



# Smithsonian Institution

June 8, 2018

Marcel Acosta, Executive Director  
National Capital Planning Commission  
401 9<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
North Lobby, Suite 500  
Washington, DC 02576

Dear Mr. Acosta:

Please include our project, *Elephant Yard 1 Expansion* on your Commission's agenda at the July 12, 2018 meeting. We request this proposal be reviewed as a Preliminary and Final Review.

We have received a Section 106 letter of concurrence that this project will result in "no adverse effect" on historic properties. Please find a copy of this concurrence letter attached. We understand that this project will be a Consent Calendar Item.

The following submission materials have been produced will be provided under separate cover from Quinn Evans Architects:

1. Three copies of the Project Submission Report
2. Electronic Copy of the Project Submission Report

If you have any questions concerning this submission, please call Michelle Spofford at 202.633.6558

Sincerely,

Ann Trowbridge, AIA *ATB*  
Associate Director for Planning

cc: Steven Monfort, Acting Director, Smithsonian National Zoological Park  
Nancy Bechtol, Director, Smithsonian Facilities  
Debra Nauta-Rodriguez, Deputy Director, Office of Planning, Design and Construction  
Sharon Park, Associate Director for Architectural History and Historic Preservation  
Steve Sumner, Project Executive, Planning and Program Management  
Carly Bond, Senior Historic Preservation Specialist  
Michelle Spofford, Architect + Senior Planning Manager

600 Maryland Avenue SW Suite 5001  
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Smithsonian  
*National Zoological Park*

## NZP - Elephant Trails Habitat #1 Modifications

OFEU Project #1533108  
QEA Project #31711700



PRELIMINARY/FINAL SUBMISSION  
**NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**JULY 12, 2018**



INTRODUCTION

**Expanded Elephant Herd and Outdoor Habitat**  
The National Zoo has expanded its Asian elephant herd to six females and one adult male. To increase the outdoor space available to the elephants, Elephant Yard 1 will be expanded by incorporating an adjacent vacant yard. See page 6 for a description of the work.

**Elephant Enrichment/Training Area**  
An Enrichment/Training Area is proposed to be incorporated into the expanded yard adjacent to the Visitor Path, benefiting the elephants, keepers and visitors.

This area will provide the elephants an enrichment opportunity to socialize with a keeper in a training session and allow keepers to closely monitor the health of the animals and look for any injuries.

