



Executive Director's Recommendation

Commission Meeting: June 6, 2019

PROJECT Antenna Installation United States Department of Agriculture - South Building 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, DC	NCPC FILE NUMBER 8073
SUBMITTED BY United States General Services Administration	NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER 1.74(38.30)44930
REVIEW AUTHORITY Federal Projects in the District per 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1) and (d)	APPLICANT'S REQUEST Approval of preliminary and final site development plans
	PROPOSED ACTION Approve preliminary and final site development plans
	ACTION ITEM TYPE Consent Calendar

PROJECT SUMMARY

The United States General Services Administration (GSA) has submitted a proposal to install four panel antennas at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) South building to complete the multi-carrier installation that began in November 2016. GSA notes that the Commission has approved five existing antennas on this roof in various locations and another 12 antennas have been approved but not been installed. All of these antennas were reviewed and approved by the Commission in 2016 and 2018.

This current proposal consists of four antennas: three of which will be mounted on the sides of existing rooftop penthouses while a fourth antenna will be located on an existing antenna screen enclosure. Two of the proposed mounted antennas will be located on the northeast equipment penthouse located on the USDA South Building roof nearest to 12th & Independence Avenue. A third antenna will be mounted on another equipment penthouse located on the southwest roof of the USDA South Building nearest to 14th & C Street. The fourth antenna will be located on the flat roof area that fronts Independence Avenue, SW and attached to an existing antenna enclosure. These antennas, each of which are 18 inches tall and 14 inches wide, will be installed and maintained by Extenet, a telecommunications infrastructure firm.

All elements of the installation will be detailed to match the approved 2016 and 2018 submissions. The proposed Extenet antenna installation at USDA is unique in that it serves four carriers. In the past GSA has typically received individual submissions from carriers, but in this case the carriers will be able to utilize the antenna installation provided by Extenet allowing for a uniform installation of all the antennas located on the building.

KEY INFORMATION

- The Commission approved antennas in both 2016 and 2018 on the rooftop of this building.
- The installation will be detailed to match the approved 2016 and 2018 submissions.
- The proposed antenna installation is unique in that it serves four carriers allowing for a uniform installation across the building.

RECOMMENDATION

The Commission:

Approves the preliminary and final site development plans to install four antennas on the roof of the United States Department of Agriculture South Building.

PROJECT REVIEW TIMELINE

Previous actions	November 2016 – approved preliminary and final plans for 5 antennas on the USDA South Building roof October 2018 – approved preliminary and final plans for 12 antennas on the USDA South Building roof.
Remaining actions (anticipated)	– None

PROJECT ANALYSIS

Executive Summary

GSA has submitted a proposal for four antennas at the USDA South building to complete the multi-carrier antenna installation at this building that began in November 2016. The prior installations utilized existing features of the building to help minimize the visibility of these antennas thereby lessening their impact on views and the historic resources. Staff is also supportive of coordinating the location of antenna equipment for multiple carriers which can further reduce visual impacts. Staff encourages GSA to continue to work with providers to continue this effort.

Analysis

GSA is proposing four new antennas for the roof of the USDA South Building. The following is an analysis of each site.

Penthouse Mounted Antennas

GSA states in the submittal that three of the antennas will be mounted on two existing penthouses. One penthouse is located on the building's roof near the intersection of Independence and 12th Street, SW and the other penthouse is near the intersection of 14th and C Streets, SW. GSA also notes that each new panel antenna will be positioned in front of an existing penthouse window opening. These windows are painted a dark color that makes them less prominent in their appearance on the penthouse facades. GSA notes that antennas will be painted to match this dark look and will therefore not be pronounced. This is consistent with the previously approved antenna installations.

Enclosure Mounted Antenna

The fourth antenna will be located adjacent to an enclosure for an existing spherical antenna that was approved and installed in 2016. While the proposed antenna will be placed outside the stealth enclosure, it will be set to the rear of this antenna enclosure and will not extend above it which will minimize visibility. All elements of the installation will be detailed to match the approved 2016 and 2018 submissions.

The GSA submittal clearly demonstrates, through the use of before and after photo simulations at each site, that these antennas do not impact any views, barely noticeable by anyone passing by this building. After reviewing the project materials, staff finds that GSA has proposed four antennas that will only be minimally visible on the roof of the USDA South Building. Staff therefore would recommend that the Commission **approve the four antennas on the roof the United States Department of Agriculture South Building.**

CONFORMANCE TO EXISTING PLANS, POLICIES AND RELATED GUIDANCE

Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital

Staff finds that this project is consistent with the relevant policies contained within the Urban Design Elements of the Comprehensive Plan particularly those pertaining to the placement of rooftop antennas on federal buildings.

National Historic Preservation Act

GSA has a responsibility for the project under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. In a letter to the DCSHPO dated, March 28, 2019, GSA determined that the proposed installation of the four rooftop antennas will no adverse effect on the historic USDA South

Building or adjacent historic resources. The DC State Historic Preservation Office concurred with this finding on April 9, 2019. Due to its review authority over the project, NCPC has an independent obligation to carry out the requirements of Section 106 of the NHPA. NCPC has elected to designate GSA as lead agency pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.2(a)(2) to satisfy the Commission's Section 106 responsibility.

