

HOLODOMOR

MEMORIAL TO VICTIMS OF THE UKRAINIAN FAMINE-GENOCIDE OF 1932-1933

FEDERAL RESERVATION SITE NO. 78
WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

SUBMISSION FOR CONCEPT DESIGN APPROVAL
OCTOBER 20, 2011 MEETING DATE

THE EMBASSY OF UKRAINE
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE | NATIONAL MALL AND MEMORIAL PARKS

HARTMAN-COX ARCHITECTS

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Introduction

In 2006, Congress authorized the Government of Ukraine to establish a memorial to honor the victims of the Ukrainian famine in accordance with the Commemorative Works Act. The National Park Service (NPS) and the National Committee to Commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Ukrainian Genocide of 1932-1933 (the National Committee) are cooperating, under the legislation, to establish an international memorial as a tribute to millions of Ukrainians who suffered as a result of the Soviet-forced famine in 1932-1933. The National Committee is part of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, Inc. (UCCA), a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization that has represented the interests of America’s ethnic Ukrainians for over sixty years. The UCCA’s mission is to support cultural, educational, and humanitarian activities that emphasize Ukrainian American heritage and to provide support for Ukraine’s newly developing democracy.¹

Project Background

Ukraine experienced a devastating famine in the early decades of the 20th century. Unknown to many in the world at that time and even today, the famine was an engineered-famine, induced by the totalitarian regime of Josef Stalin in the Soviet Union between 1932 and 1933. During the famine, 7 to 10 million Ukrainians were deliberately and systematically starved to death by the Soviet Union. The Soviet Government introduced unrealistically high quotas on grain and other agricultural products, which were strictly enforced by Red Army troops. Only when the Ukraine restored its independence from the Soviet Union in 1991 did the Ukrainian people begin openly discussing the events of 1932-1933, with witnesses coming forth to tell of the horrors they experienced during the famine.

To bring a greater awareness of the Ukrainian Famine to the world, the Ukrainian government sought to build a memorial in Washington, DC to honor the victims of this largely unknown holocaust. During the years of Ukraine’s subjugation by the Soviet Union, the United States remained a beacon of hope that eventually Ukraine and its people will live free and be sovereign in their own country. Today, this gesture of goodwill presented to the American people will signify the relevance of Ukraine’s tragedy 75 years ago. America’s long-standing role as the foremost champion of human rights in the world makes Washington, DC the best location for a memorial to this tragedy.

The purpose of the proposed Memorial is to honor the millions of Ukrainians who lost their lives due to the Ukrainian Famine of 1932-1933. Unfortunately, the world has not yet learned the cruel lessons of this tragedy and food continues to be used as a political weapon. Apathy and ignorance of history will ensure that the mistakes of the past will be repeated. It is not enough, however, to speak of famine in the abstract. Specific events such as the Ukrainian Famine must be identified in order to put a human face on such crimes. To do otherwise, is to dismiss the murder of millions as a mere “statistic.” The permanent memorial in Washington, DC is necessary to continue to tell the story of the Ukrainian Famine to future generations and to reaffirm America’s commitment to human rights for all people.²

1 *Memorial to Victims of the Ukrainian Famine of 1932-1933 Site Selection Environmental Assessment*, National Park Service (NPS) *Prepared in Association with*: National Committee to Commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Ukrainian Genocide of 1932 -1933, 2008, 1-3.

2 Ibid, 1-2, 1-3.

Process

The planning process for the proposed Memorial began with the enacting of legislation authorizing such a commemorative work. Passed on October 13, 2006, Public Law 109-340 authorized the Government of Ukraine to “establish a memorial on Federal land in the District of Columbia to honor the victims of the man-made famine that occurred in Ukraine in 1932-1933” in accordance with the Commemorative Works Act. The Memorial authorized by this legislation is intended to honor the memory of the millions that lost their lives as well as serve as a tangible reminder for the need to prevent such tragedies in the future. The legislation authorizes the Memorial as a gift from Ukraine to the people of the United States and specifies that no federal money will be used to build or maintain the Memorial.³

3 Ibid, 1-4.

SITE DESCRIPTION

In 2008, following an extensive site selection process of more than 100 potential sites, the National Capital Memorials Advisory Commission (NCMAC), the Commission of Fine Arts (CFA), and the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) approved Reservation 78 for the location of the Memorial. This 3,100 square-foot triangular parcel is defined by the bordering roadways of Massachusetts Avenue on its north side, North Capitol Street on its east side, and F Street on its south side. The site is located just one block from Union Station and is in the vicinity of the US Capitol Building, which is approximately four blocks to the south. The general area surrounding the site is characterized by office and governmental buildings with institutional and retail uses. The site is located within Downtown East and borders the NoMA redevelopment area.

Historic Context

The Massachusetts Avenue Site, Reservation 78, is also a contributing element within the L’Enfant and McMillan Plans. This triangular parcel of land is defined by the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue (a major axis of L’Enfant’s Plan) and F and North Capitol Streets NW. These roadways are considered contributing elements within the historic plan. Moreover, the vista southeast along Massachusetts Avenue that visually connects with the US Post Office Museum and Union Station is also a contributing element within the L’Enfant Plan.⁴

Nearby Historic Resources⁵

Childs Restaurant

Located at 2 Massachusetts Avenue immediately to the west of Reservation 78, the Childs Restaurant was designed by noted New York architect William Van Alen and completed in 1926.

