

Arlington National Cemetery Tomb of Remembrance

National Capital Planning Commission

October 2014 Meeting Submission



Arlington National Cemetery
Tomb of Remembrance

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ARMY NATIONAL MILITARY CEMETERIES
ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22211-5003

August 28, 2014

Mr. Marcel Acosta, Executive Director
National Capital Planning Commission
401 9th Street NW
Washington, DC 20004

Re: Tomb of Remembrance
Arlington National Cemetery

Dear Mr. Acosta:

Arlington National Cemetery requests a project review by the National Capital Planning Commission at its October 2, 2014 public meeting.

The purpose of this project is to design and construct a simple memorial to serve as an ossuary for interring comingled cremated remains of unidentified and unclaimed United States service members. Interments at the Tomb of Remembrance will be performed by a chaplain and one or two cemetery representatives. These interments will not be public ceremonies, but will take place outside of normal visiting hours. The memorial is intended to be designed as a solemn place of respect, invoking a sense of dignity, timelessness and permanence.

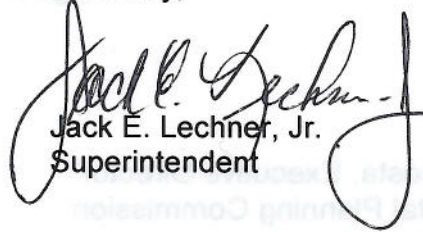
The Tomb of Remembrance is planned for Section 70 of Arlington National Cemetery, at the narrowest point of the site, and situated among future individual in-ground burial sites. In addition to the creation of the memorial, the project addresses another need by incorporating a fully accessible pedestrian path between Patton Drive and the existing Niche Wall.

The ossuary consists of an underground storage vault, a tapered stone shaft element, with a watertight top capable of being closed and secured. The storage vault is a watertight 2,000 gallon capacity cylindrical storage tank which will be set on end to most effectively receive the cremated remains. Seating is incorporated on the opposite side of the path from the memorial to serve as a respite and place for contemplation. We selected materials to be consistent with other existing memorials at Arlington National Cemetery and for durability to minimize requirements for maintenance. A semi-circular raised granite element with a sloped top surface will be located behind the ossuary shaft with an inscription commemorating the interred remains.

The Norfolk District of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers is working with us on this important project for Arlington National Cemetery.

We respectfully request your review of the design and await your recommendation at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,


Jack E. Lechner, Jr.
Superintendent



Re: Tomb of Remembrance
Arlington National Cemetery

Dear Mr. Acosta:

Arlington National Cemetery requests a project review by the National Capital Planning Commission at its October 2, 2014 public meeting.

The purpose of this project is to design and construct a simple memorial to serve as an ossuary for interring cremated remains of unidentified and unclaimed United States service members interred at the Tomb of Remembrance. These interments will not be a chaplain and one or two cemetery representatives. These interments will not be public ceremonies, but will take place outside of normal visiting hours. The memorial is intended to be designed as a solemn place of respect, involving a sense of dignity, timeliness and permanence.

The Tomb of Remembrance is planned for Section 70 of Arlington National Cemetery, at the narrowest point of the site, and situated among future individual in-ground burial sites. In addition to the creation of the memorial, the project addresses another need by incorporating a fully accessible pedestrian path between Patton Drive and the existing Nichols Wall.

The ossuary consists of an underground storage vault, a tapered stone shaft element with a watertight top capable of being closed and secured. The storage vault is a watertight 2,000 gallon capacity cylindrical storage tank which will be set on end to most effectively receive the cremated remains. Seating is incorporated on the opposite side of the path from the memorial to serve as a resting place for contemplation. We selected materials to be consistent with other existing memorials at Arlington National Cemetery and for durability to minimize requirements for maintenance. A semi-circular raised granite element with a sloped top surface will be located behind the ossuary shaft with an inscription commemorating the interred remains.

The Norfolk District of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers is working with us on this important project for Arlington National Cemetery.

Project Report

Tomb of Remembrance
Arlington National Cemetery

Agency Project Manager: Kent Carson, Deputy Chief Engineer, Arlington National Cemetery (703) 614-0105; kent.carson@us.army.mil

Project Narrative

The purpose of this project is to design and construct a simple memorial to serve as an ossuary for interring comingled cremated remains of unidentified and unclaimed United States service members. The Tomb of Remembrance is planned for Section 70 of Arlington National Cemetery, across Patton Drive to the northeast of the Ossuary Complex. It is located at the narrowest point of the site between Patton Drive and the Niche Wall, and is situated among future individual in-ground burial sites. In addition to the creation of the memorial, the project addresses another need by incorporating a fully accessible pedestrian path between Patton Drive and the existing Niche Wall, thus providing much needed access for all visitors.