National Environmental Policy Act

Pursuant to the regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act, GSA submitted a conclusion that the project is a categorical exclusion based on both the GSA environmental review standards. Due to its review authority over the project, NCPC has an independent obligation to carry out the requirements of NEPA. Staff finds that this project is in conformance with the NCPC Categorical Exclusion requirements under § 601.12 (a)(5) of the Commission's National Environmental Policy Act Regulation. Staff examination finds the proposed antennas, with their location, design, and completed RF review, adhere to the Commission's exclusion requirements.

CONSULTATION

Coordinating Committee

The Coordinating Committee reviewed the proposal at its May 15, 2019 meeting. The Committee forwarded the preliminary and final design to the Commission with the statement that the proposal has been coordinated with all participating agencies. The participating agencies were: NCPC, the DC SHPO (via email); the District Department of Transportation, the District Department of Energy and the Environment, the DC Office of Planning (via email), the National Park Service; the General Services Administration and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

ONLINE REFERENCE

The following supporting documents for this project are available online at www.ncpc.gov:

- Submission Package

Prepared by Carlton Hart
05/30/2019

POWERPOINT (ATTACHED)

United States Department of Agriculture South Building, Antenna Installation

1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington DC

Approval of Preliminary and Final Site Development Plans

United States General Services Administration

Project Summary

Commission Meeting Date: June 6, 2019

NCPC Review Authority: 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1) and (d)

Applicant Request: Approval of Preliminary and Final Site Development Plans

Session: Consent Calendar

NCPC Review Officer: Carlton Hart

NCPC File Number: 8073

Project Summary:

The U.S. General Services Administration has submitted a proposal to install four Verizon panel antennas at the U.S. Department of Agriculture South building to complete the multi-carrier installation that began in November 2016. Two antennas will be mounted at the northeast equipment penthouse located at 12th & Independence Avenue. A third antenna will be placed at the 14th & C Street penthouse and the fourth antenna will be set on the flat roof area that fronts Independence Avenue. These antennas will be installed and maintained by Extenet, a telecommunications infrastructure firm.

The three penthouse antennas will each be positioned in front of a window, which reads as a dark opening and painted to match to be consistent with the previous antenna installations. The fourth antenna will be placed on the flat roof adjacent to the enclosure for an existing spherical antenna that was approved and installed in 2016. The flat roof antenna will be outside of the stealth enclosure, but will be set to the rear and will not extend above the height of the enclosure to minimize visibility. All elements of the installation will be detailed to match the approved 2016 and 2018 submissions. The proposed Extenet antenna installation at USDA is unique in that it serves four carriers. In the past GSA has typically received individual submissions from carriers, but in this case the carriers will be able to utilize the antenna installation provided by Extenet allowing for a uniform installation across the building.