Gales School

The Gales School, located at 65 Massachusetts Avenue, is a former DC public school. The school, named for the eighth mayor of Washington, Joseph Gales, Jr., served lower North Capitol Street residents until 1994. The building was constructed in 1881 and added to the DC Inventory of Historic Sites in 2002.

Government Printing Office

Located between G and H Streets NW, the Government Printing Office (GPO) was constructed between 1899 and 1904. The facility was built as the headquarters for the US government printer, who had been located at this site since 1861. The GPO was added to the DC Inventory of Historic Sites in 1964.

City Post Office Building

The City Post Office Building, located at the northwest corner of Massachusetts Avenue and North Capitol Street NW was constructed between 1911 and 1914, with a major addition during 1923-1935.

4 Ibid, 3-9.
5 Ibid, 3-10 – 3-12.

The building formerly served as the Washington, DC post office from 1914 to 1986 and currently contains the National Postal Museum. The City Post Office is a major element in the three-part building composition planned for Columbus Plaza and was listed on the DC Inventory of Historic Sites in 1964.

Union Station and Plaza

Union Station, located at the intersection of Massachusetts, Louisiana, and Delaware Avenues NW, was constructed between 1903 and 1908. It is listed in the DC Inventory of Historic Sites and the National Register of Historic Places. According to the National Register nomination, “this imperial station with its vast interior spaces was literally the cornerstone of the McMillan Commission’s efforts to revive L’Enfant’s original plan of the city, creating a monumental gateway to the nation’s capital.” It was designated as an historic landmark by the District of Columbia Joint Committee on Landmarks in 1964. Union Station and its plaza complex are also designated as a Special Place in the Comprehensive Plan.

Columbus Fountain

Columbus Fountain is located on the central axis of the plaza in front of Union Station, at the confluence of Massachusetts and Delaware Avenues NW. This landmark site sits at the focal point of vehicular and pedestrian traffic exiting Union Station or approaching the terminal from First Street, Massachusetts Avenue, Delaware Avenue, and Louisiana Avenue. The Fountain was designed to symbolize the Old and New Worlds while the Station itself represents the “mastery of the North American continent.” Columbus Fountain is sited within the elements of the L’Enfant Plan. It was added to the DC Inventory of Historic Sites in 1964 and listed on the National Register in 1980.

Engine Company No. 3

Engine Company No. 3, located at 439 New Jersey Avenue NW, was the longtime home of the city’s most prestigious firefighting units charged with protection of the Capitol. The structure was built in 1916 to house the Columbia Volunteer Fire Company, which was organized in 1806. Engine Company No. 3 was listed on the DC Inventory of Historic sites in 1994.

US Capitol Building and Grounds

The selected site for the proposed Memorial is located approximately four blocks north of the US Capitol Building and Grounds. The Capitol Building is significantly higher than any other occupied building in the Nation’s Capital, and its dome (one of the most prominent features) is visible from the proposed Memorial site as well as throughout DC. The building was designed in the Neo-classical Style in 1793 and constructed in 1827. The Statue of Freedom sits atop the dome, crowning the US Capitol. The bronze statue is of a female figure standing 19 feet, 6 inches tall. Her dress is of flowing draperies, secured by a brooch inscribed with “U.S.” In her left hand, she holds a laurel wreath of victory and the shield of the United States, while her right hand rests on a sword. The cast iron globe on which she stands is inscribed with the national motto *E Pluribus Unum*.

MEMORIAL DESIGN

Competition

Following the selection and approval of a site, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism in Ukraine announced an international design completion in the Fall of 2009. The competition guidelines required “incorporating green elements into the project proposals; the use of durable construction materials to endure the climate of Washington, DC; accessibility (openness) for pedestrians; as well as ascertaining the proper dimensions to be esthetically-consistent with the surrounding environs.”⁶

In December 2009, a jury of comprised of Ukrainian nationals as well as Ukrainians from the United States and Canada reviewed the 52 submissions. The 22-member jury panel identified five finalists.

- “Destroyed Sphere” by Olesandrs Diachenko
- “Field of Wheat” by Larysa Kurylas
- “Ritual Cloth” by Boris Danyluk
- “Tear Drops on a Wheat Field” by Iulii/Lev Synkevych
- “Shooting Hands” by Igor/Liudmyla Grechanyk

After vetting the five schemes against the criteria identified in the NCPC Finding of No Significant Impact dated September 28, 2008, the National Park Service with the Embassy of Ukraine and the National Committee determined a preferred scheme and an alternative scheme.



ABOVE: Samples from competition entry finalists (n.b. the preferred and alternate scheme entries are presented in the pages to follow).

6 “Ukraine Announces International Design Competition For Holodomor Memorial in Washington, DC,” Ukrainian Congress Committee of America website, October 28 2009.