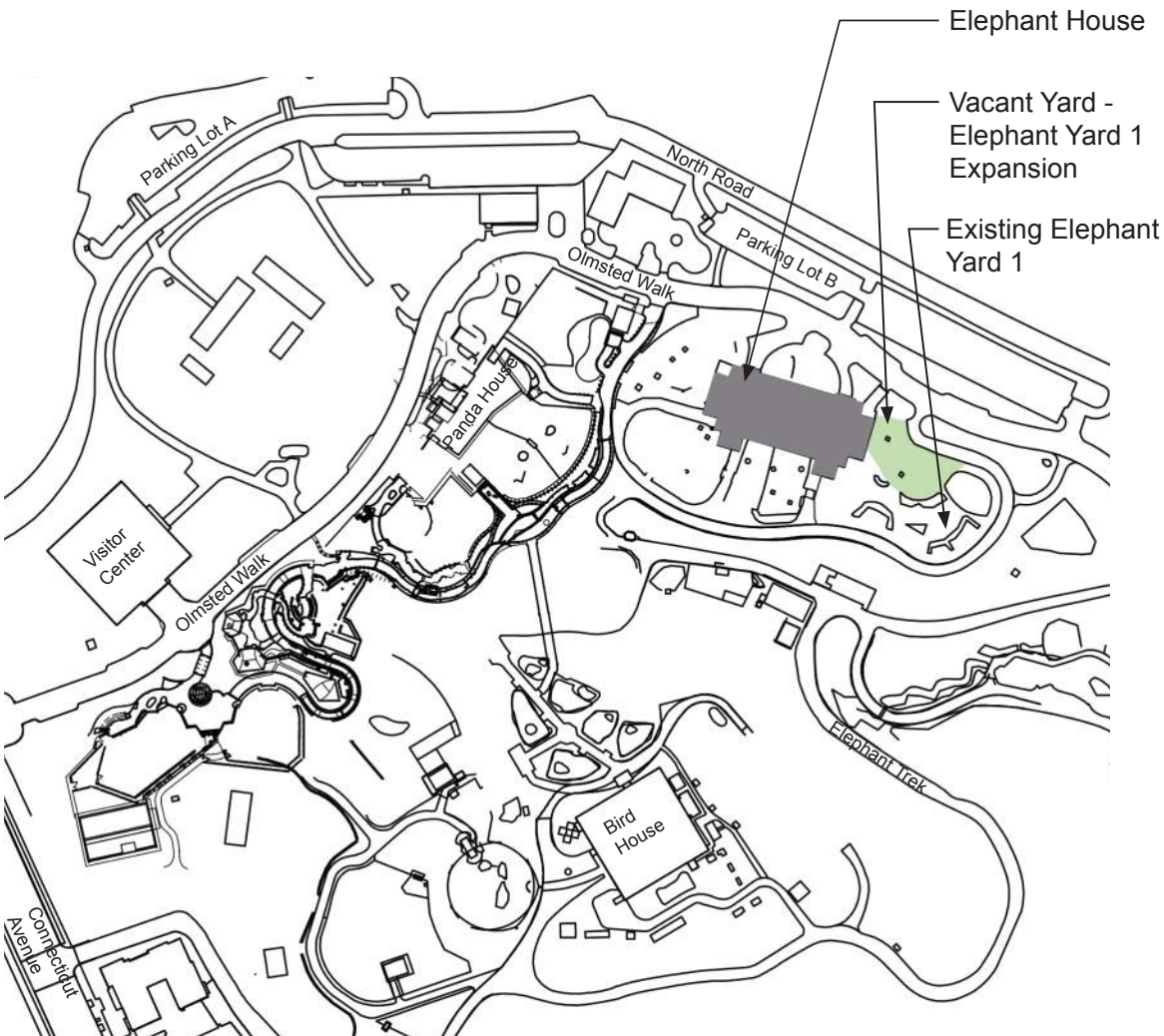
Keepers cue the elephants to present their trunks, feet, ears, shoulders and rear ends for a close inspection. The keepers use positive reinforcement training by rewarding the elephants with their favorite treats every time the elephants do a behavior asked of them. Elephants always have a choice to participate or not, but most of them seem to enjoy the challenge of the routine.

The elephants have two Enrichment/Training Areas inside the Elephant House, but they are located in areas that are not open to the public. Providing an Enrichment/Training Area as part of the outdoor exhibit will create a unique visitor experience at the Zoo.



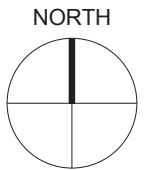
VICINITY MAP

N.T.S.