The existing site, as can be seen from accompanying photos, is a relatively flat grassy area, approximately 65 feet wide, with a concrete curb along Patton Drive, and a flagstone path along the Niche Wall. The area surrounding the memorial will ultimately have 5 x 5 foot burial plots with headstones that will come to within approximately 20 feet of the path. There are existing trees that have been planted along the flagstone path and along Patton Drive that will remain. The memorial and path will be fit into this tree pattern in a location where there is a missing tree. Additional compact ornamental shade trees will be planted around the memorial to provide shade. The path will closely follow existing grade, minimizing site disturbance, but will provide a fully accessible path, which will consist of lightly textured granite pavers.

At the midpoint of the path there is a slight bend, and it is at this point that the memorial and underground vault for cremated remains are located. On the north side of the path, there is a semi-circular enlargement of the path width, which is bordered by a semi-circular angled and raised inscription stone which commemorates the interred remains. In front of that inscription stone is the ossuary (vault) access shaft, which provides the means by which the cremated remains are placed in the underground vault. The form of this ossuary shaft element is drawn from the shape of a stone cairn, which has historically been used to mark communal grave sites. The stone chosen for this element is not the rough textured, more rustic stonework that might be seen on historic cairns, but rather an interpretation in a more finished form that is more appropriate to the context of the cemetery.

Because of the unusual nature of the interments that occur here, it was important to express the diverse and comingled nature of the remains. This is not a burial site for a single individual, but a location where comingled and partial unidentified remains will be interred on an ongoing basis. As a result, the ossuary shaft enclosure will be made from smaller and varied sizes of granite, and the paving area around this enclosure will be paved with smaller and varied sizes of granite as well. This diverse and varied texture of materials in the shaft enclosure and paving over the underground vault will serve to express the nature of the interred remains that lie below.

Relation to Cemetery Master Plan

This project will provide a congressionally mandated interment site for remains that had formerly been buried at sea. It has been located adjacent to the main ossuary complex at Arlington Cemetery, and will be surrounded by gravesites that will receive other cremated remains. The location has been chosen for its appropriate location adjacent to these other remains, for its appropriate location as a path to provide easy access to the Niche Wall, and in order to minimize the impact upon potential conventional burial sites that will surround it.

Schedule and Budget

The intent is for this facility to be operational in 2015. The project has been funded and the projected construction cost is between \$300,000 and \$500,000.

Environmental Documentation

Documentation has been included in this submission indicating that this project is subject to a categorical exclusion from NEPA requirements as a result of its small size and minimal impact.

Historic Preservation Documentation

Documentation has been included in this submission from the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Historic Resources indicating that this project has been issued a finding of “no adverse effect”.

Maps and Drawings

See attached submission for graphic description of the project.

Record of Environmental Consideration

ANC Record of Environmental Consideration (REC)

To: Joe Bunton

From: Kate Kelley

Project Title: Ossuary Policy and Design

Brief Description: ANC is taking steps to budget, plan, design and construct an ossuary, as directed by the Secretary of the Army.

Anticipated date and/or duration of proposed action: FY13 - FY14

Reason for using record of environmental consideration (choose one):

- a. Adequately covered in an (EA, EIS) entitled _____, dated _____.
The EA/EIS may be reviewed at _____ (location).

OR

- b. Is categorically excluded under the provisions of CX Section II (c)(1), 32 CFR Part 651, Appendix B (and no extraordinary circumstances exist as defined in 32 CFR 651.29(b)), because:
The new construction will not disturb more than 5.0 cumulative acres and will not otherwise pose significant environmental effects.

Date

Project Proponent

28-May-13

Date

Environmental Coordinator

Historic Resources Finding



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Historic Resources

Molly Joseph Ward
Secretary of Natural Resources

2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221

Julie V. Langan
Director
Tel: (804) 367-2323
Fax: (804) 367-2391
www.dhr.virginia.gov

MEMORANDUM

DATE: 22 July 2014 **DHR File #** 2014-0817

TO: Ms Rebecca Stevens
Arlington National Cemetery

FROM: *MHA* Marc E. Holma, Architectural Historian (804) 482-6090
Office of Review and Compliance

PROJECT: "Tomb of Remembrance"
Arlington National Cemetery

☒ This project will have an effect on historic resources. Based on the information provided, the effect will not be adverse.

☐ This project will have an adverse effect on historic properties. Further consultation with DHR is needed under Section 106 of the NHPA.

