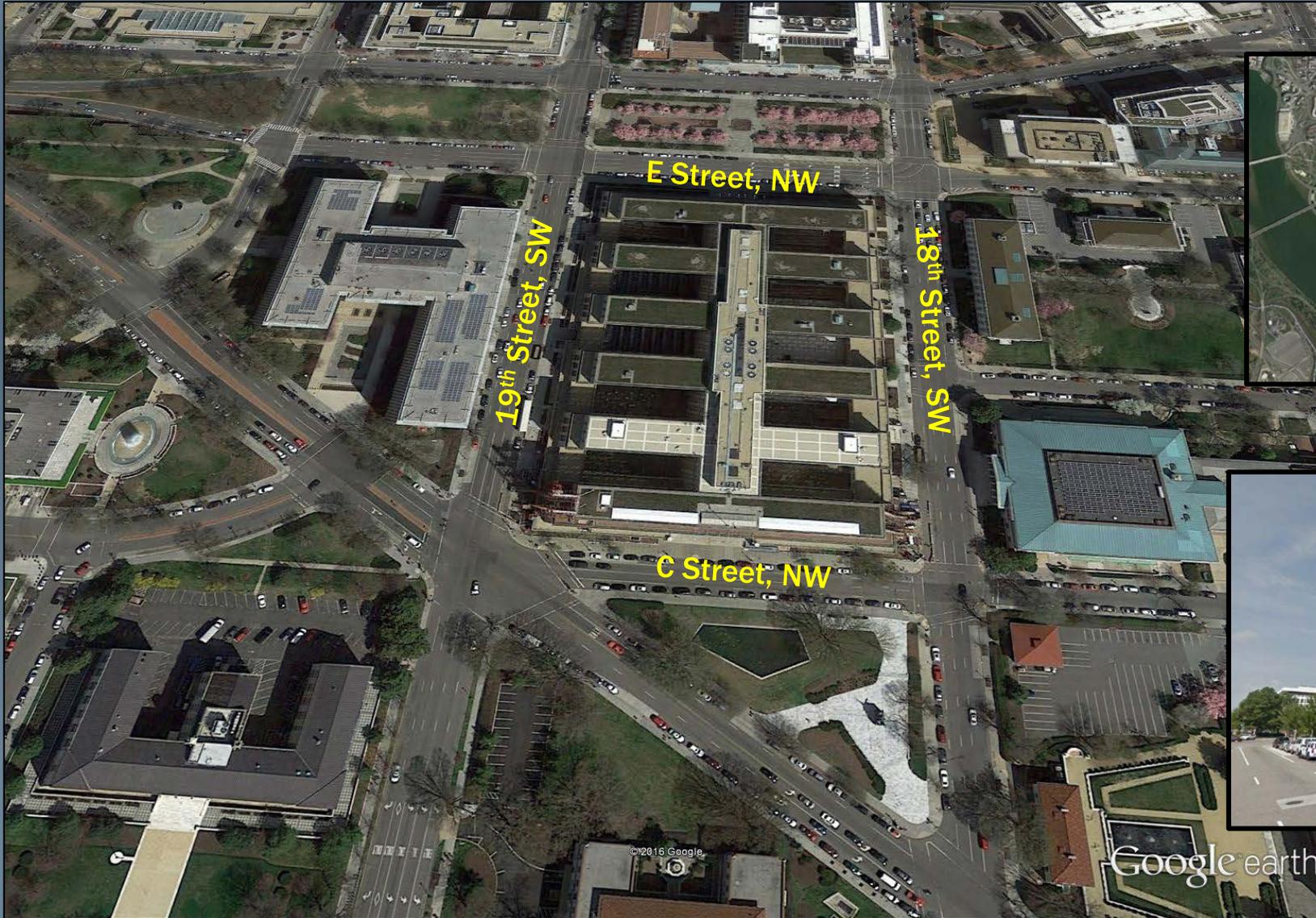
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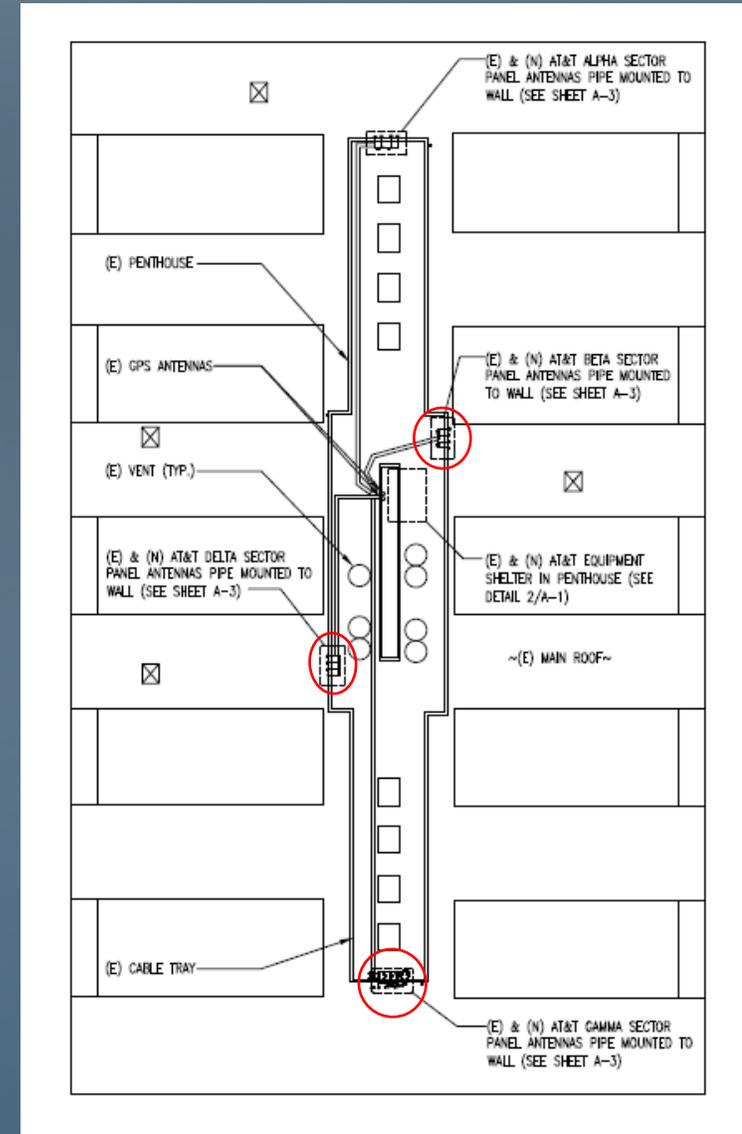
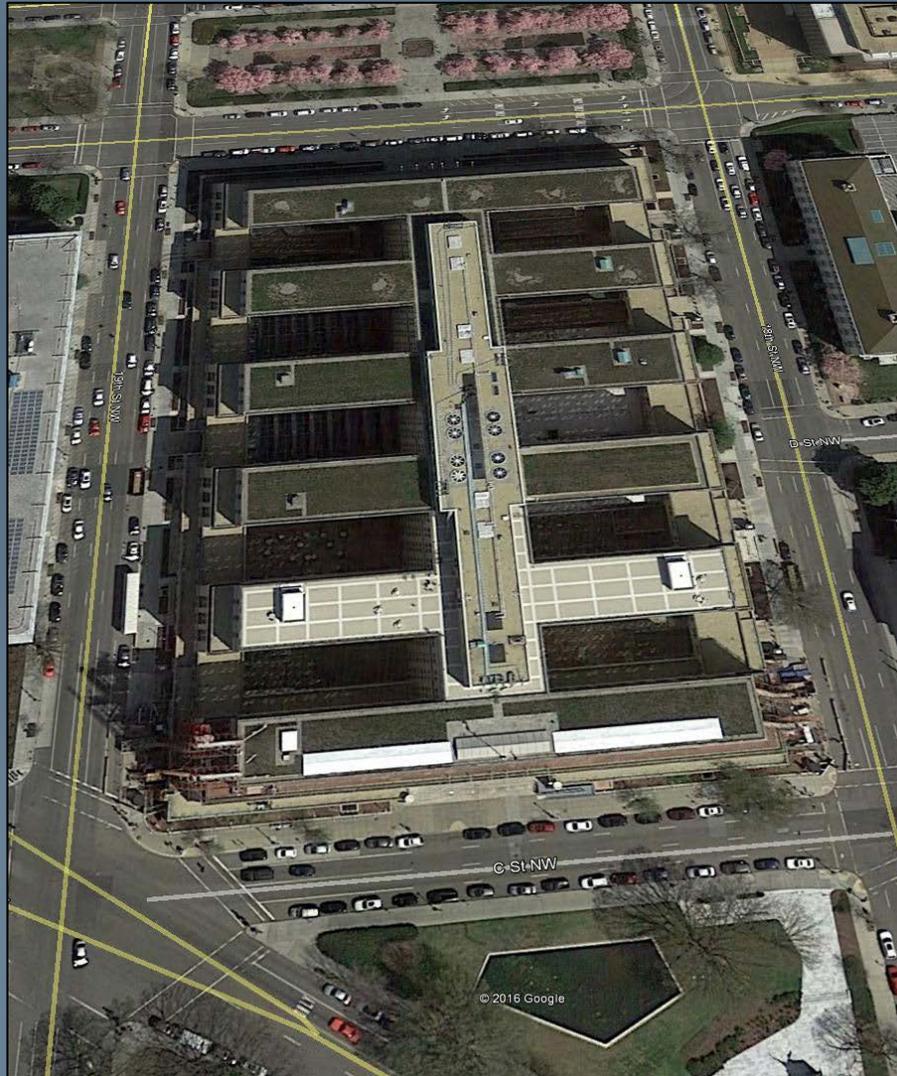
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