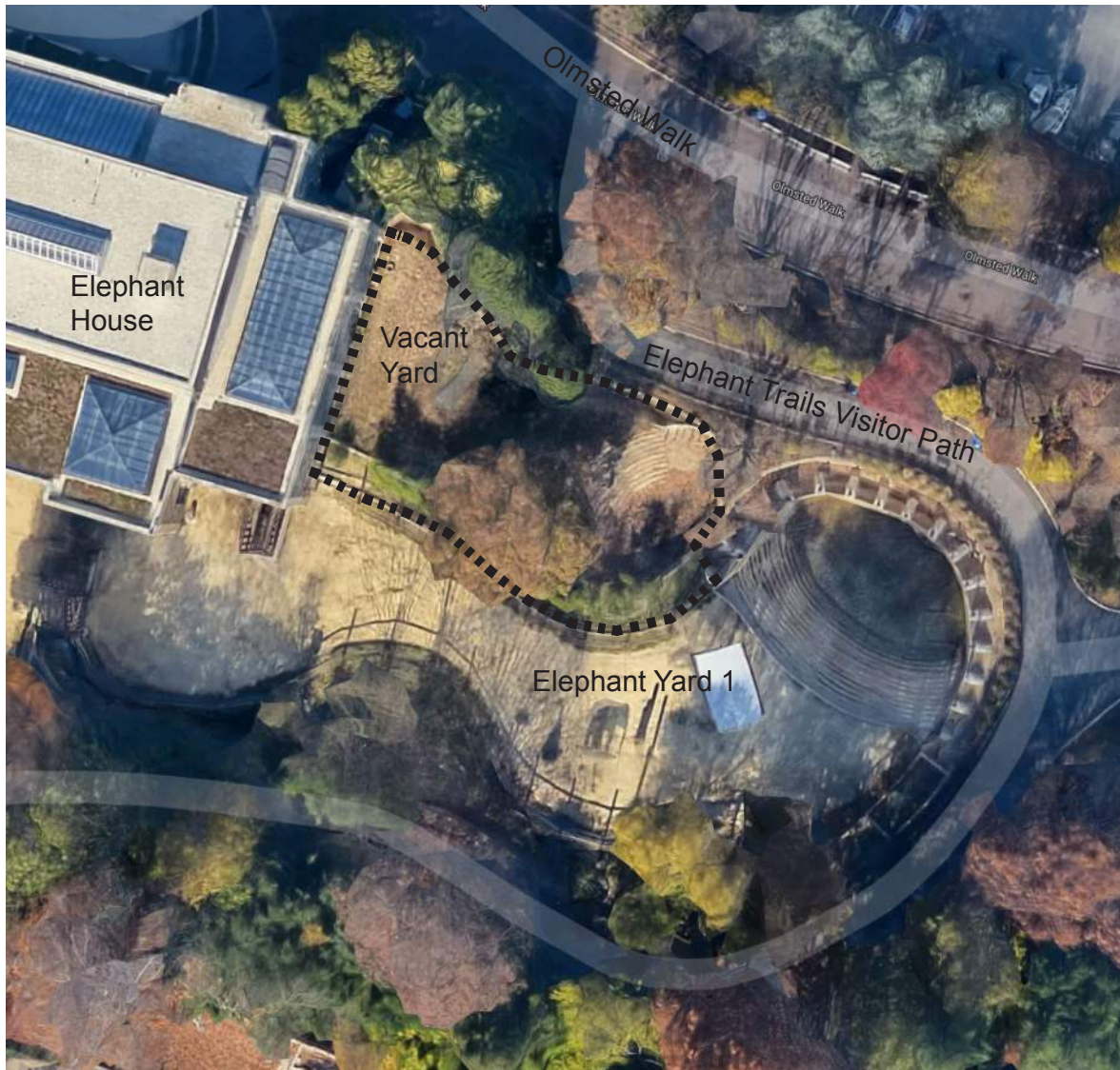


NATIONAL ZOOLOGICAL PARK - PLAN AREA ENLARGEMENT

N.T.S.