☐ Additional information is needed before we will be able to determine the effect of the project on historic resources. **Please see attached sheet.**

☐ No further identification efforts are warranted. No historic properties will be affected by the project. Should unidentified historic properties be discovered during implementation of the project, please notify DHR.

☐ We have previously reviewed this project. Attached is a copy of our correspondence.

☐ Other (Please see comments below)

COMMENTS: c: **Mr. John Haynes, USACE**

Administrative Services
10 Courthouse Ave.
Petersburg, VA 23803
Tel: (804) 862-6408
Fax: (804) 862-6196

Capital Region Office
2801 Kensington Avenue
Richmond, VA 23221
Tel: (804) 367-2323
Fax: (804) 367-2391

Tidewater Region Office
14415 Old Courthouse Way
2nd Floor
Newport News, VA 23608
Tel: (757) 886-2818
Fax: (757) 886-2808

Western Region Office
962 Kime Lane
Salem, VA 24153
Tel: (540) 387-5443
Fax: (540) 387-5446

Northern Region Office
5357 Main Street
PO Box 519
Stephens City, VA 22655
Tel: (540) 868-7029
Fax: (540) 868-7033

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Vicinity Map

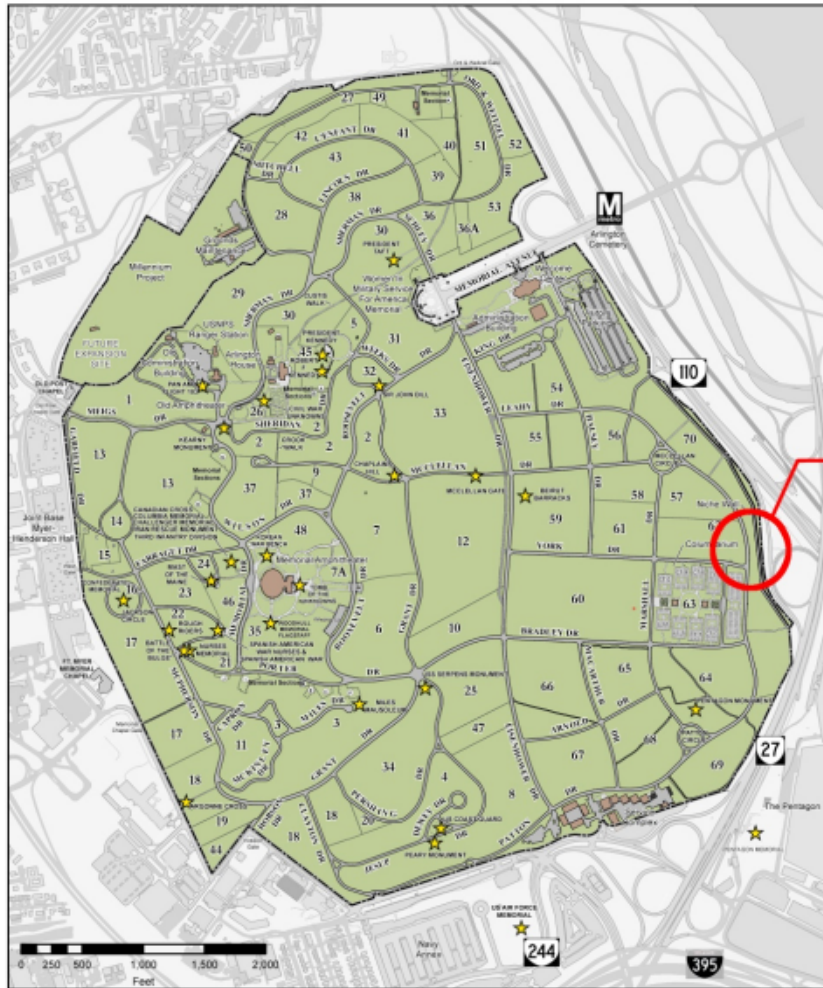


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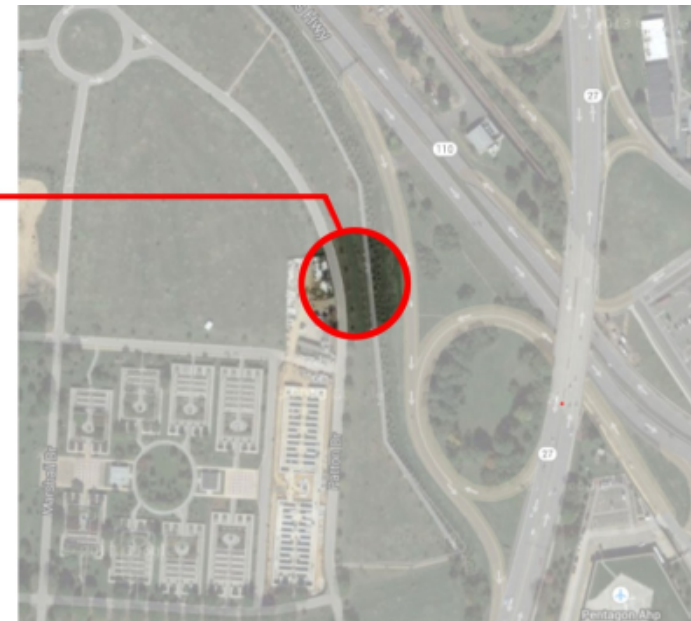
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Project Location