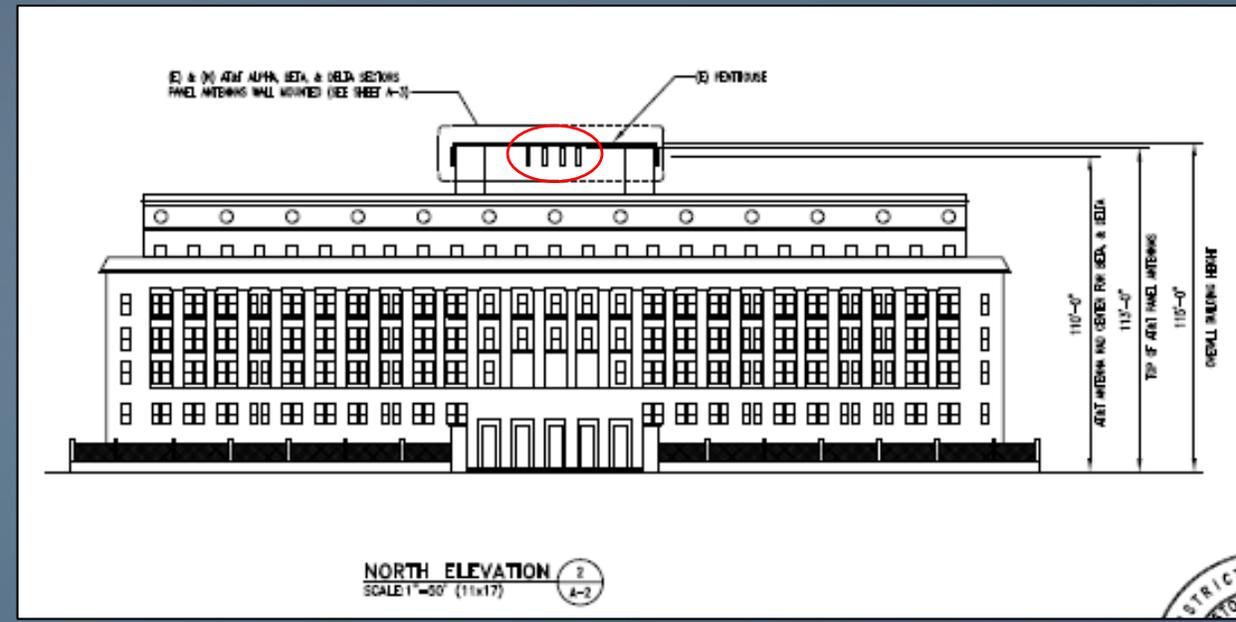
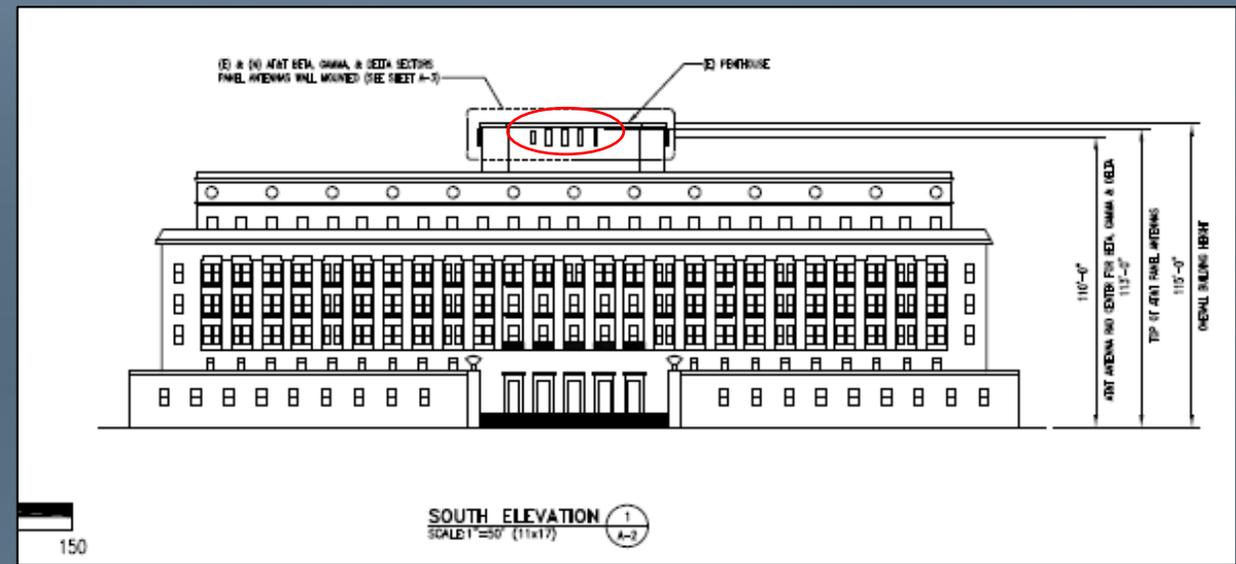
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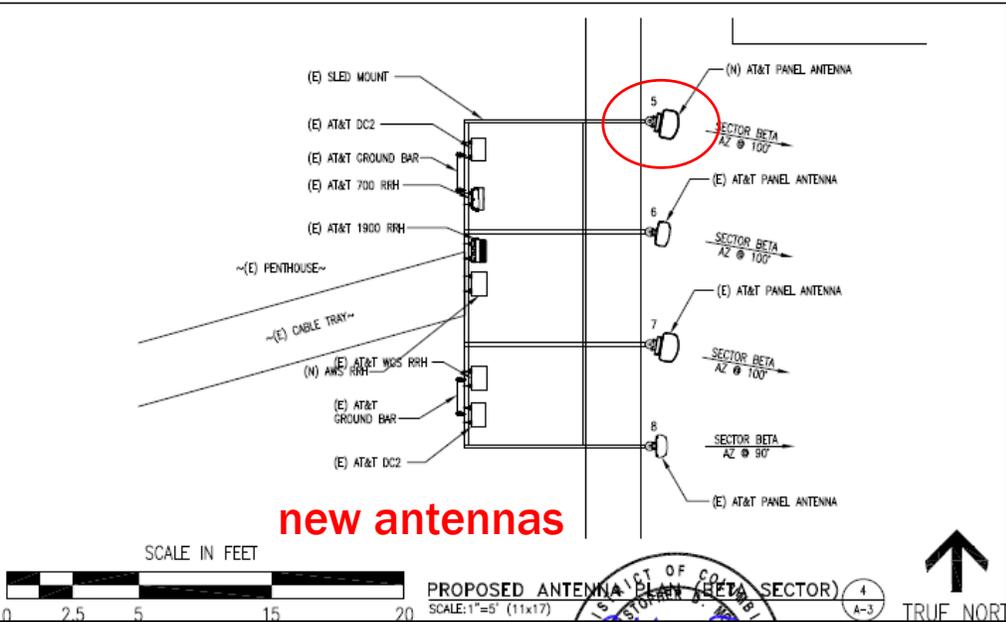
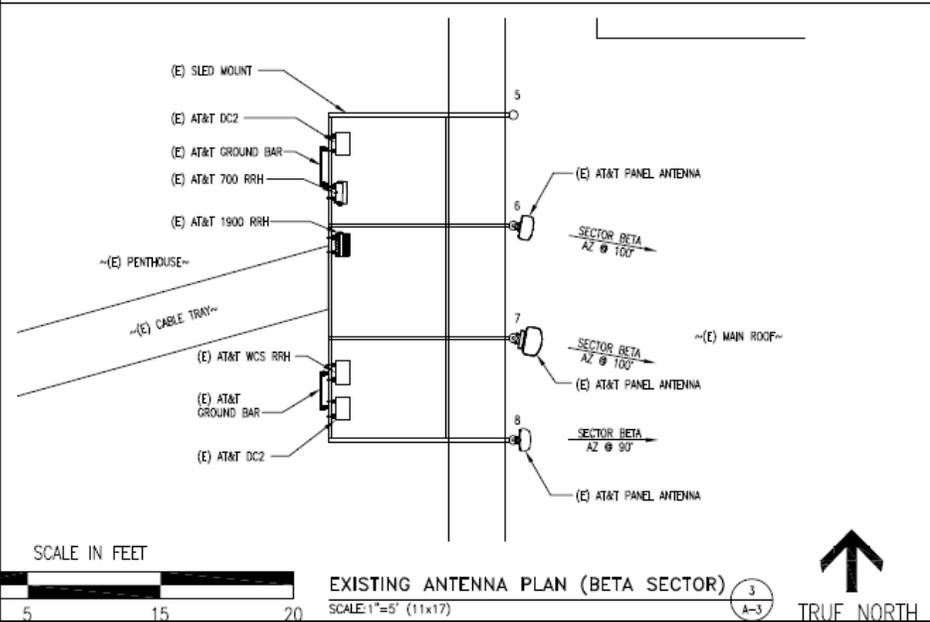