AERIAL PHOTO OF EXISTING SITE

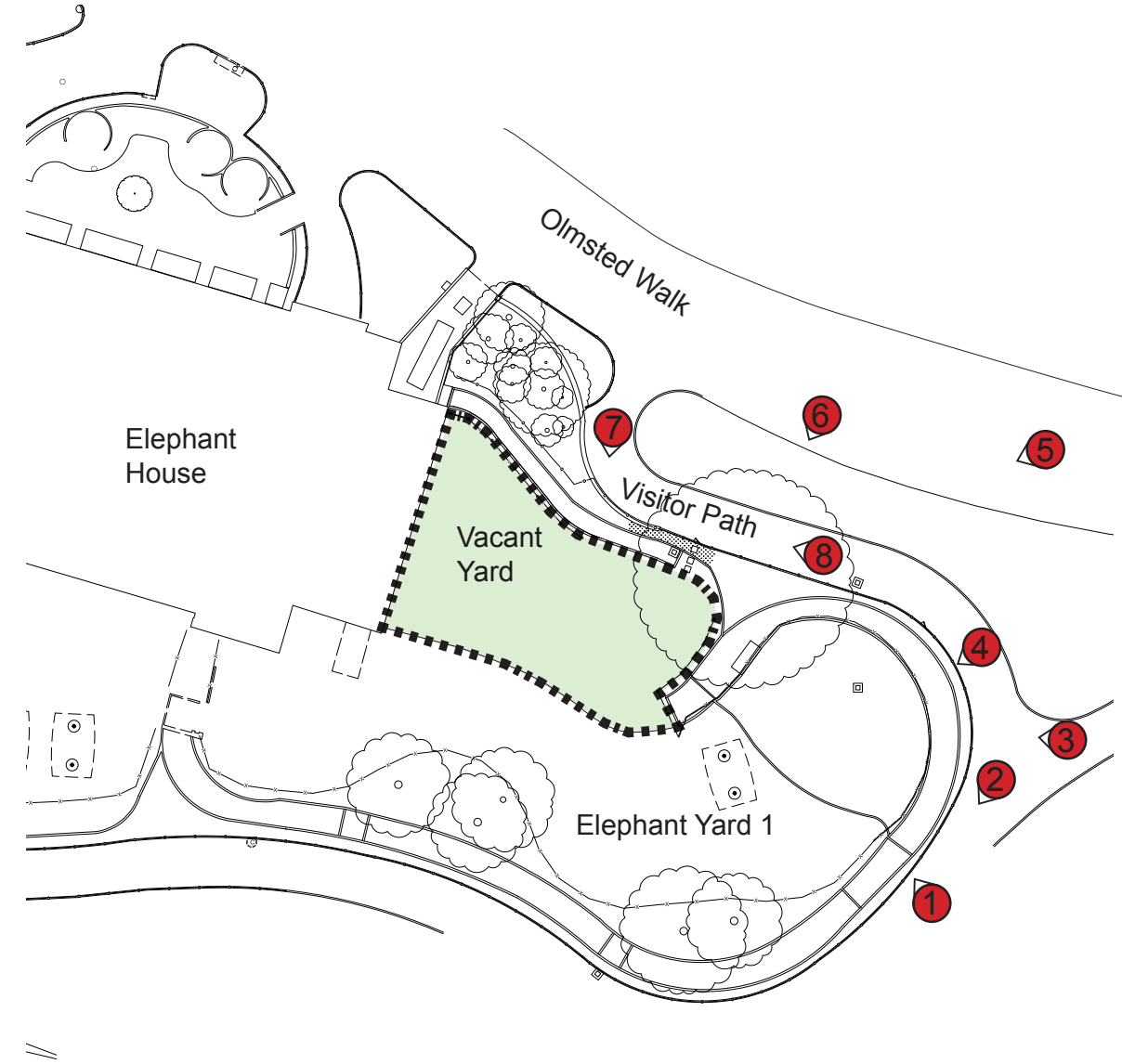
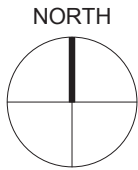