Arlington National Cemetery Map



Arlington National Cemetery Aerial Image



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Site Photos - Existing



Site looking East



Arlington National Cemetery
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Site Photos - Existing



Site looking West



Arlington National Cemetery
Tomb of Remembrance



Site Photos - Existing



Niche Wall looking south

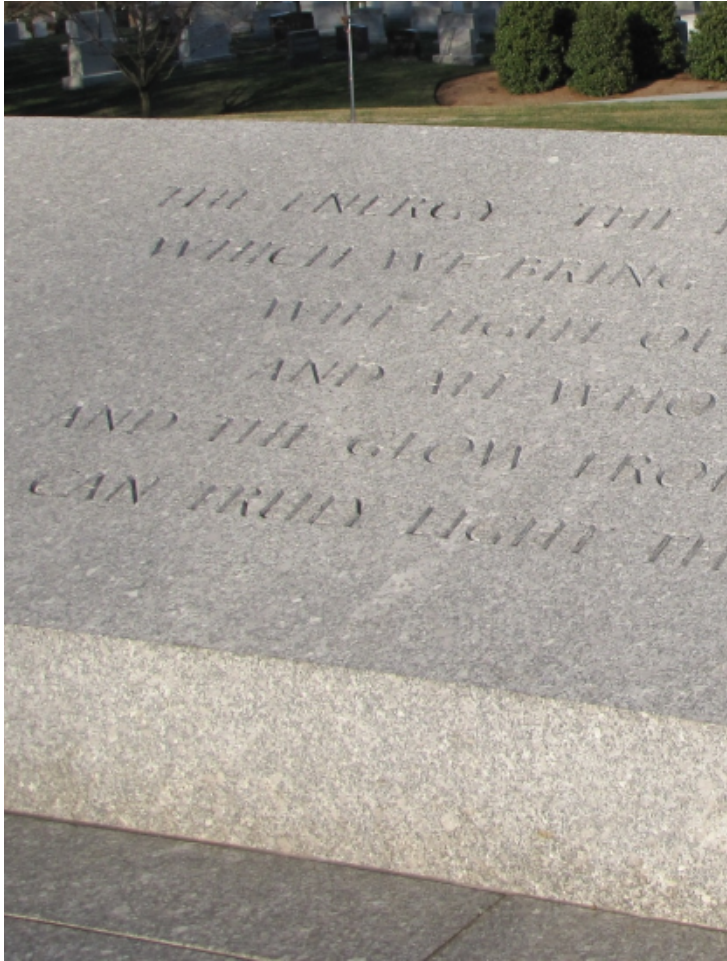


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Materials Use Precedents



Inscription on sloped stone similar to proposed treatment



Existing granite walkway at Arlington National Cemetery

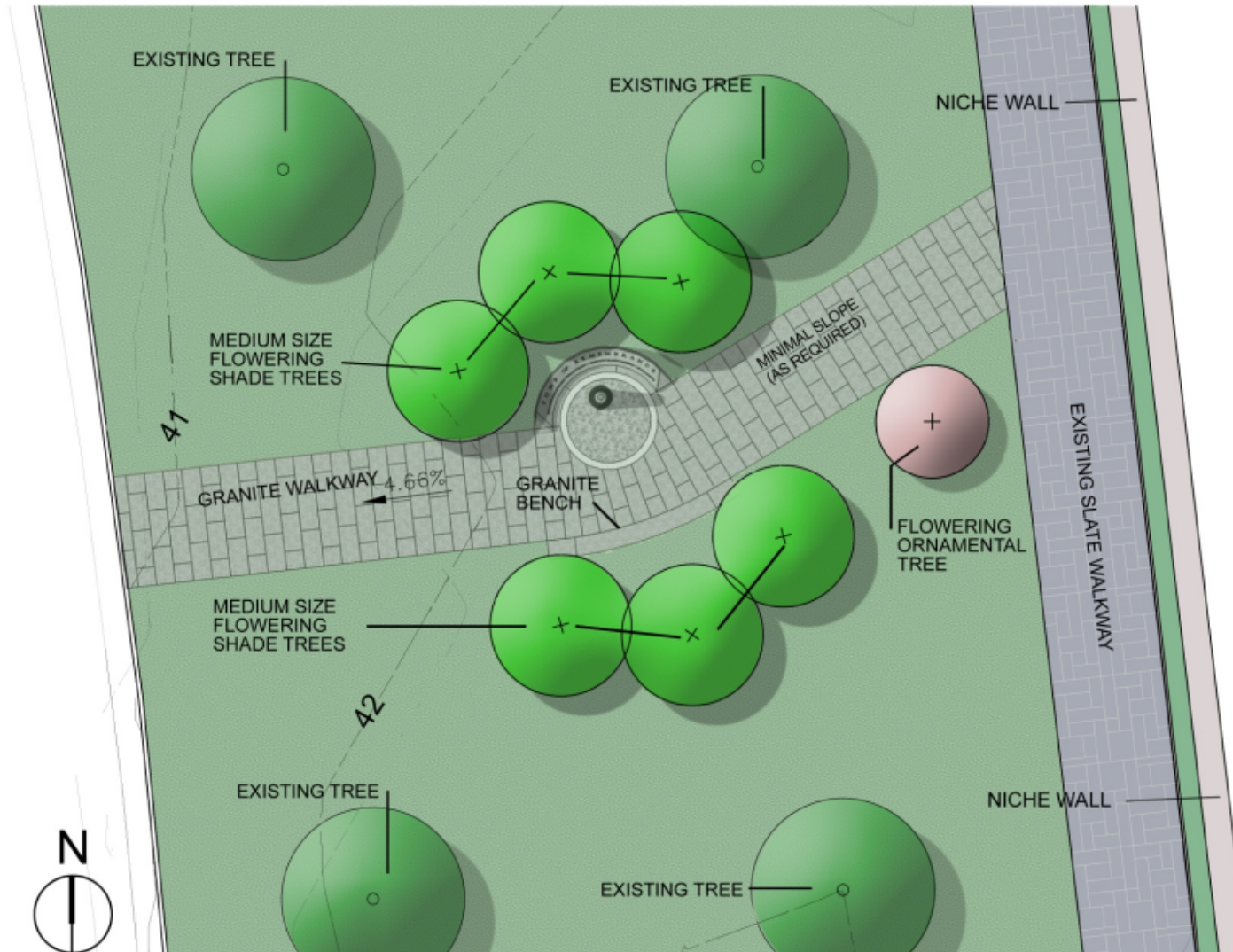


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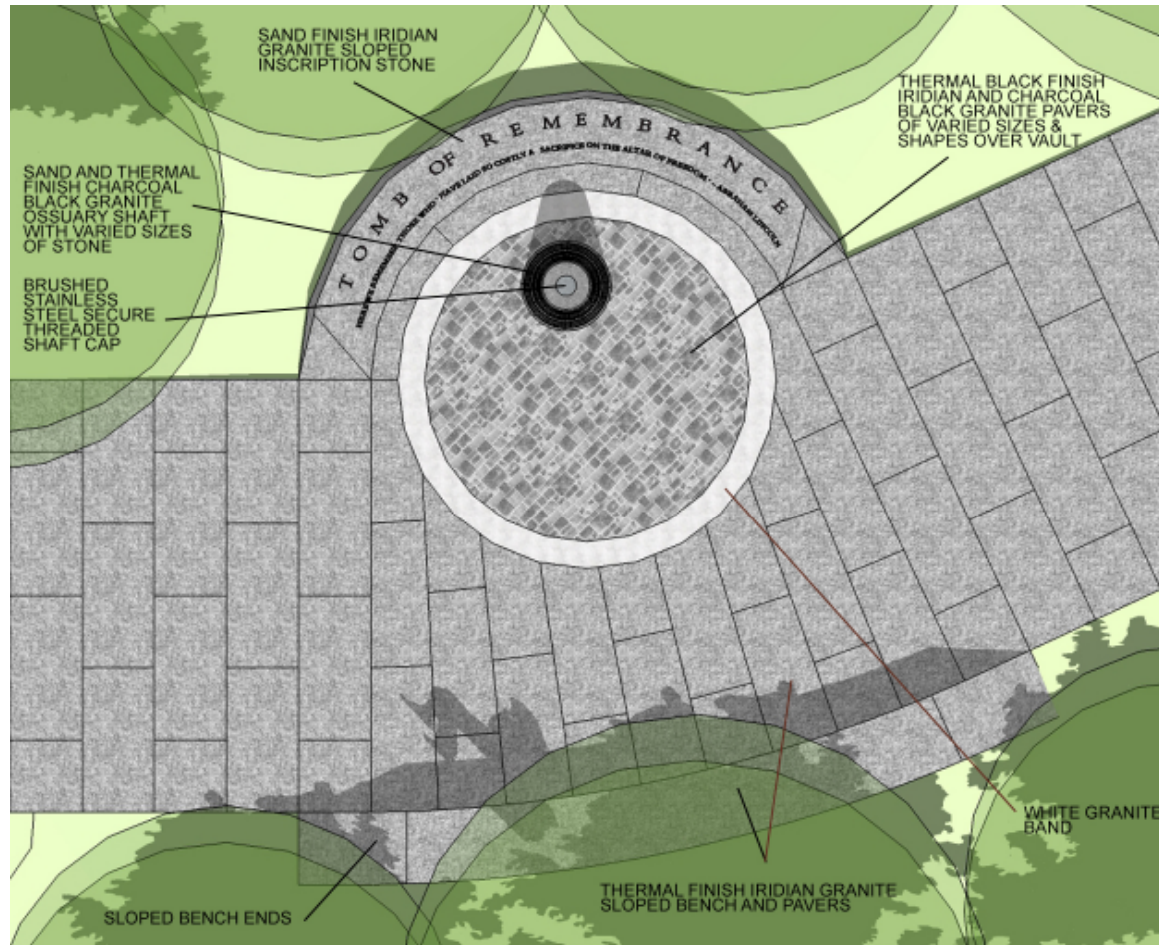
Proposed Site & Landscape Plan