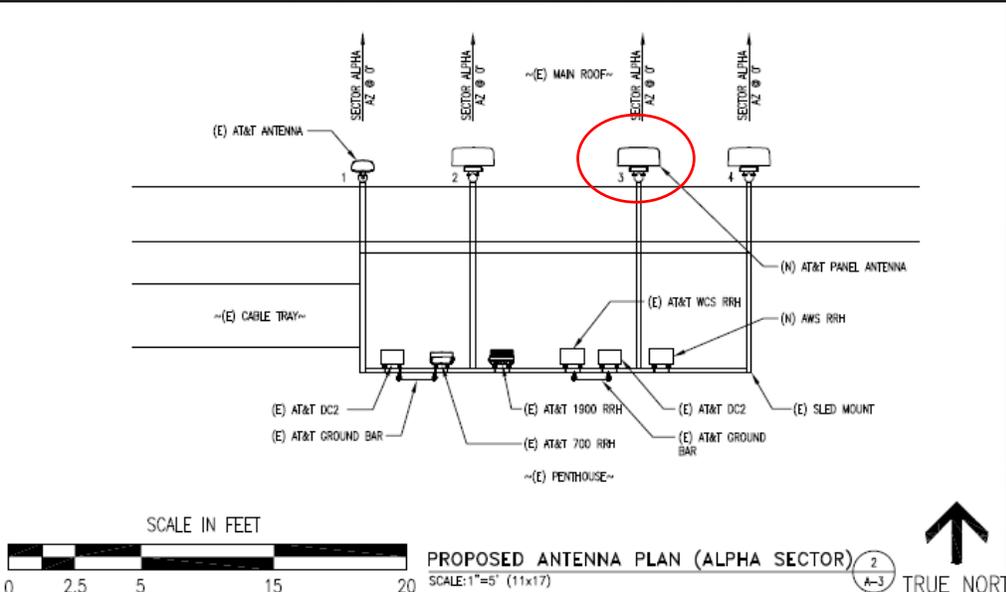
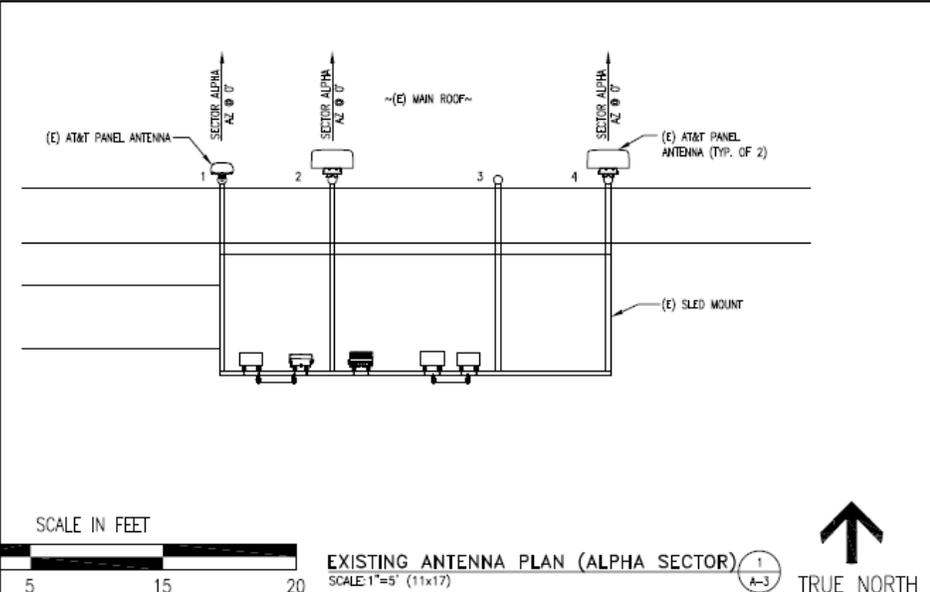
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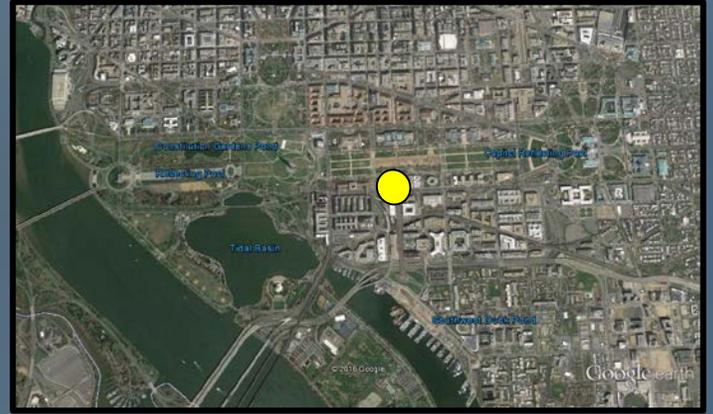
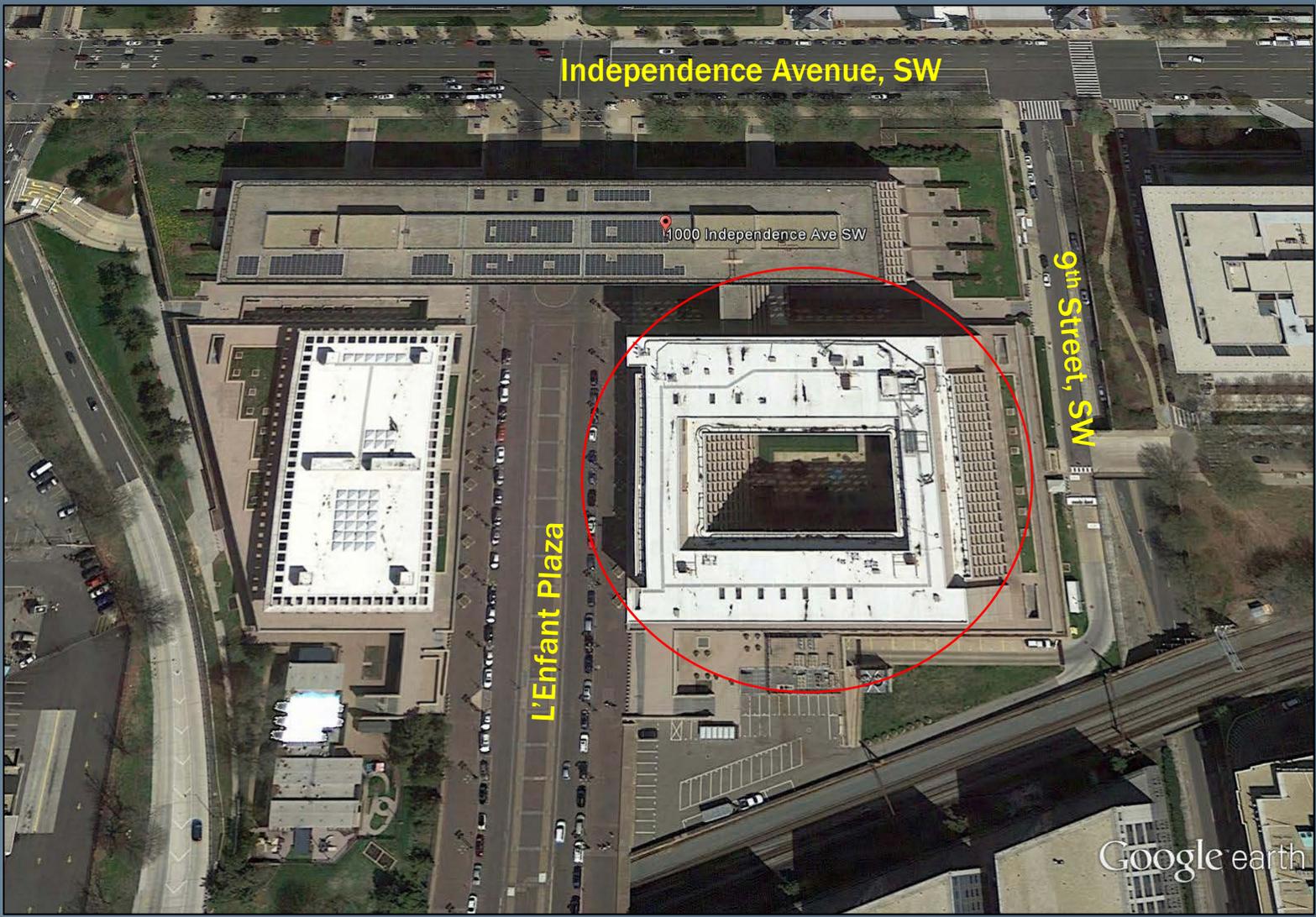