PHOTO KEY PLAN







View into Elephant Pool from Visitor Path



Elephant Trails Visitor Path



View of Yard 1 with Elephant House



View into Elephant Pool with Shade Structures



SITE PHOTOS



5 View towards Elephant Yard 1 and Hippo Yard from Olmsted Walk



6 View towards Hippo Yard from Olmsted Walk



7 View into Hippo Yard (Elephant Yard 1 in background) from Visitor Path



8 View from Visitor Path towards Elephant House and Hippo Yard

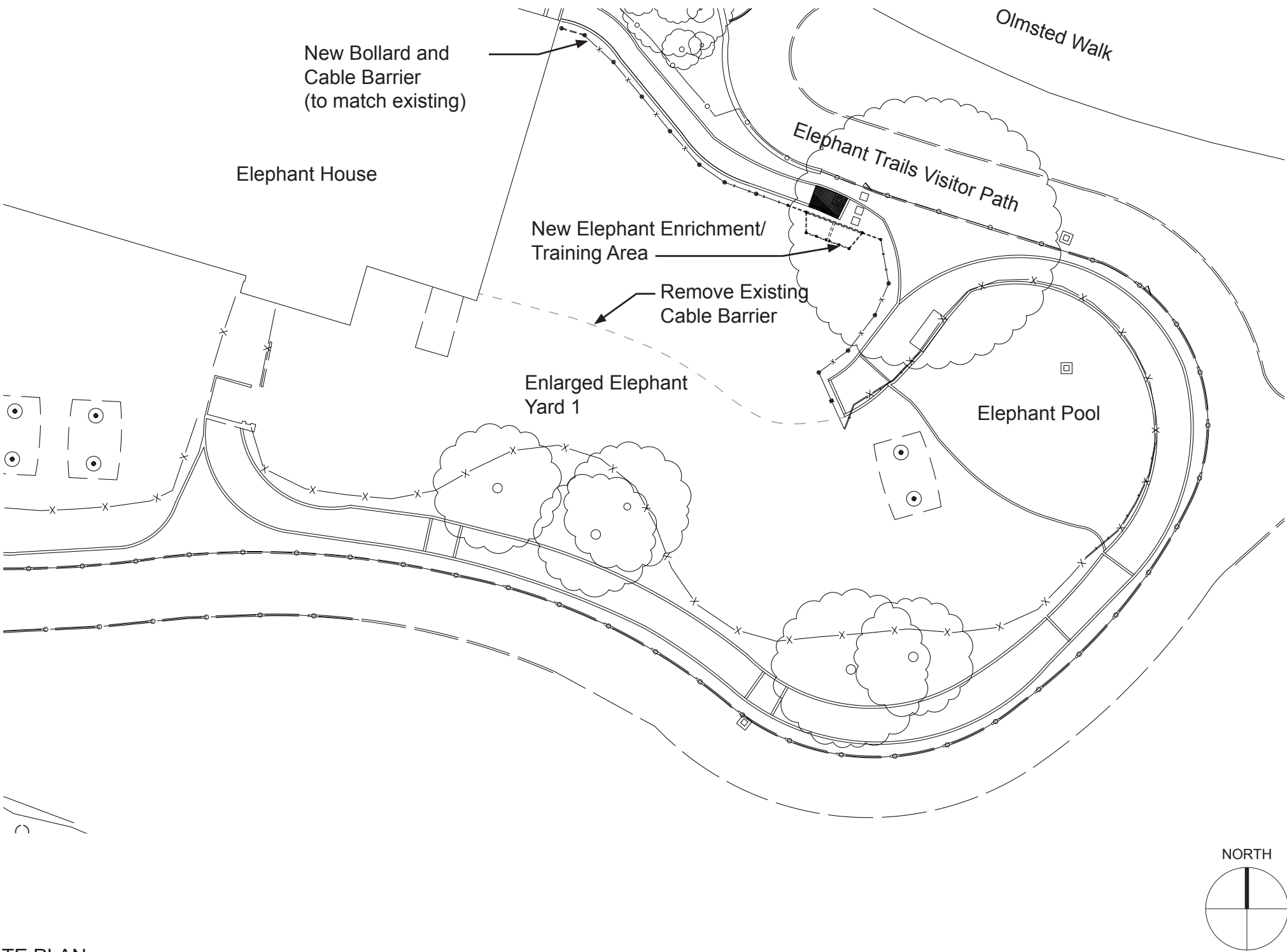


PROPOSED NEW WORK

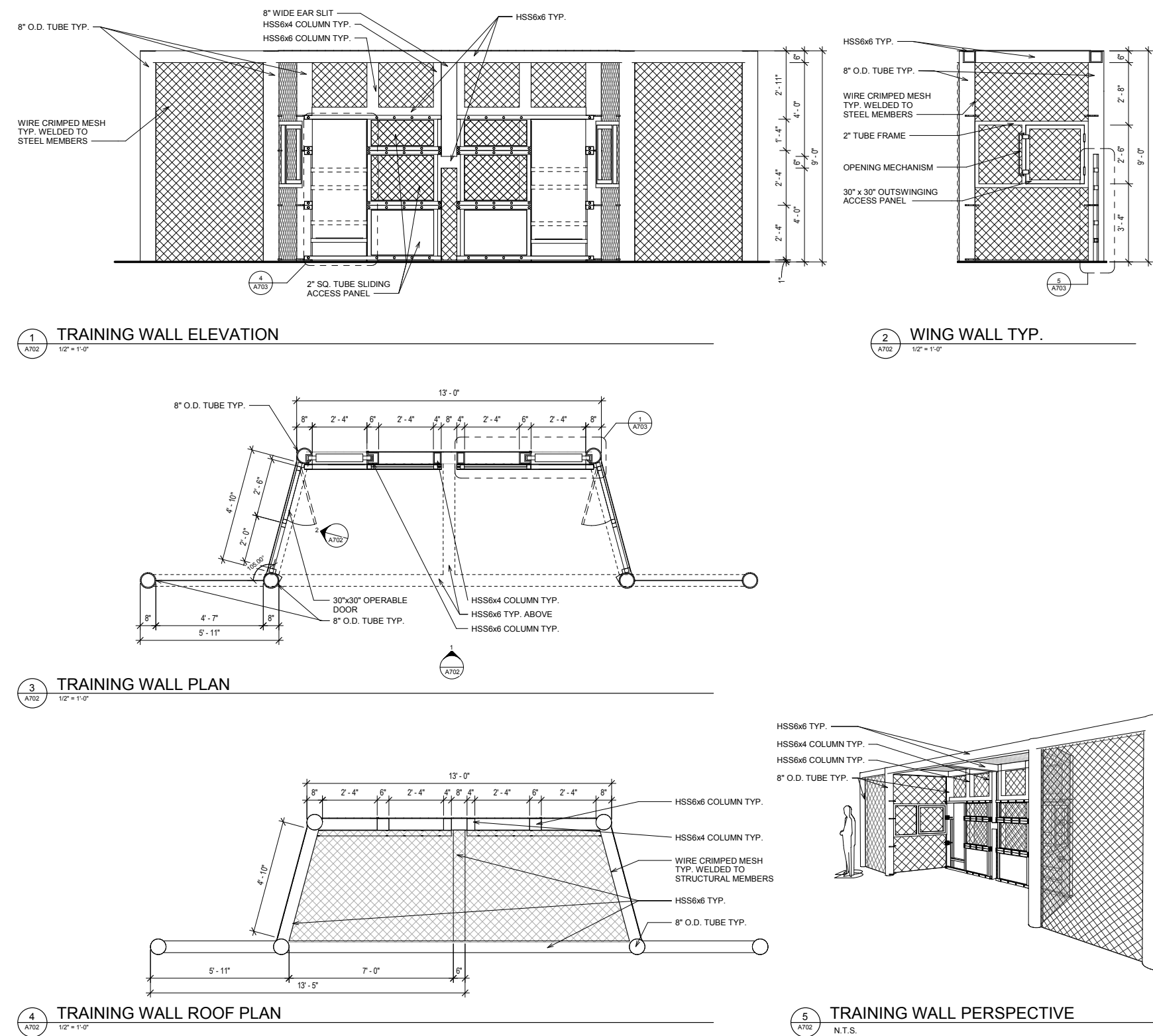
**PROPOSED SITE PLAN**

Elephant Yard 1 expansion will include the following work

- Remove existing elephant containment (steel bollards and cable) between Elephant Yard 1 and the vacant yard
- Add elephant containment (steel bollards and cable) along the perimeter of the vacant yard
- Add Elephant Enrichment/Training Area (steel and steel mesh) within the new containment barrier adjacent to the Visitor Path
- Remove and replace trees that are toxic to elephants, within reach of elephants, or are in poor health within and adjacent to the expanded elephant yard
- Provide storm water management



PROPOSED ELEPHANT TRAILS YARD 1 SITE PLAN





ELEPHANT YARD 1 EXPANSION- VIEWS FROM VISITOR PATH

EXISTING



Visitor Path  
Approach from  
North

PROPOSED



Visitor Path  
Approach from  
South





ELEPHANT ENRICHMENT/TRAINING AREA PRECEDENTS FROM U.S. ZOOS







# Smithsonian Institution

May 4, 2018

C. Andrew Lewis  
Senior Historic Preservation Specialist  
DC Historic Preservation Office, DC Office of Planning  
1100 4<sup>th</sup> Street SW, Suite E650  
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Mr. Lewis:

The Smithsonian Institution (SI) completed the alterations to the Elephant House and the surrounding outdoor yards associated with the project titled "Asia Trail II Elephant House Renovation" at the National Zoological Park. The Elephant House is a contributing building to the National Zoological Park Historic District listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This project was subject to a Memorandum of Agreement between the SI and the DC SHPO dated May 2007 to resolve adverse effects from the renovation of and an addition to the Elephant House.