Arlington National Cemetery
Tomb of Remembrance



Enlarged Detail Plan

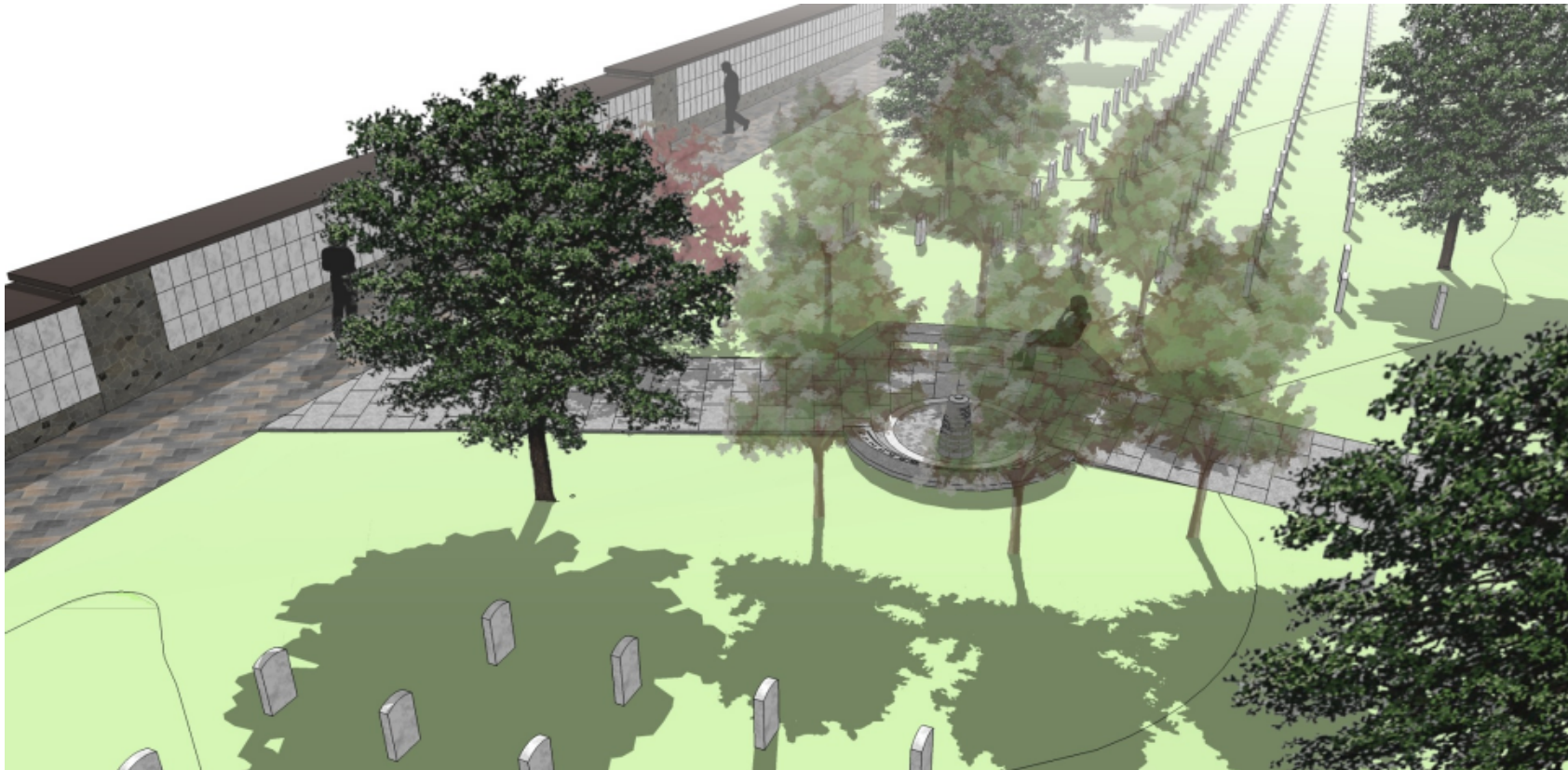


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Rendered Perspective

Elevated view looking south