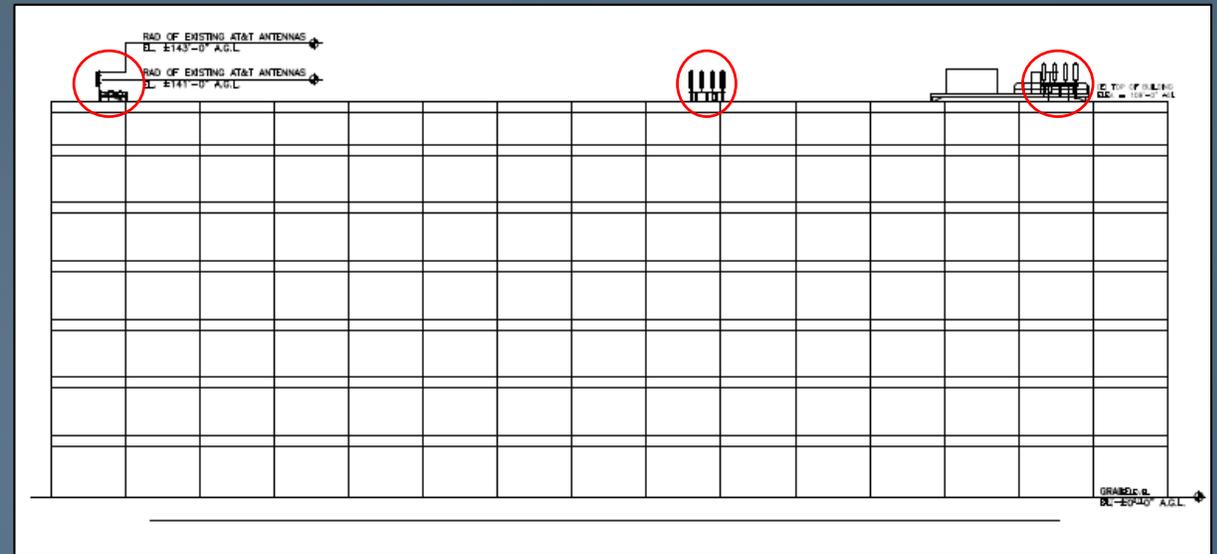
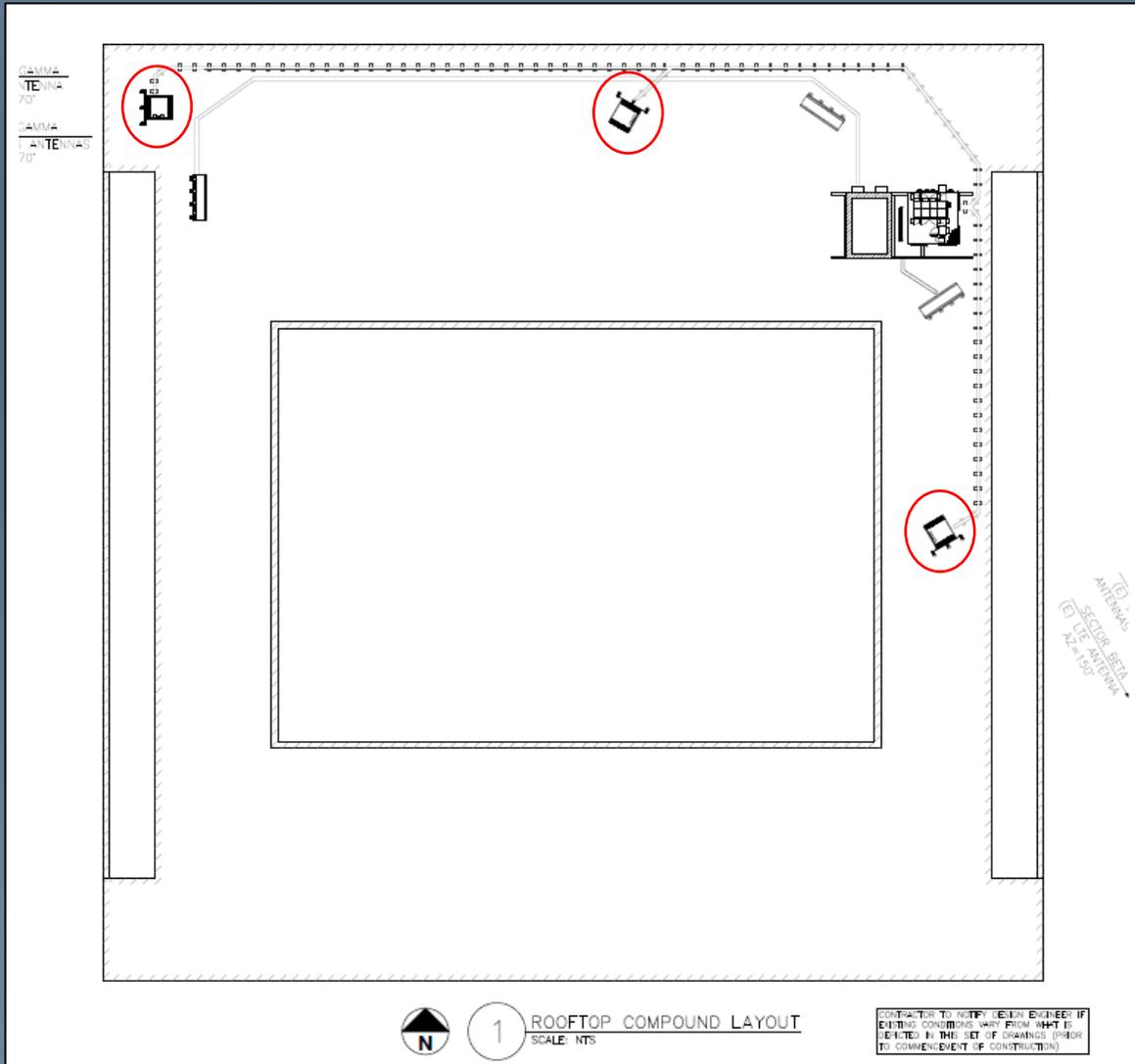