The National Zoo recently expanded the size of its Asian elephant herd, and in order to accommodate the new herd, is planning to expand the outdoor space available. There is an existing vacant yard, formerly the Hippo Yard, immediately adjacent to the Elephant House and surrounded by the existing Elephant Yard 1.

Minor changes are required to incorporate the vacant yard into Elephant Yard 1, and include the removal of the existing cable barrier fence within the exhibit area, and the installation of bollard and cable fencing along the north and east perimeter of the vacant yard. The bollard and cable fencing matches the existing animal containment fencing installed throughout the outdoor elephant yards. The new fencing within the expanded Elephant Yard 1 will include an Elephant Enrichment/Training Area integral with the containment fence, which will provide an opportunity for the public to observe special interactions with the elephants.

The existing fencing along the curbs of the visitor path around the Elephant Yard 1 will remain, with all of the proposed changes happening inboard of the existing fencing. The new fencing will not be physically attached to the Elephant House. The SI has applied the criteria of adverse effect in accordance with 36 CFR § 800.5, and proposes a finding of "no adverse effect" for the expansion of Elephant Yard 1. We hope that you agree with our determination, and please contact me if additional materials are required.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carly Bond".

Carly Bond  
Historic Preservation Specialist

Attachments: NZP – Elephant Trails Habitat #1 Modifications, Quinn Evans Architects, April 16, 2018

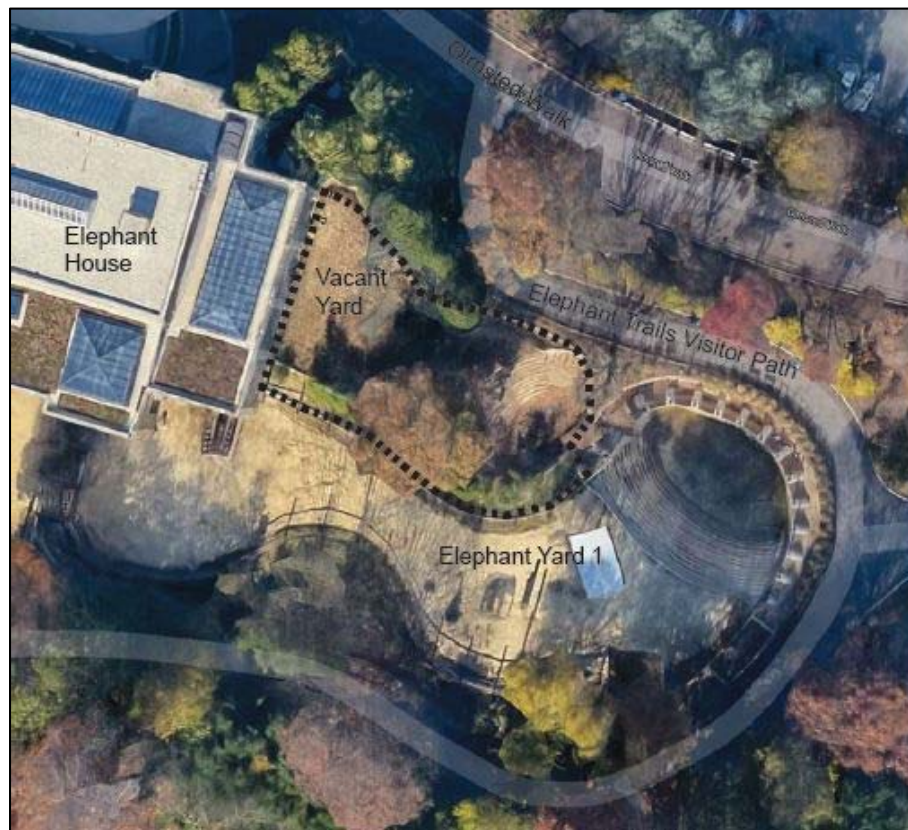
cc: Nancy Levan, SI-OPDC NZP  
Sharon Park, SI-OPDC  
Ann Trowbridge, SI-OPDC  
Michelle Spofford, SI-OPDC