Preferred Scheme: “Field of Wheat”

An over scaled and dynamic “Field of Wheat” is the focus of this composition. The six foot tall bronze sculpture transitions from a high bas relief on the east end of the field to a deep negative relief on the west, “reflecting the transition from ample harvest to the horrible deficit that became the Holodomor. Simultaneously with the wheat disappearing, the words ‘HOLODOMOR 1932-1933’ emerge out of the wall in greater and greater relief. On a bent panel to the right of the sculpture, a short paragraph titled ‘Famine-Genocide in Ukraine’ explains the term ‘Holodomor’ and the basic facts of Stalin’s genocide.”⁷

The sculpture will rest on a slightly raised granite plinth. Columnar “Red Obelisk” European Beech trees with their distinctive deep reddish-purple leaves will serve as a backdrop along F Street. The orientation of the sculpture is toward Massachusetts Avenue, with views also from North Capitol Street.

The plaza in front of the sculpture is paved with slate which has a linear pattern to be reminiscent of a recently sewn field of wheat. A granite bench opposite the sculpture will allow visitors to sit and contemplate the event. A low planter between the Massachusetts Avenue sidewalk and the sculpture sets the plaza off as a separate precinct. The plaza is designed to allow for commemorative gatherings while still providing a setting for intimate reflection.

Alternate Scheme: “Shooting Hands”

The centerpiece of this composition is the 10-foot tall bronze “Shooting Hands” sculpture that is anchored to the granite plaza by a slightly raised granite plinth. This positioning enables the sculpture to be viewed from all angles. Granite benches surround the plaza allowing for quiet moments of reflection. Ash, beech, or hornbeam trees native to Ukrainian forests with ground cover below complete the triangle.

“A pair of bronze hands dominates the composition. The attitude of the hands would read as asking or begging for an offering, for alms, for food. The hands are weathered; the wrists are thin with sinew and blood vessels visible and near the surface. Throughout time hands have held a fascination for artists for the complexity, sculptural qualities and ability to convey emotion separate from the human face.”⁸ – Igor and Liudmyla Grechanyk

7 “Architect’s design statement: Memorial to Victims of the Holodomor,” Larysa Kurylas, The Ukrainian Weekly No. 49, December 5, 2010, pp 15.

8 “Holodomor Memorial in Washington: A progress report,” Alla Rogers, *The Ukrainian Weekly* No. 49, December 5, 2010, pp 14, 26.

MISCELLANEOUS SITE ITEMS

Lighting and Utilities

The site currently has several DC street lights along its boundaries. These lights include both the traditional Washington Globe and several pendant arm pole light fixtures. As in many similarly small memorials, these existing street lights will provide the memorial lighting without the installation of additional fixtures. Consequently, no new utilities will be installed as a part of the design and construction of the memorial.

Drainage

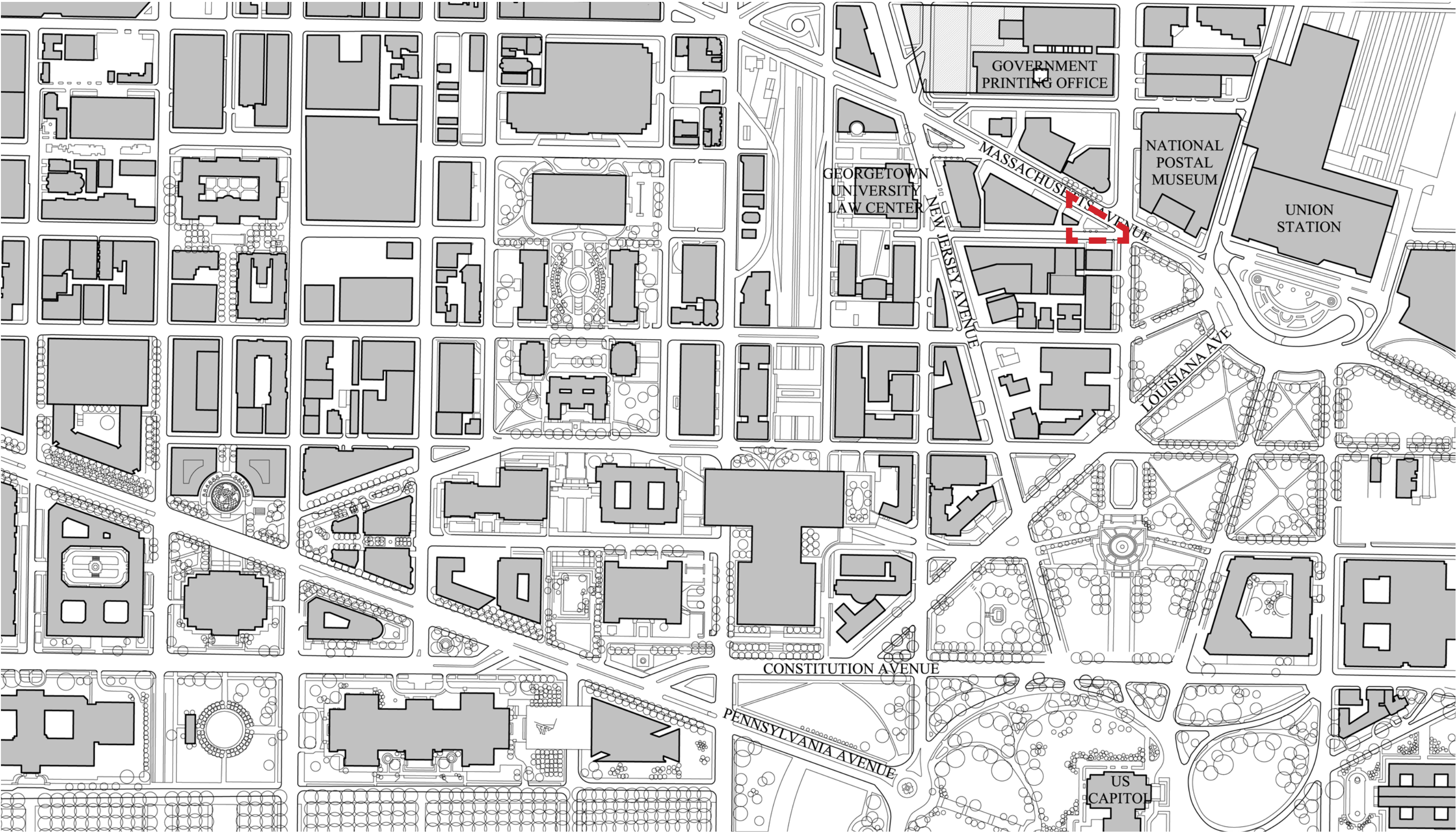
The site will be sloped such that drainage of all water collected on the site will be kept within the parcel and dealt with as a part of a landscape irrigation system.