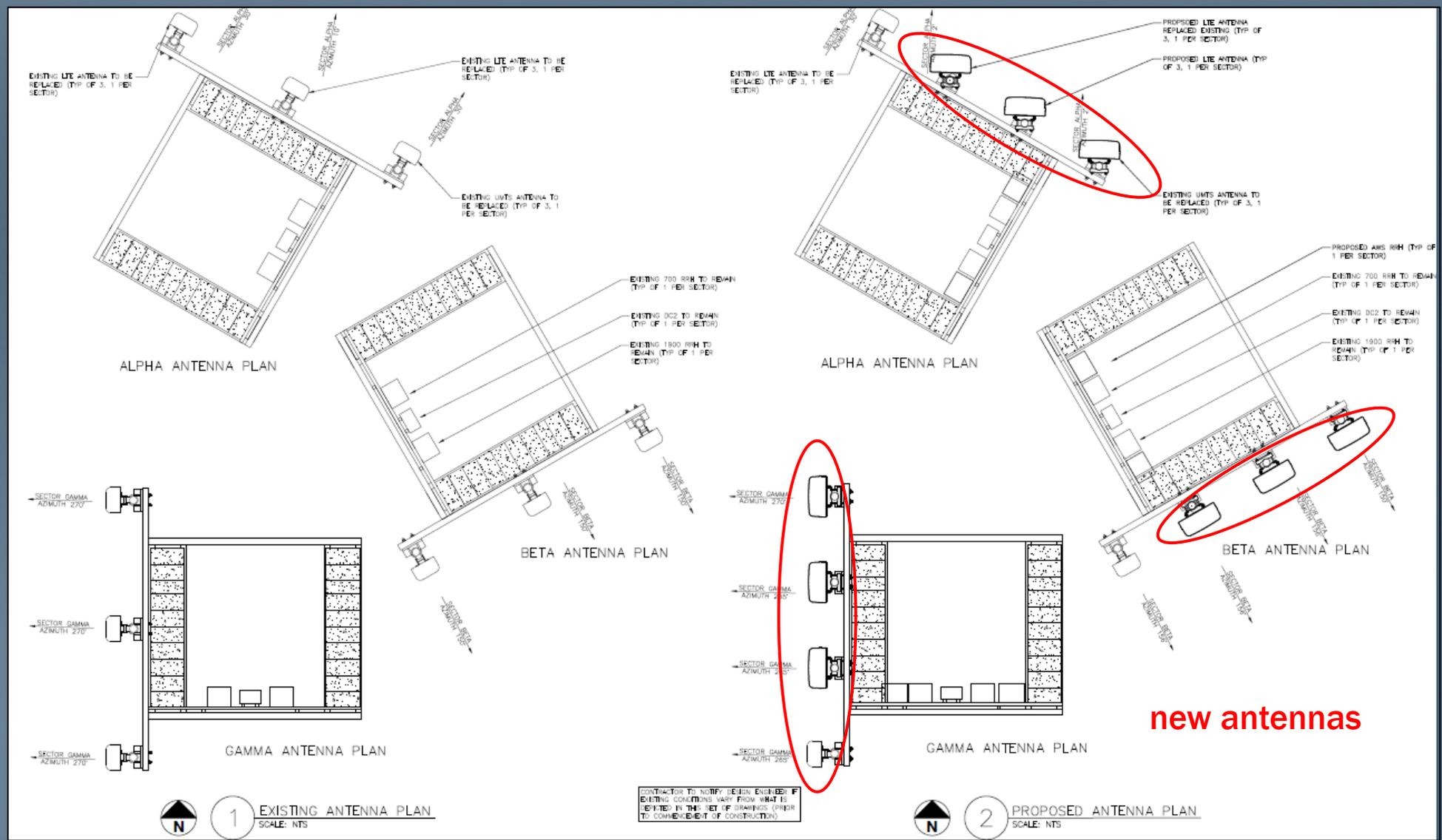


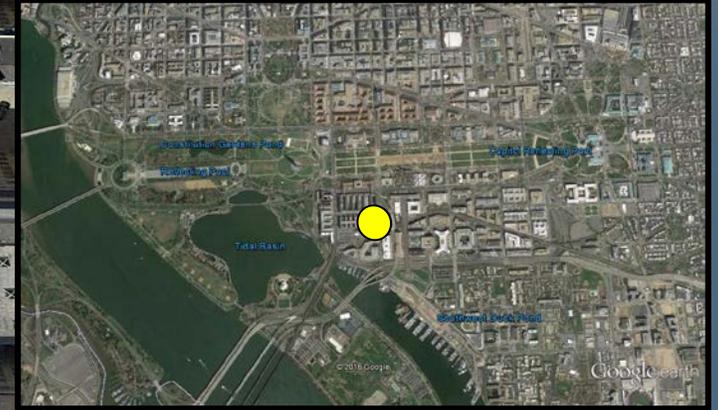
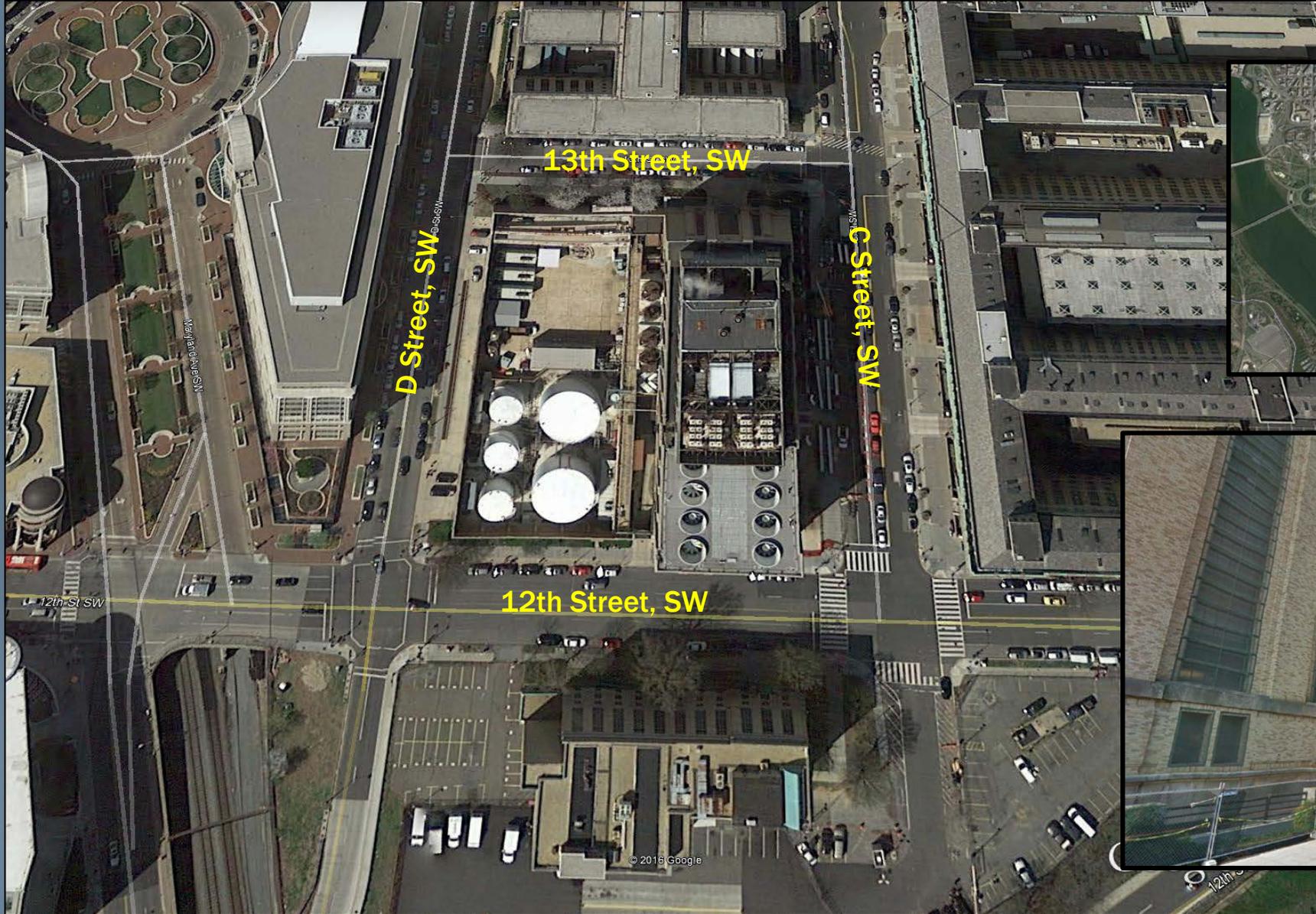


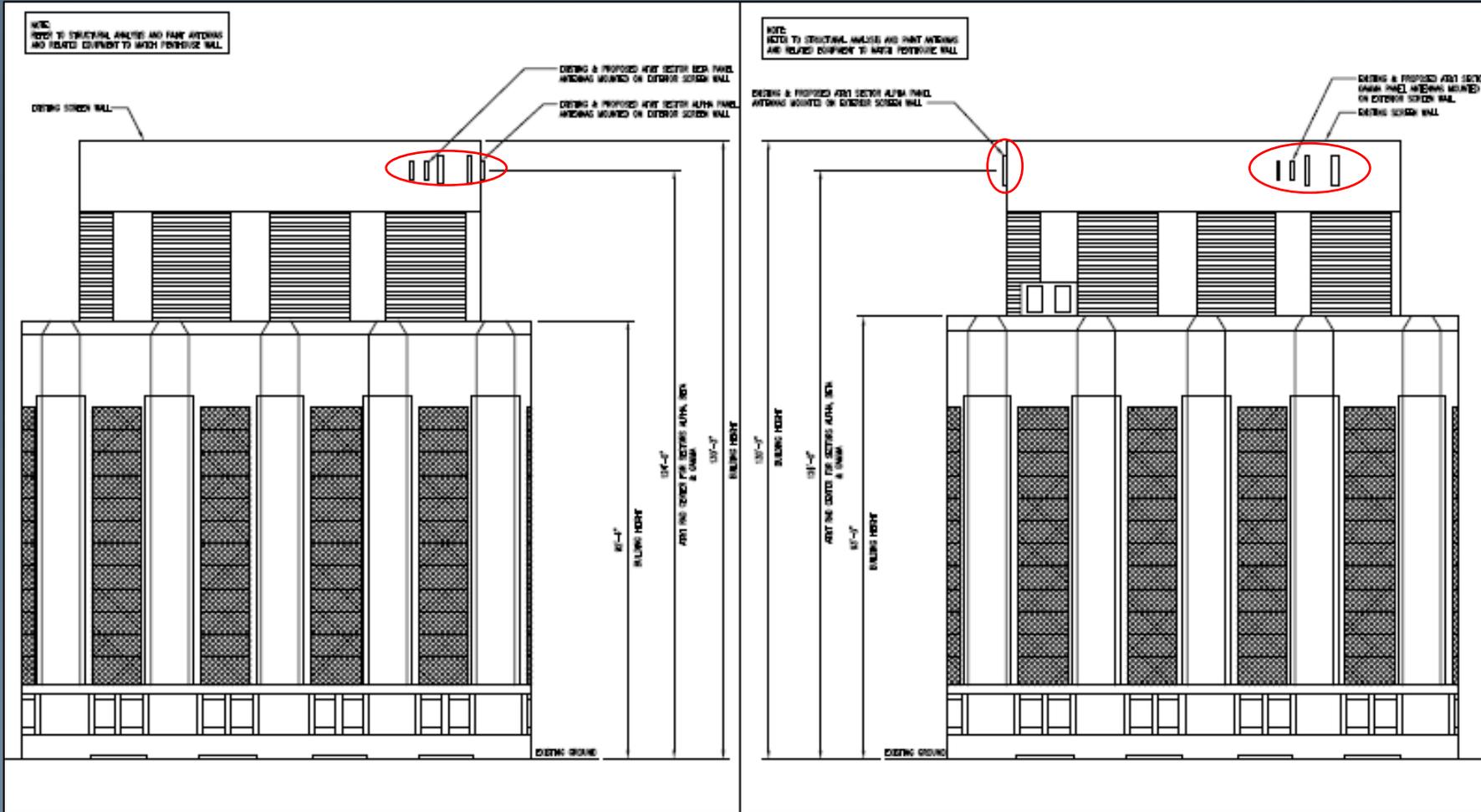
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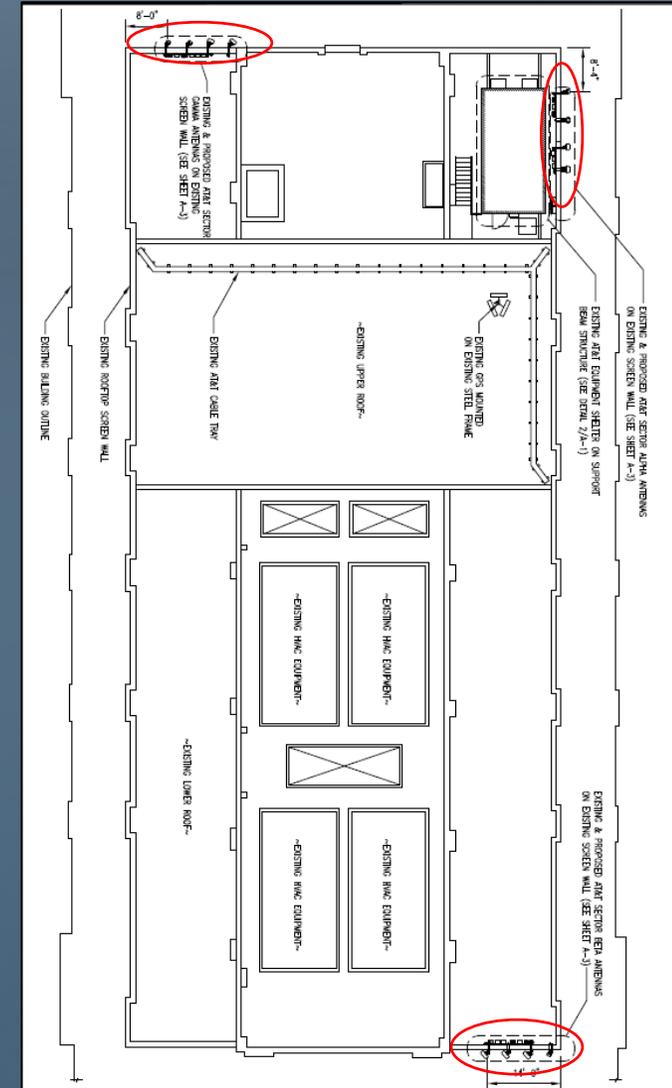