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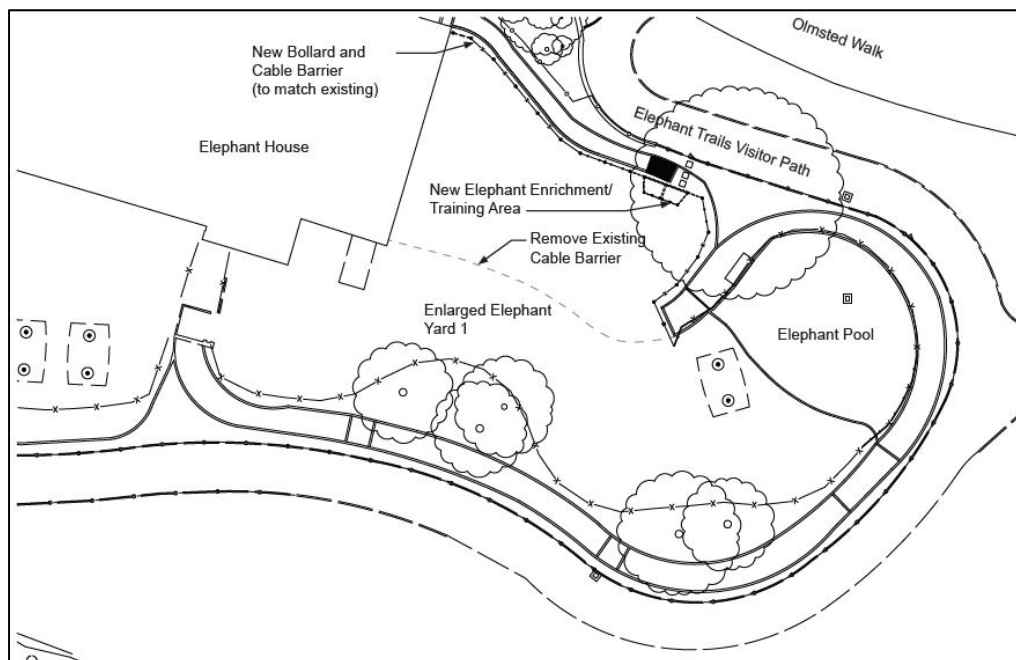




Smithsonian Institution



Aerial Photo of the Existing Site



Proposed Site Plan

600 Maryland Avenue SW Suite 5001  
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BondC@si.edu



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE



DC STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE  
FEDERAL AGENCY SECTION 106 REVIEW FORM

**TO:** Carly Bond, Historic Preservation Specialist, Smithsonian Institution

**ADDRESS:** Via email to: [BondC@si.edu](mailto:BondC@si.edu)

**PROJECT NAME/DESCRIPTION:** Elephant Yard 1 Expansion

**PROJECT ADDRESS/LOCATION DESCRIPTION:** National Zoo


**DC SHPO PROJECT NUMBER:** 18-0462

The DC State Historic Preservation Office (DC SHPO) has reviewed the above-referenced federal undertaking(s) in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and has determined:

<input type="checkbox"/>	This project will have <b>no effect</b> on historic properties. No further DC SHPO review or comment will be necessary.
<input type="checkbox"/>	There are <b>no historic properties</b> that will be affected by this project. No further DC SHPO review or comment will be necessary.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	This project will have <b>no adverse effect</b> on historic properties. No further DC SHPO review or comment will be necessary.
<input type="checkbox"/>	This project will have <b>no adverse effect</b> on historic properties <b>conditioned upon</b> fulfillment of the measures stipulated below.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Comments / Additional Comments (see below):

We understand that this undertaking consists of expanding the existing elephant yard into a small vacant area near the Elephant House in order to provide additional space for the animals. A new training area, bollards, and cable barrier will also be installed. We concur that the proposed undertaking will have "no adverse effect" on historic properties. Thank you for providing this opportunity to review and comment.

**BY:**

  
C. Andrew Lewis  
Senior Historic Preservation Specialist  
DC State Historic Preservation Office

**DATE:** June 5, 2018