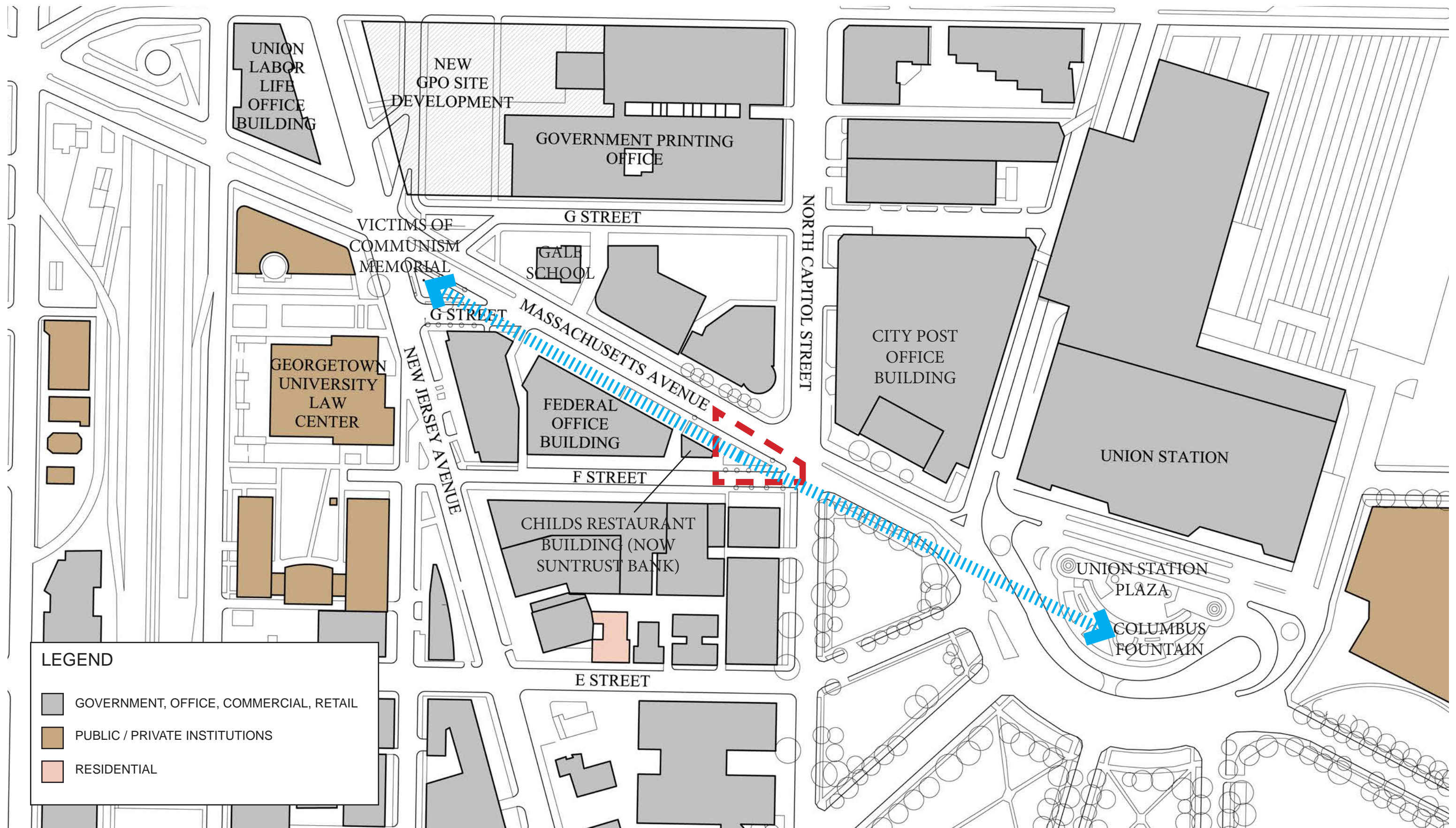
Signage

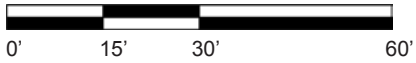
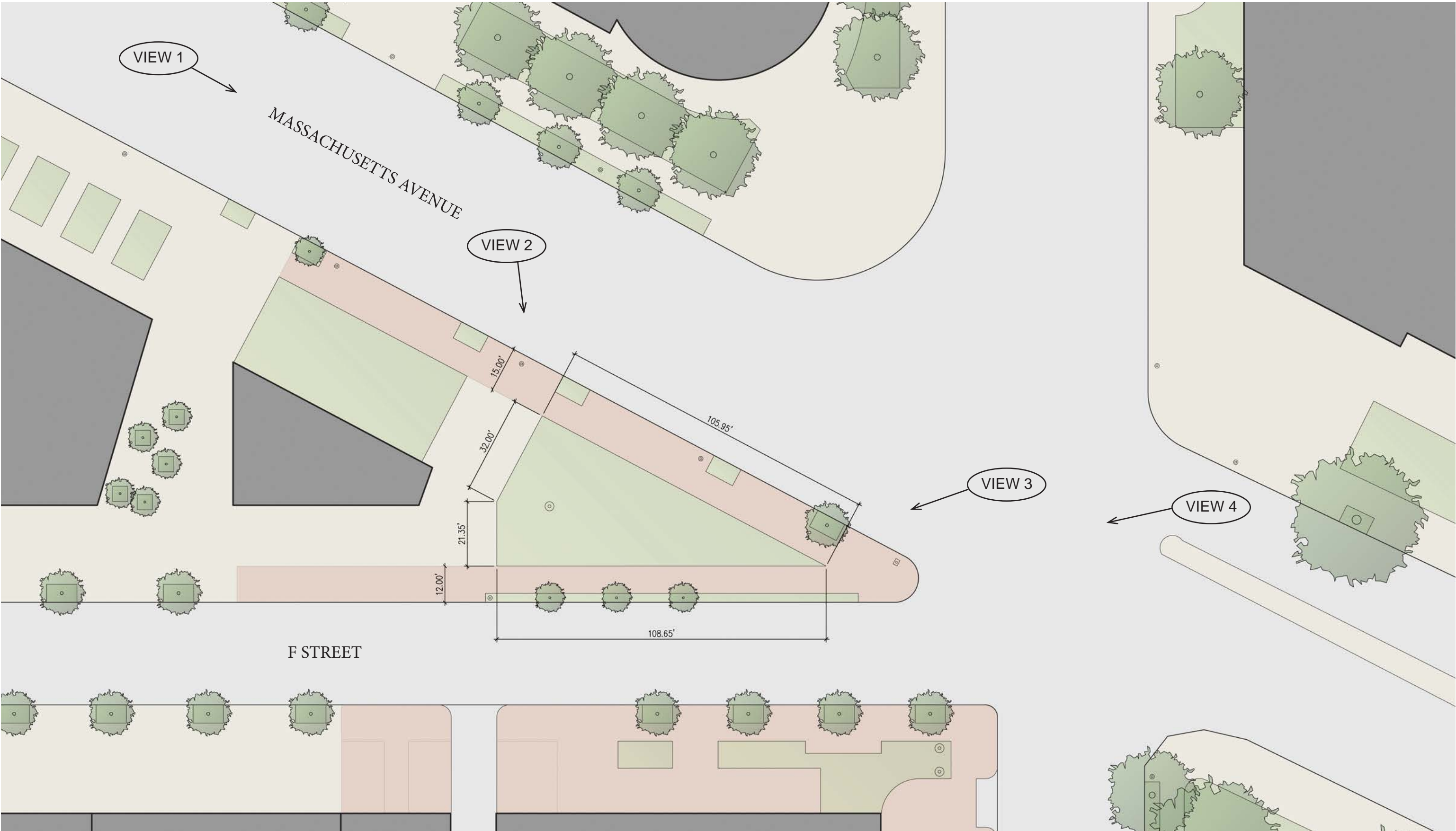
An educational wayside will be located at the northeast edge of the parcel along the Massachusetts Avenue sidewalk. The wayside will be in a bronze tone to compliment the memorial finishes.

Archeology

Pursuant to the FONSI, a Phase I Archeological Study is underway.