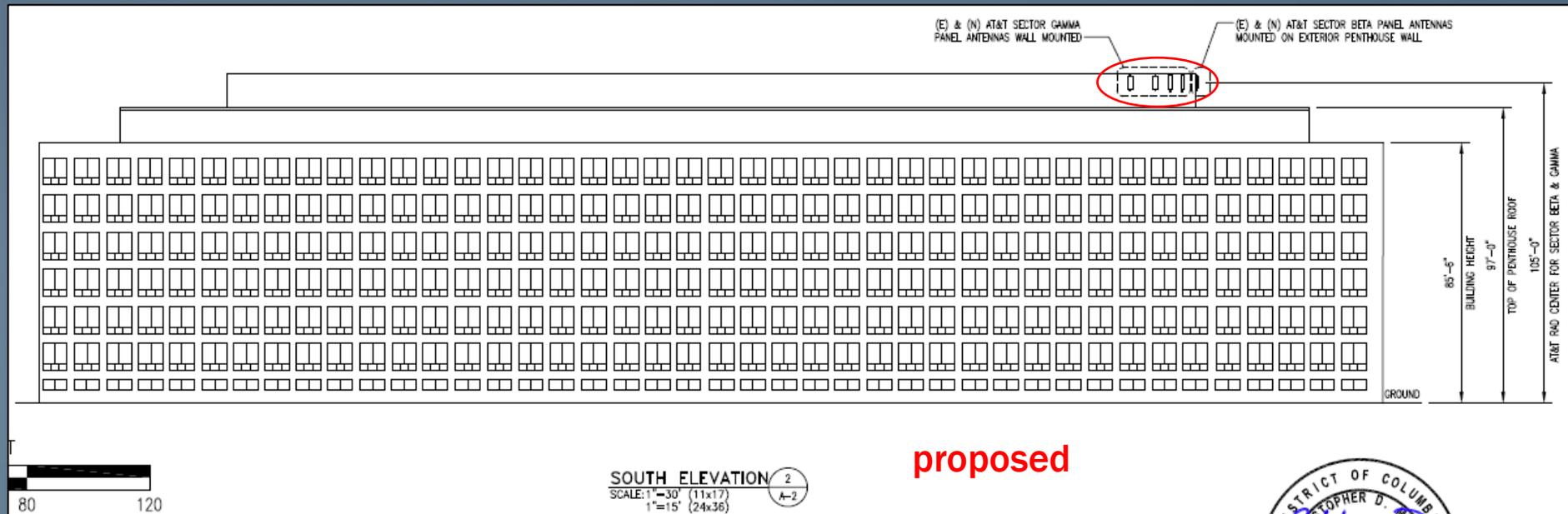
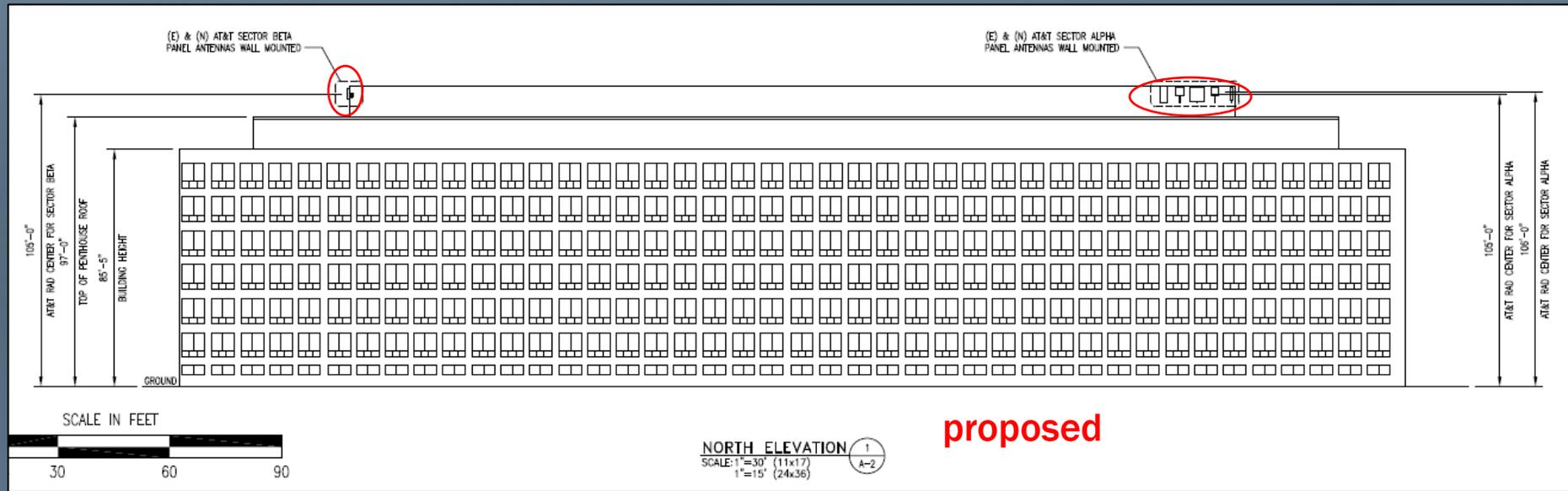
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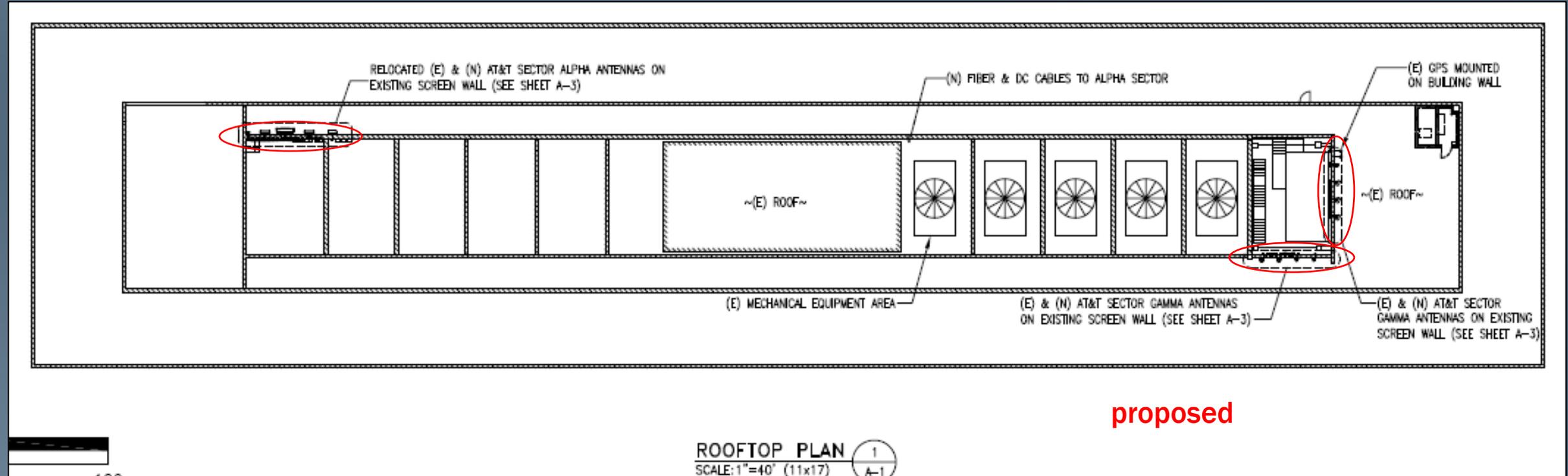