Site Location



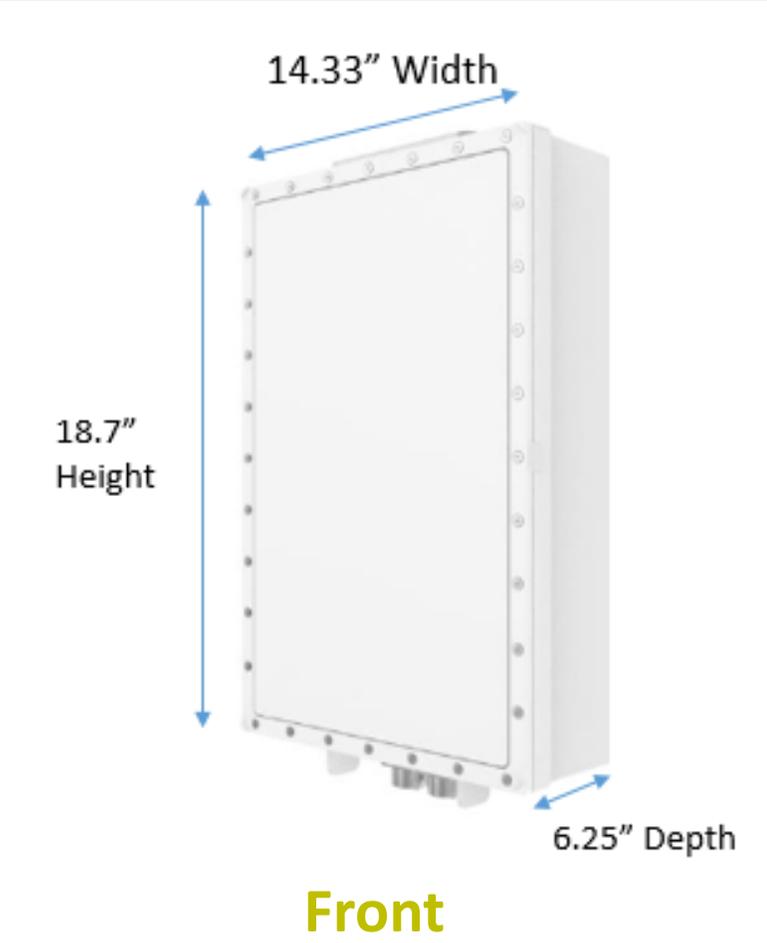
Location Map

USDA South Building - Aerial Photograph



Antenna – Detailed View of Proposed

NOKIA ANTENNA/RADIO MODEL#:
474214A AEUA 28 GHz

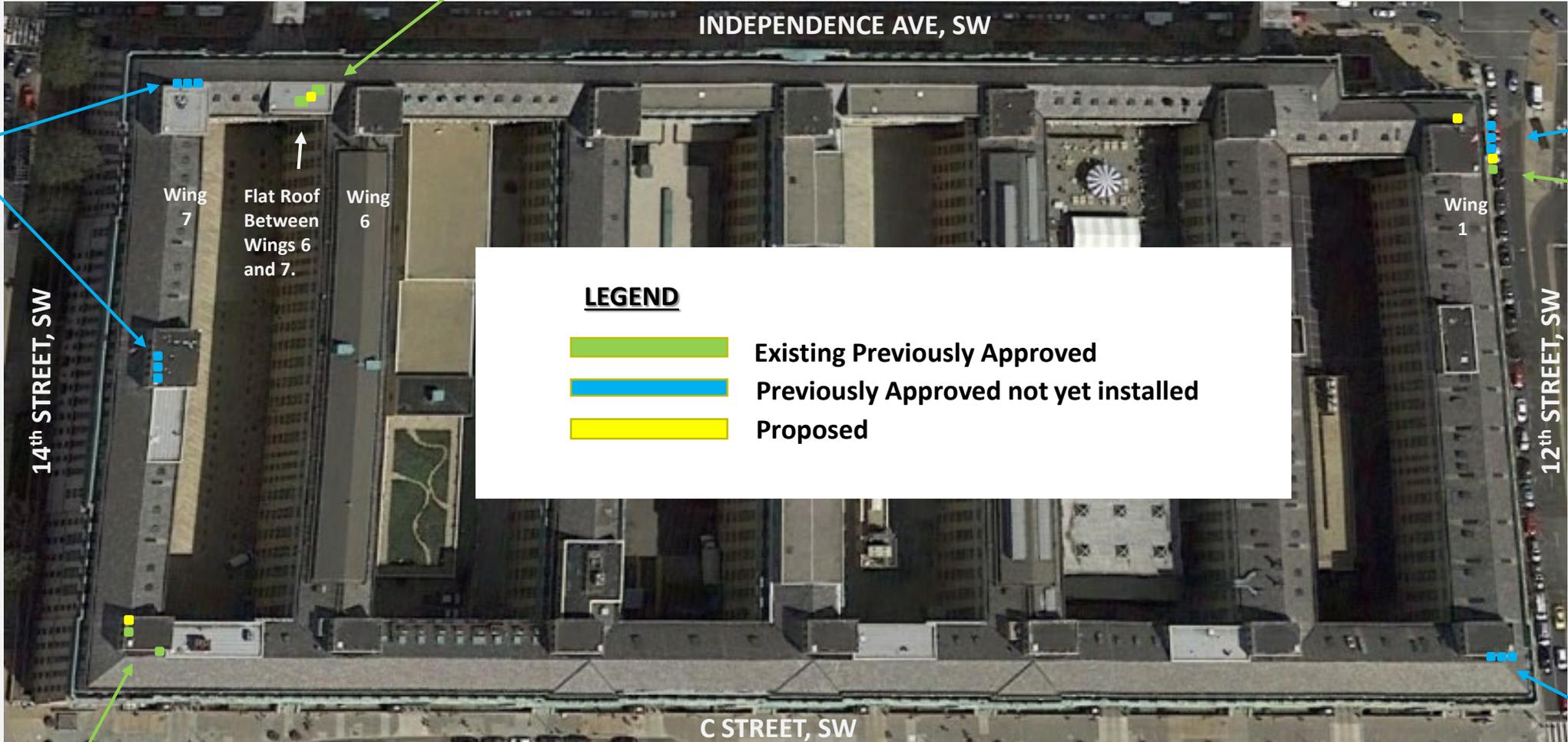


Antennas – Existing and Approved but Not Installed

Two spherical antennas mounted inside stealth boxes on existing telecommunications platform.

Four previously approved panel antennas at east side of NE Penthouse:

- three not yet installed
- one existing



LEGEND

- Existing Previously Approved
- Previously Approved not yet installed
- Proposed



Three panel antennas at north side of NW Penthouse and three panel antennas at west side of Center West PH

Two panel antennas at SW Penthouse (one at south side and one at the west side).

Three panel antennas at the south side of the SE Penthouse

Antennas – Existing, Approved/Not Installed and Proposed

Proposed: One panel antenna to be mounted on existing telecommunications platform.

Two spherical antennas mounted inside stealth boxes on existing telecommunications platform.