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Rendered Perspective

View looking south



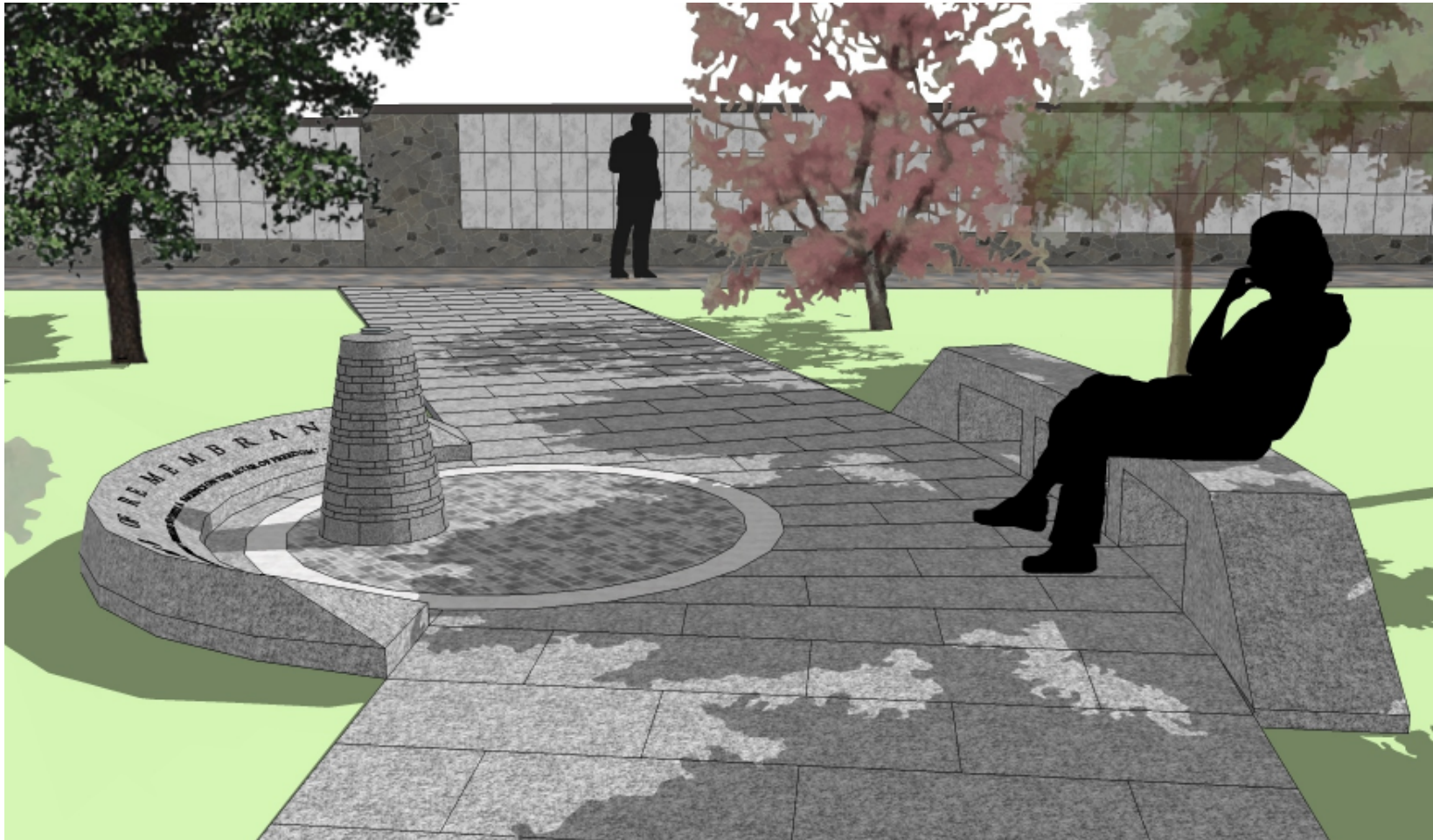
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Rendered Perspective