STREET VIEW 1



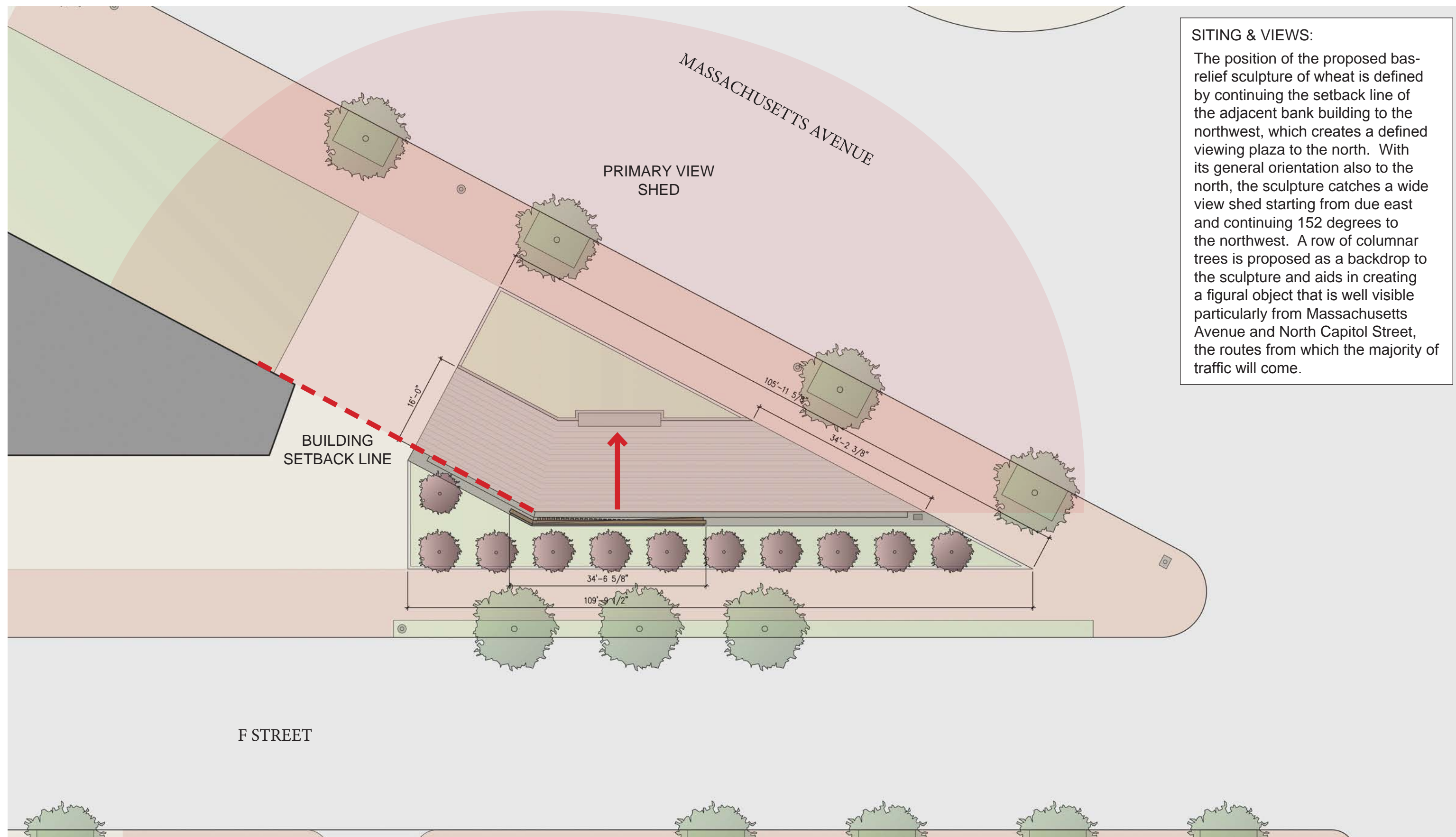
STREET VIEW 2



STREET VIEW 3



STREET VIEW 4

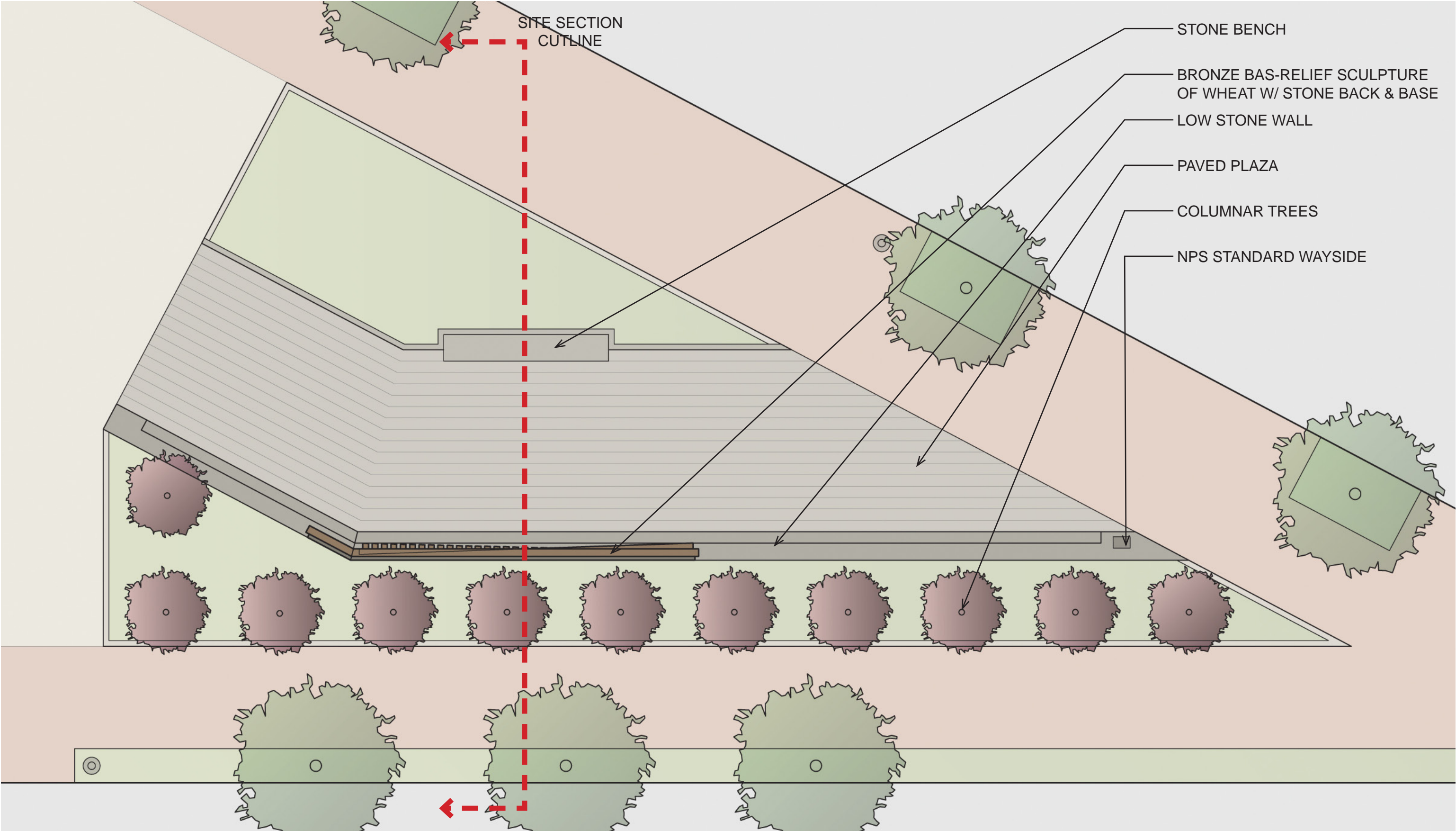


SITING & VIEWS:

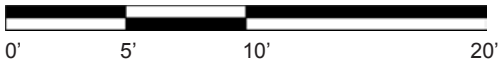
The position of the proposed bas-relief sculpture of wheat is defined by continuing the setback line of the adjacent bank building to the northwest, which creates a defined viewing plaza to the north. With its general orientation also to the north, the sculpture catches a