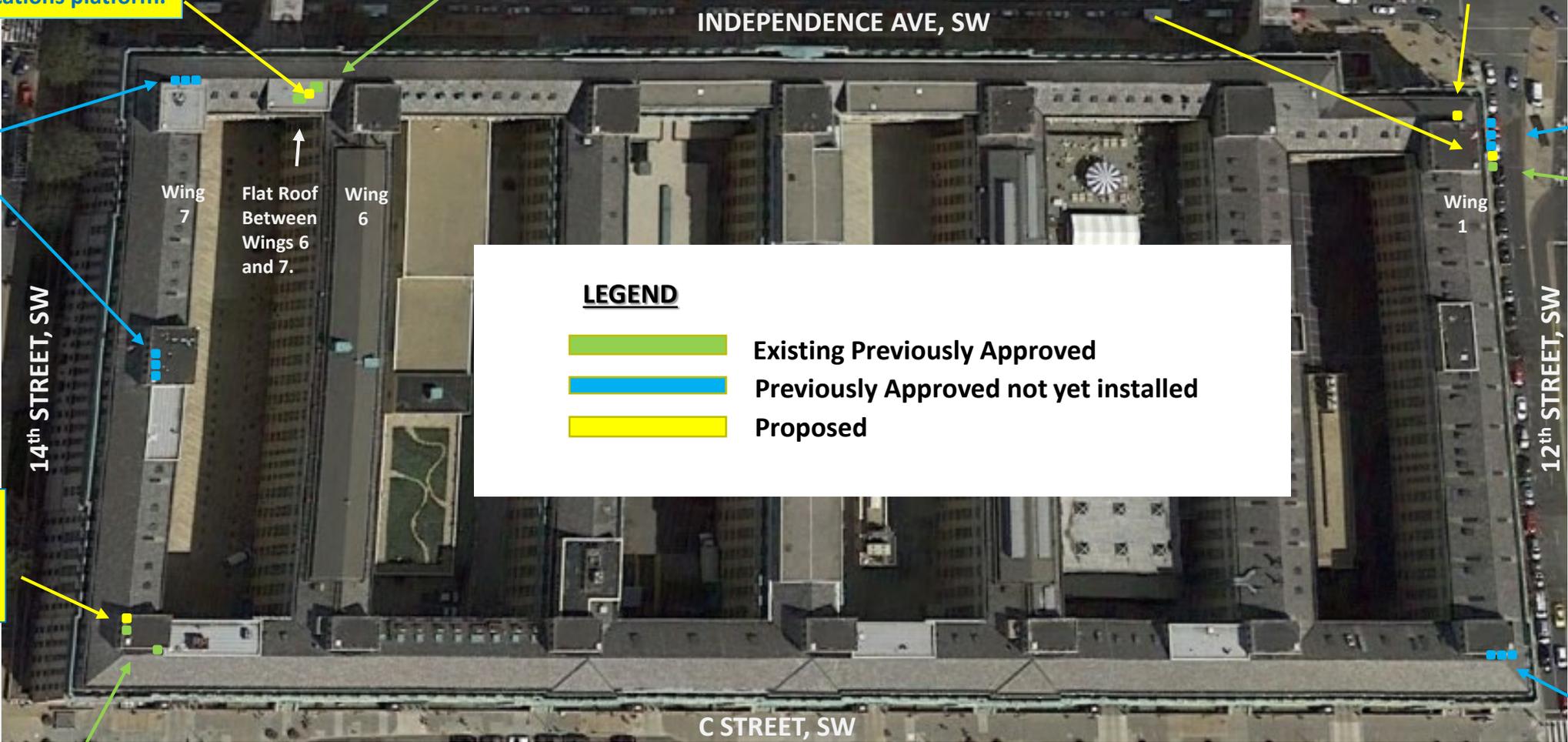
Proposed: One panel antenna at east side of NE Penthouse.

Proposed: One panel antenna at north side of NE Penthouse.

Four previously approved panel antennas at east side of NE Penthouse:

- three not yet installed
- one existing

Three panel antennas at north side of NW Penthouse and three panel antennas at west side of Center West PH



LEGEND

- Existing Previously Approved
- Previously Approved not yet installed
- Proposed