top view

Site Location – Wilbur Wright (FAA) Building

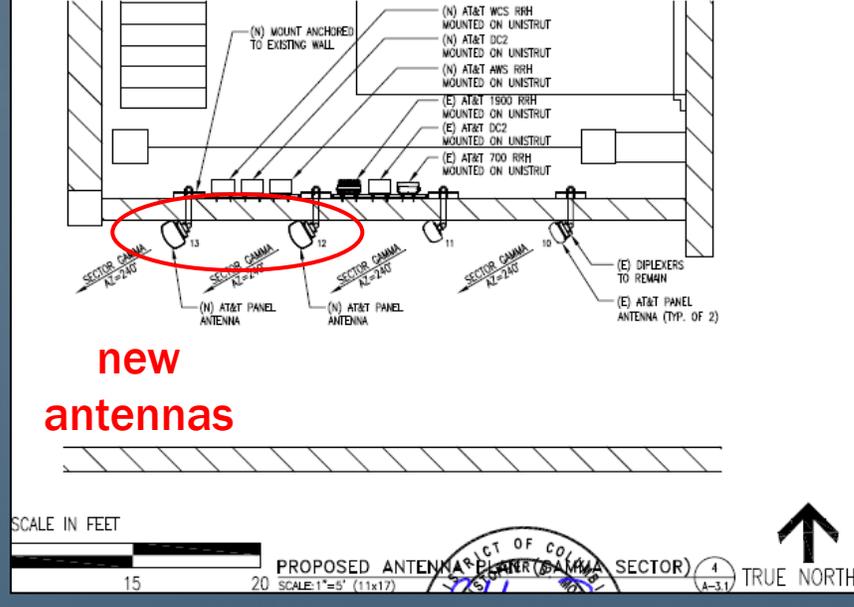
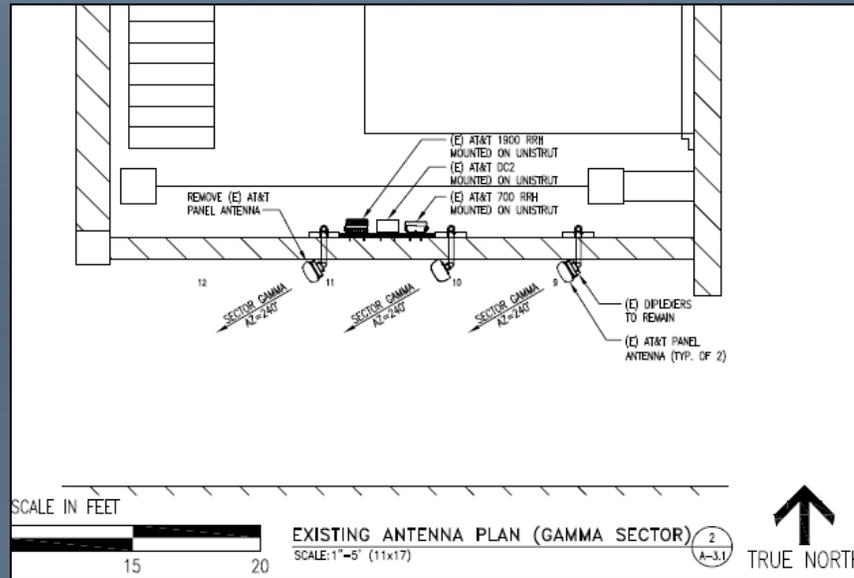
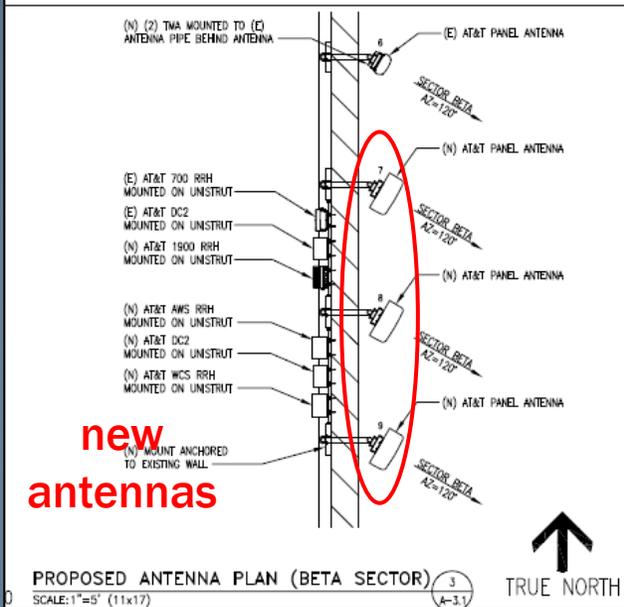
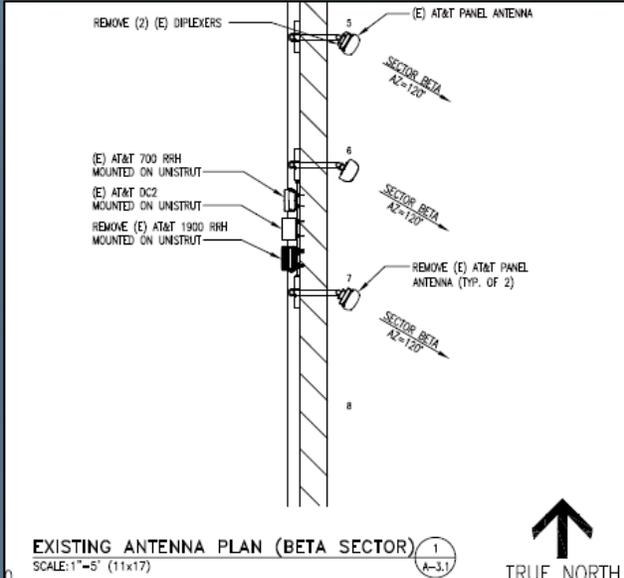


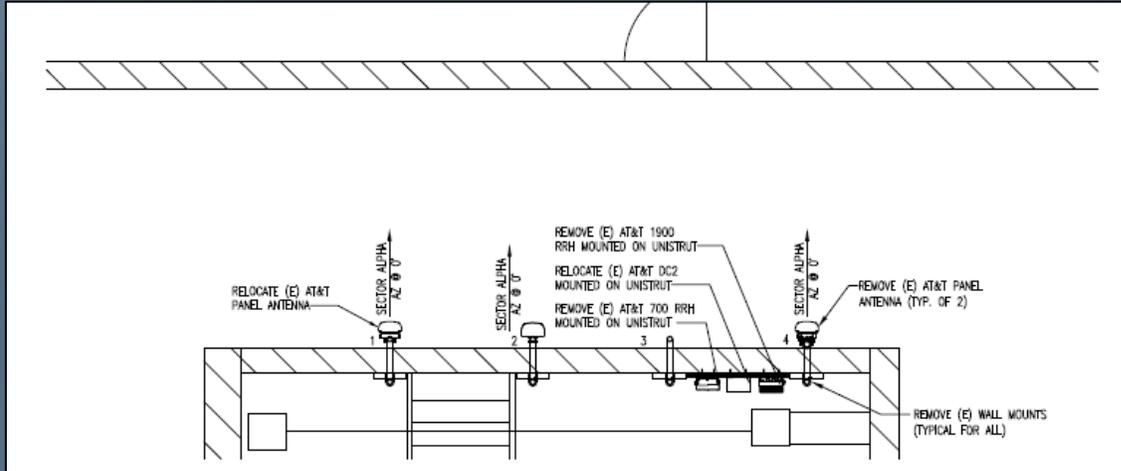




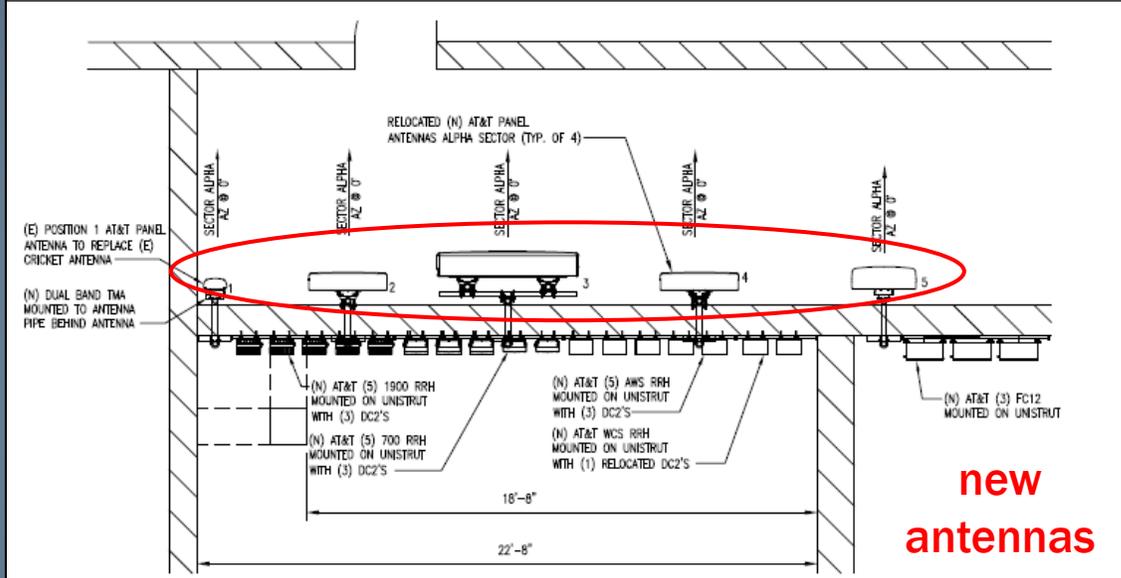
proposed

Site Location – Wilbur Wright (FAA) Building



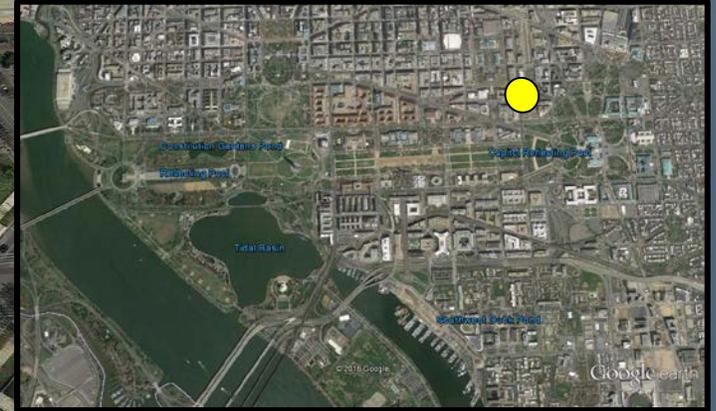
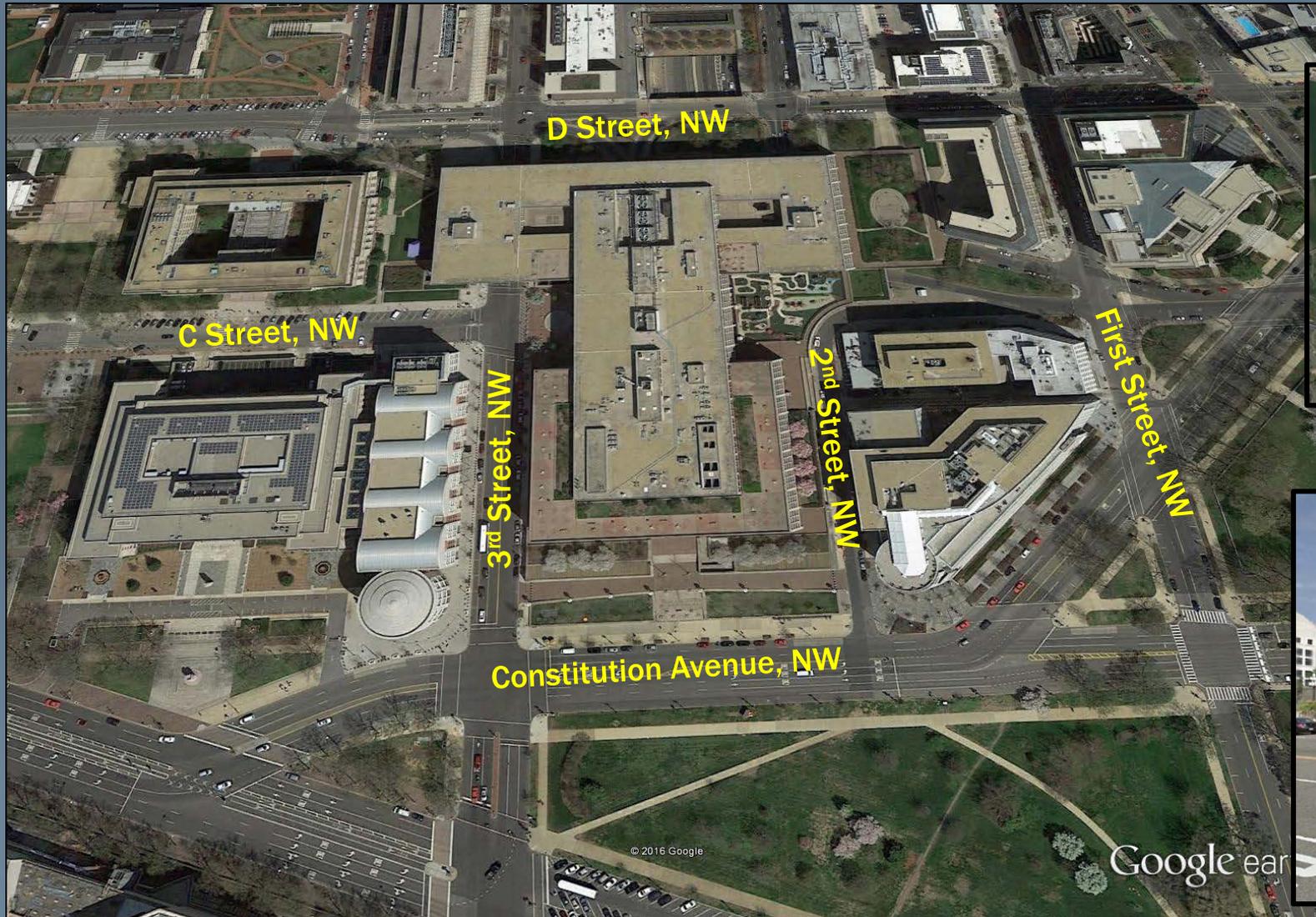