wide view shed starting from due east and continuing 152 degrees to the northwest. A row of columnar trees is proposed as a backdrop to the sculpture and aids in creating a figural object that is well visible particularly from Massachusetts Avenue and North Capitol Street, the routes from which the majority of traffic will come.







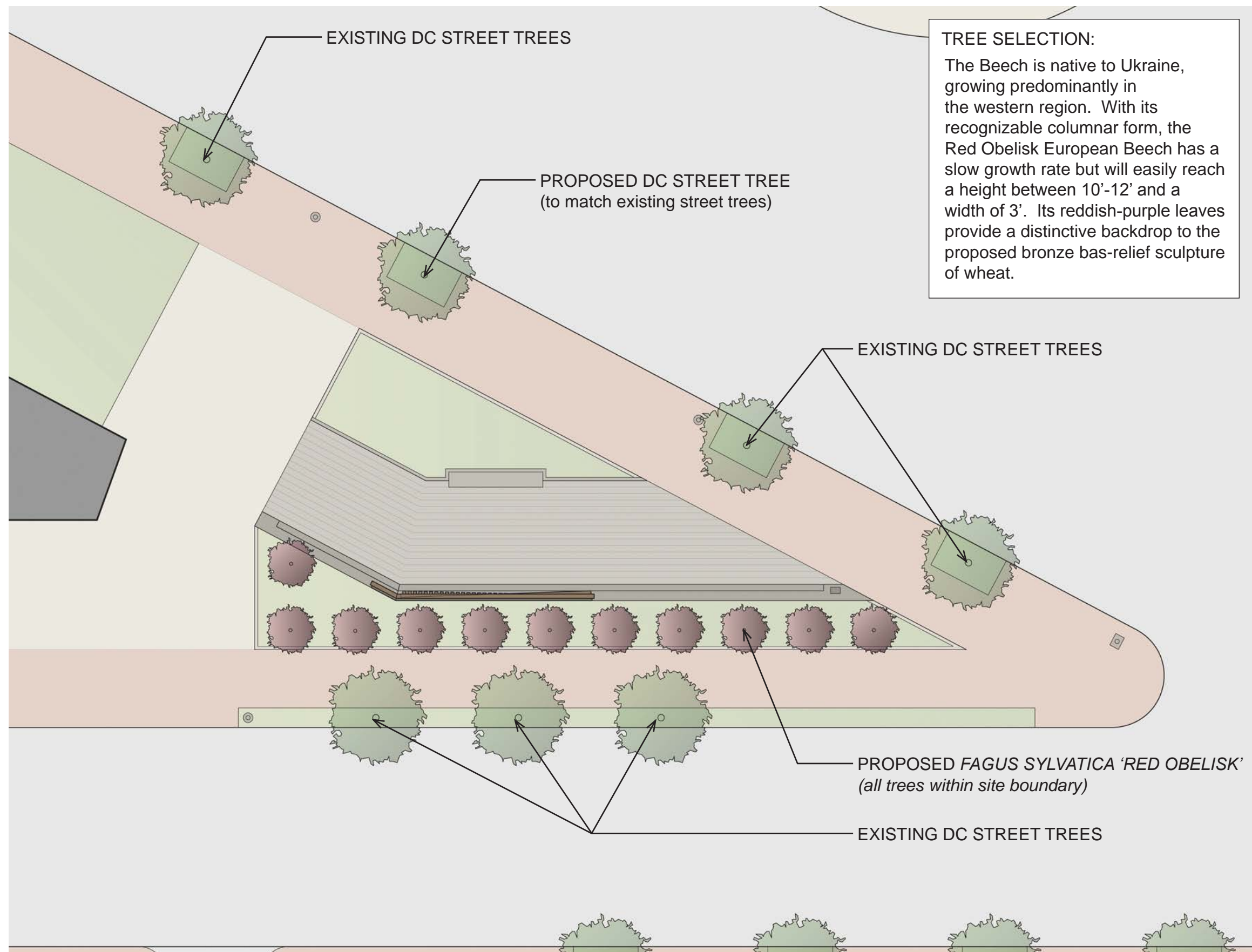
MEMORIAL TO THE VICTIMS OF THE UKRANIAN FAMINE-GENOCIDE OF 1932-1933
PREFERRED SCHEME - DETAILED PLAN