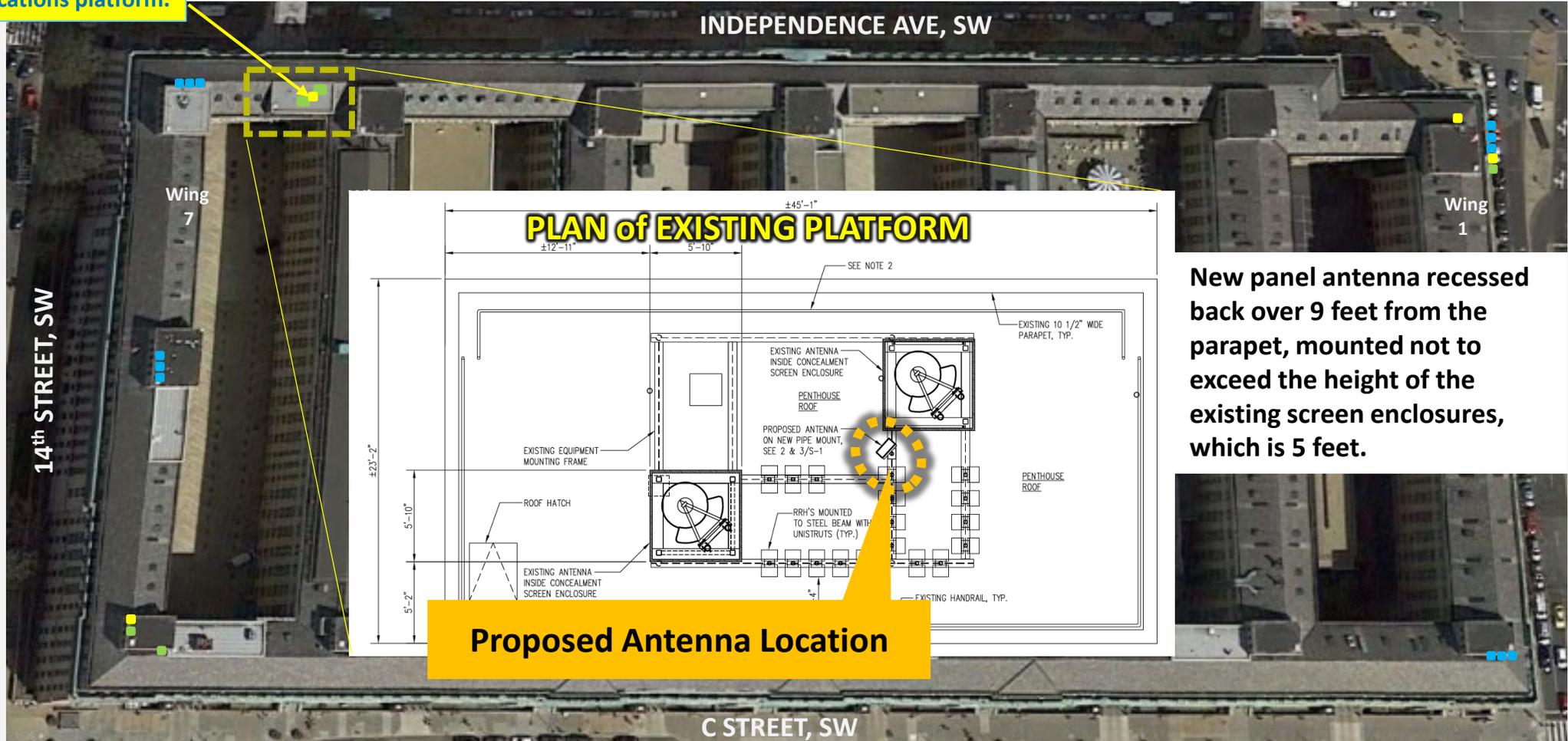
Proposed: One panel antenna at west side of SW penthouse

Two panel antennas at SW Penthouse (one at south side and one at the west side).

Three panel antennas at the south side of the SE Penthouse

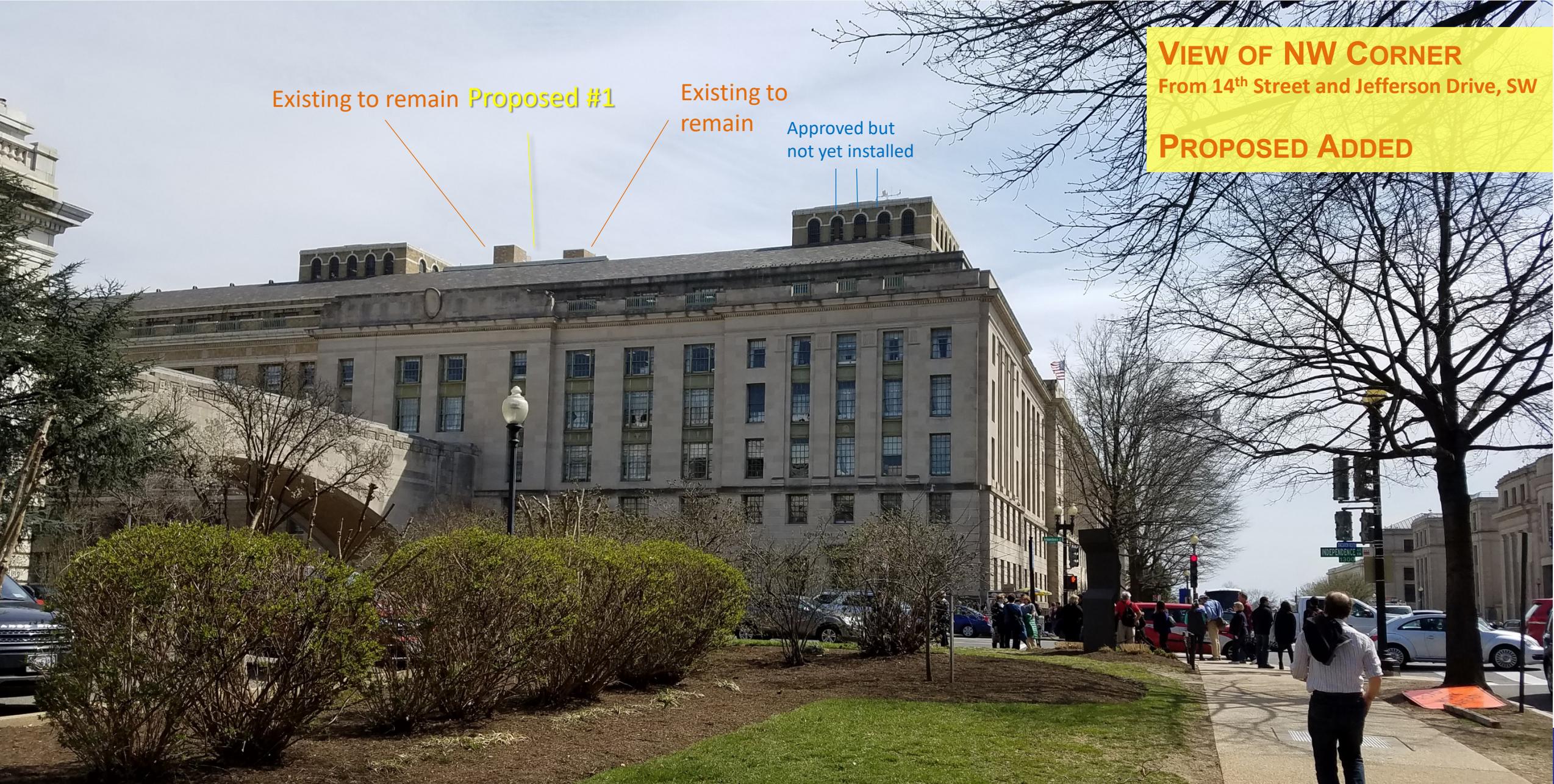
Antenna – 1 Proposed on Existing Telecomm Platform