View from Patton Drive



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Rendered Perspective

View From Above

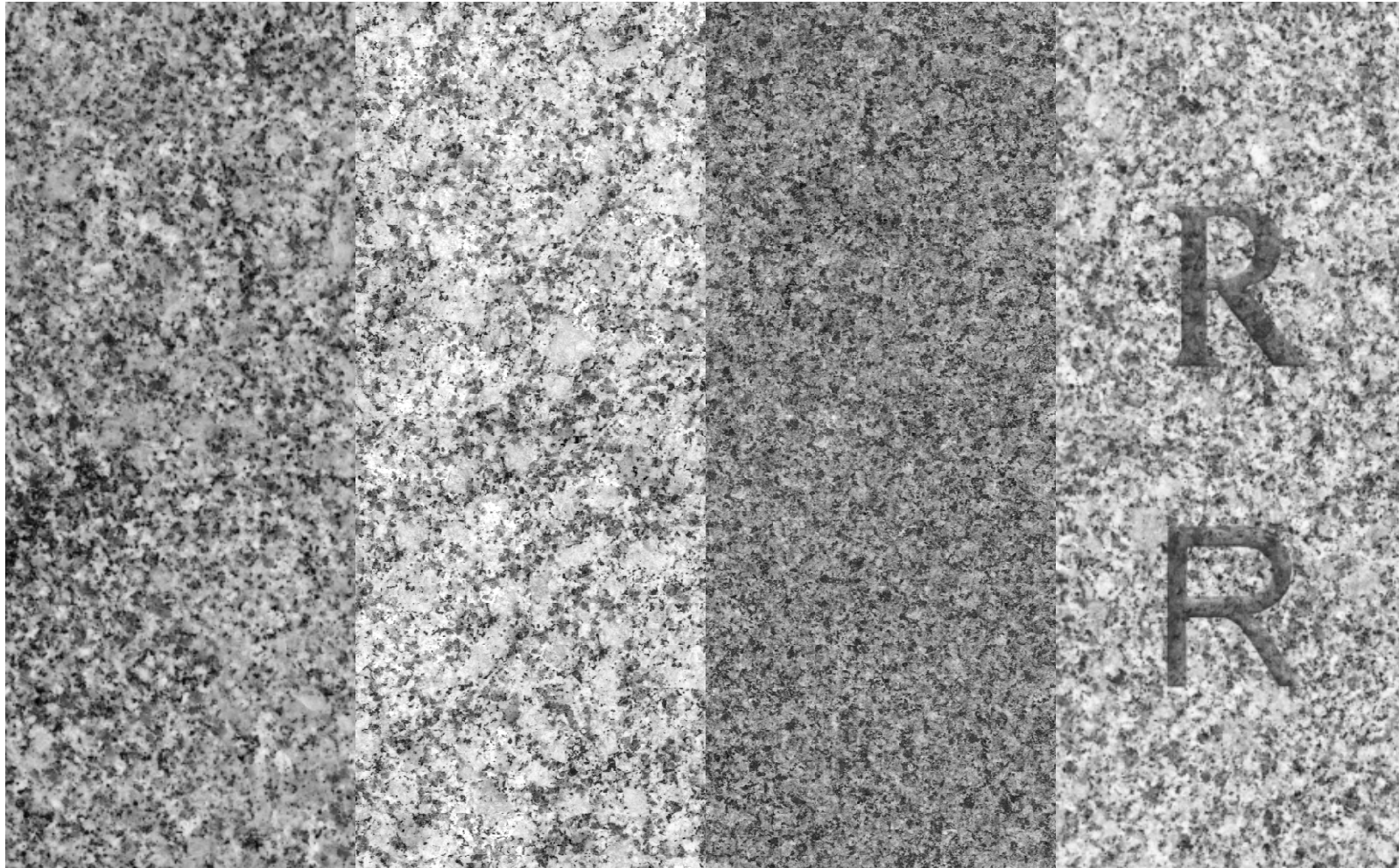


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Proposed Finish Materials



Iridian Granite
(Polished Finish)

Iridian Granite
(Thermal Finish)

Charcoal Black Granite
(Thermal Finish)

Iridian Granite (Thermal Finish)
Sandblasted Serif Letters



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