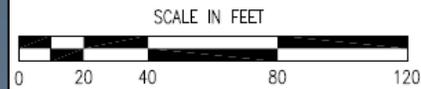
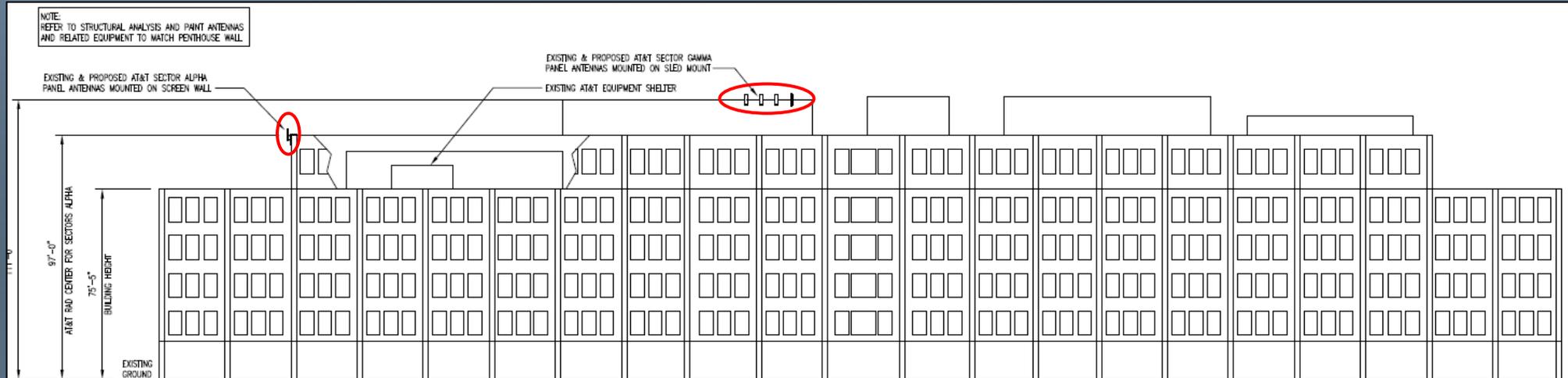
EXISTING ANTENNA PLAN (ALPHA SECTOR) 1
SCALE: 1"=5' (11x17) A-3



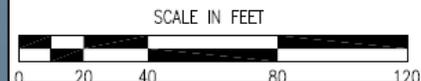
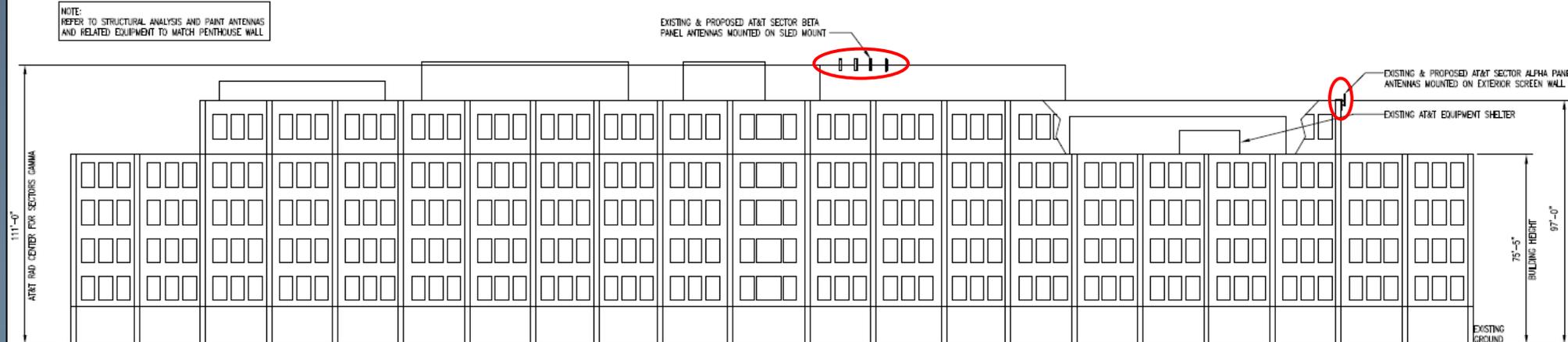
PROPOSED ANTENNA PLAN (ALPHA SECTOR) 2
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Site Location – Frances Perkins (Dept. of Labor) Building





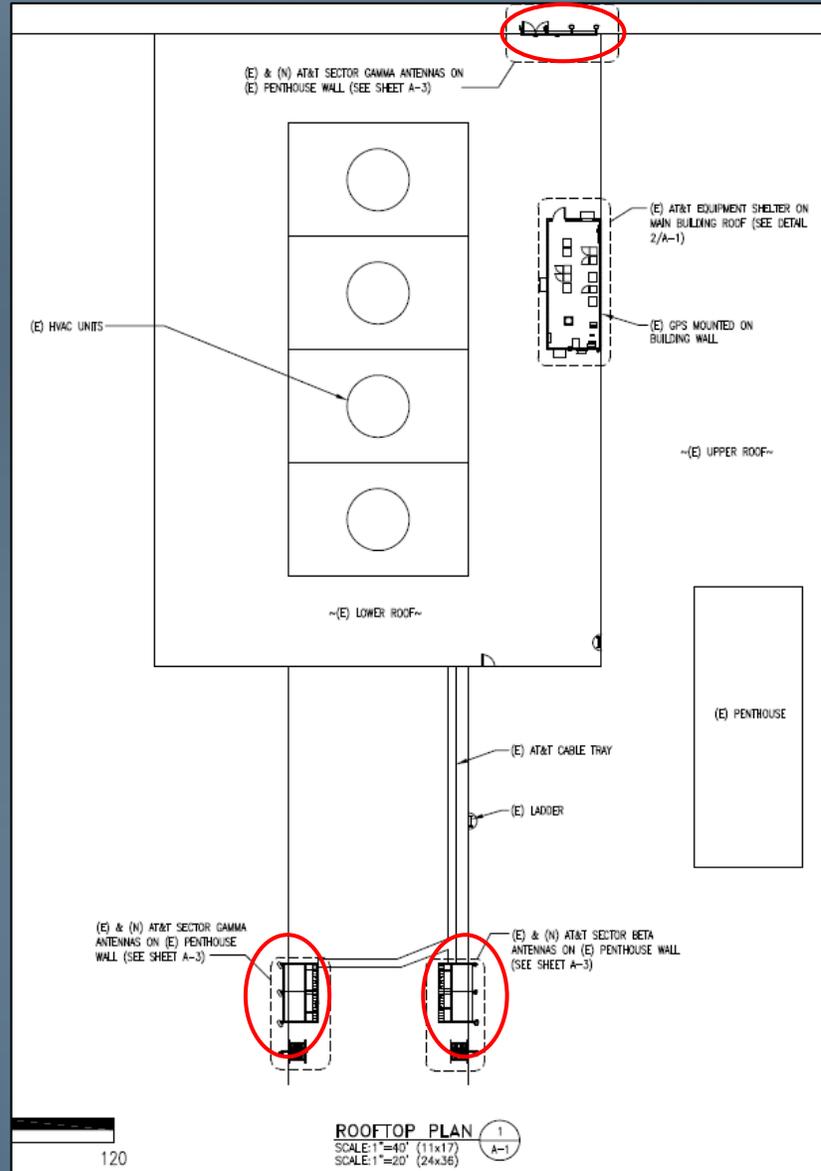
WEST ELEVATION 1
SCALE: 1"=40' (11x17)
SCALE: 1"=20' (24x36) A-2



EAST ELEVATION 1
SCALE: 1"=40' (11x17)
SCALE: 1"=20' (24x36) A-2



Site Location – Frances Perkins (Dept. of Labor) Building



Site Location – Frances Perkins (Dept. of Labor) Building