Proposed: One panel antenna to be mounted on existing telecommunications platform.



New panel antenna recessed back over 9 feet from the parapet, mounted not to exceed the height of the existing screen enclosures, which is 5 feet.

Antenna #1 – Photo simulation with Telecomm Platform



Existing to remain **Proposed #1**

Existing to remain

Approved but not yet installed

VIEW OF NW CORNER
From 14th Street and Jefferson Drive, SW
PROPOSED ADDED

Antenna #1 – Close-up View Photo-simulation

VIEW OF NW CORNER
From 14th Street and Jefferson Drive, SW
PROPOSED ADDED

Existing to remain

Proposed #1

Existing to remain

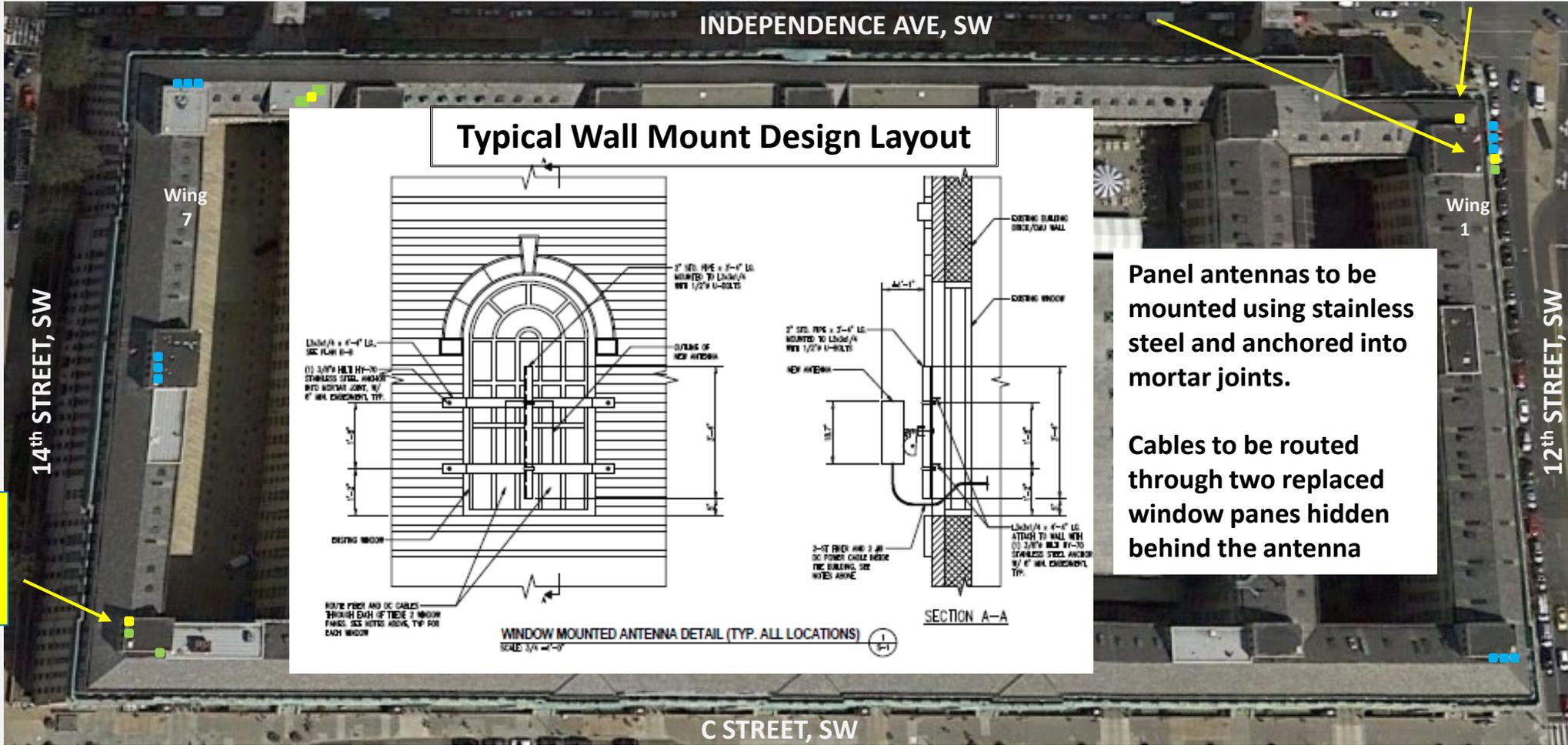
Approved but
not yet installed



Antennas – 3 Proposed on Existing Penthouses

Proposed: One panel antenna at east side of NE Penthouse.

Proposed: One panel antenna at north side of NE Penthouse.



Panel antennas to be mounted using stainless steel and anchored into mortar joints.

Cables to be routed through two replaced window panes hidden behind the antenna

Proposed: One panel antenna at west side of SW penthouse

Antenna #2 – Photo-simulation

Proposed #2

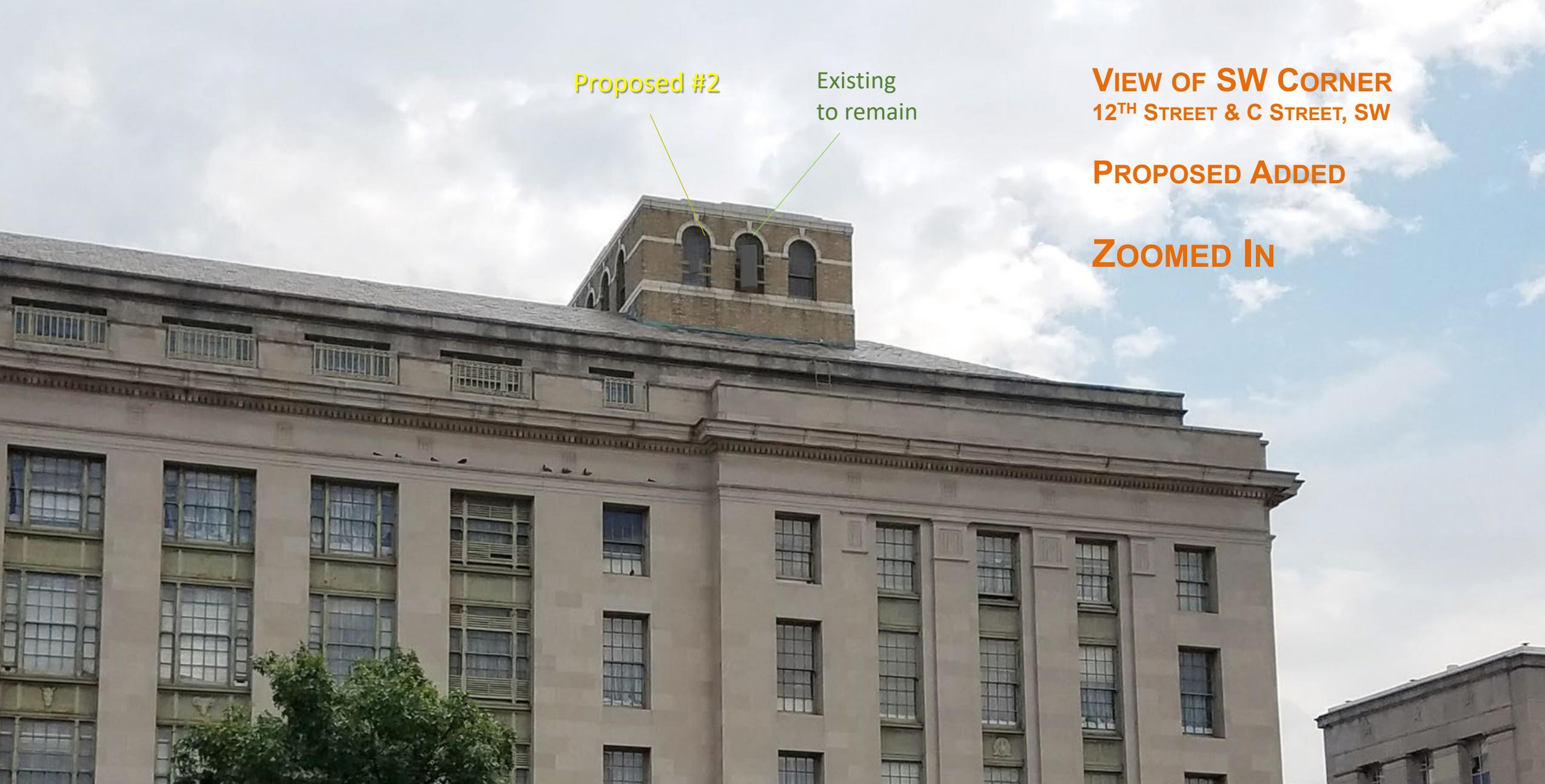
Existing to remain

VIEW OF SW CORNER
12TH STREET & C STREET, SW

PROPOSED ADDED



Antenna #2 – Close-up View



Proposed #2

Existing
to remain

**VIEW OF SW CORNER
12TH STREET & C STREET, SW**

PROPOSED ADDED

ZOOMED IN

Antennas #3 and #4 – Photo-simulation



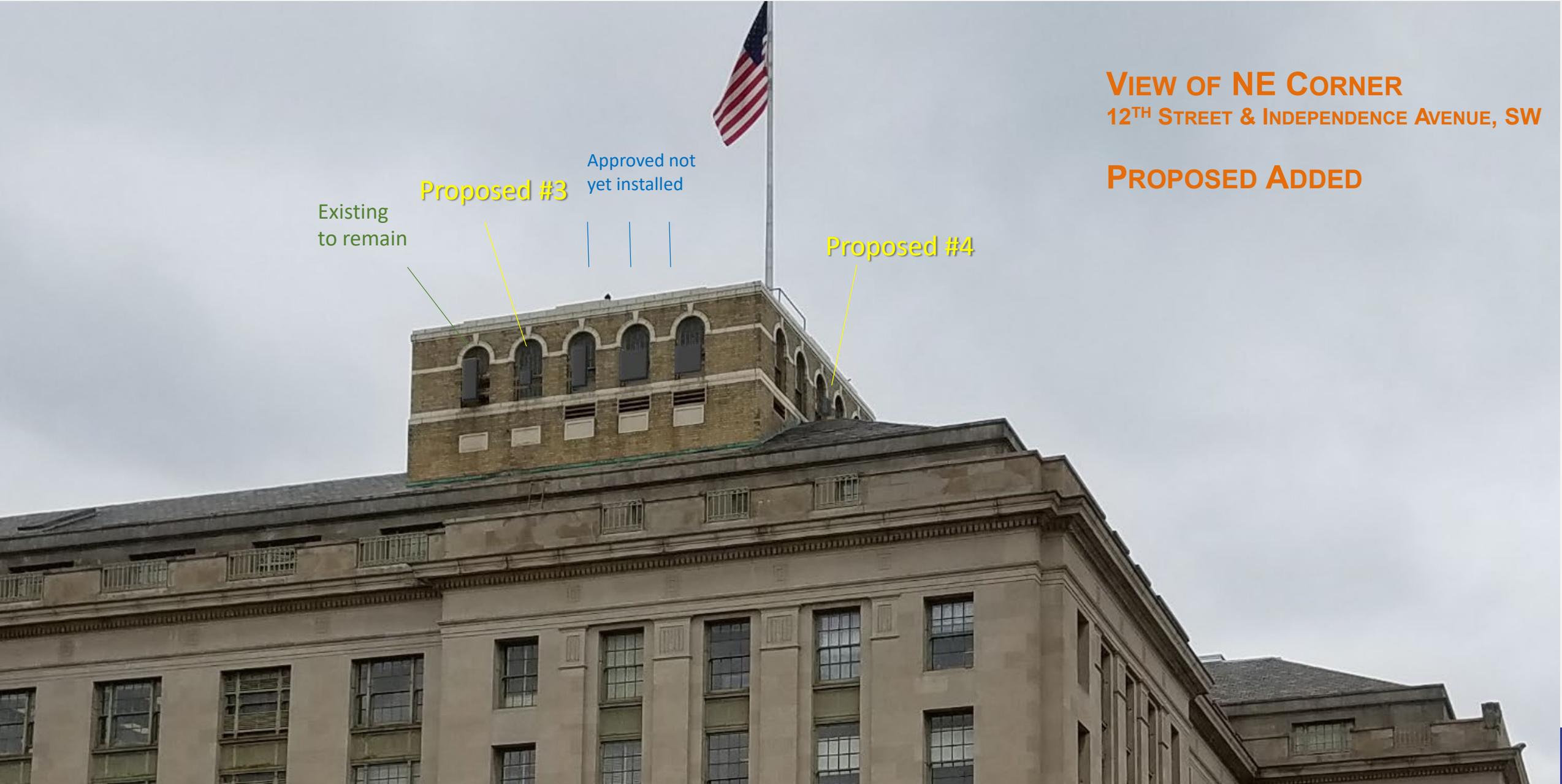
Proposed #3
Existing to remain

Approved not yet installed

Proposed #4

VIEW OF NE CORNER
12TH STREET & INDEPENDENCE AVENUE, SW
PROPOSED ADDED

Antennas #3 and #4 – Close-up View



VIEW OF NE CORNER
12TH STREET & INDEPENDENCE AVENUE, SW

PROPOSED ADDED

Existing
to remain

Proposed #3

Approved not
yet installed

Proposed #4