MEMORIAL TO THE VICTIMS OF THE UKRANIAN FAMINE-GENOCIDE OF 1932-1933
PREFERRED SCHEME - SITE SECTION





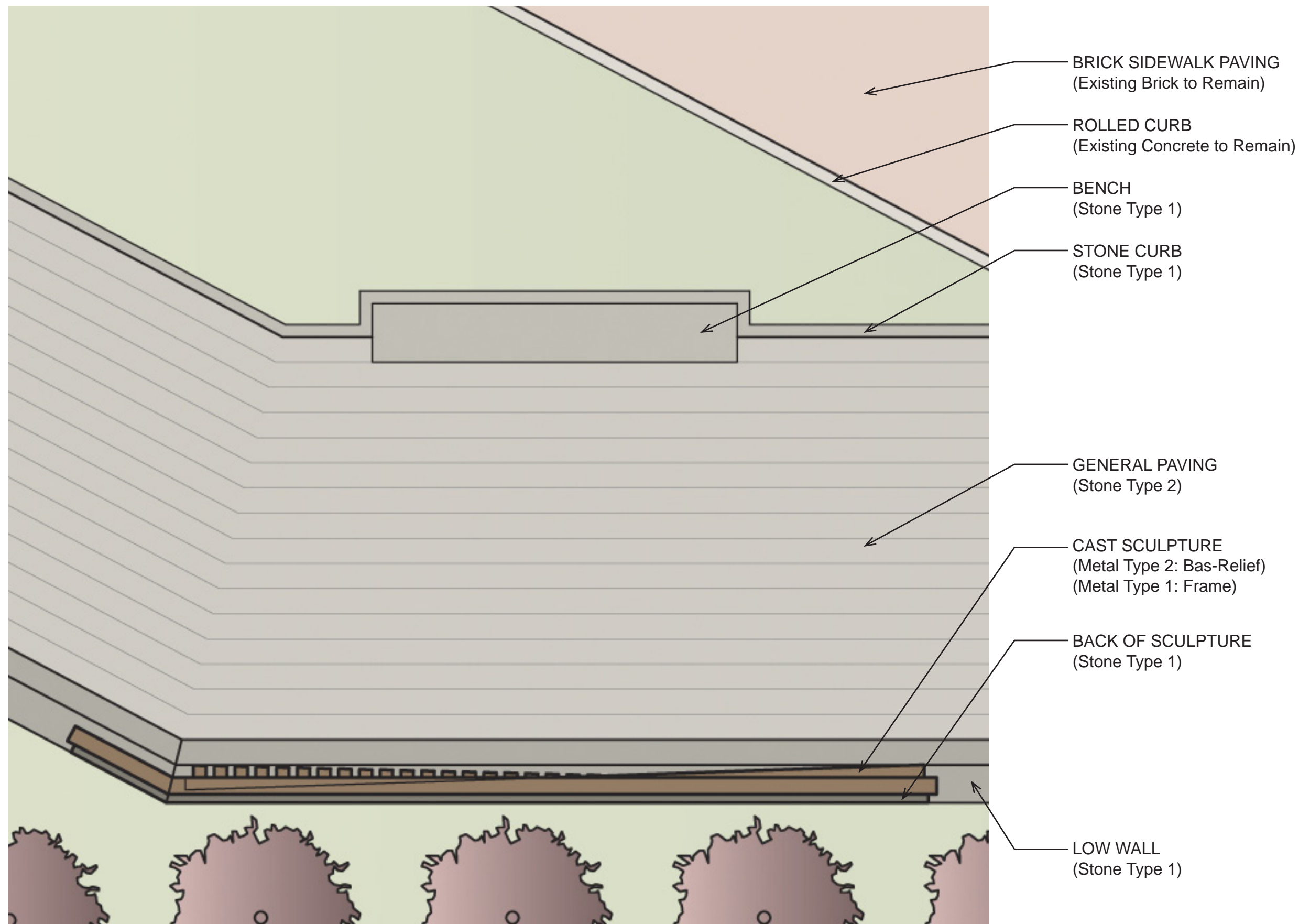
TREE SELECTION:

The Beech is native to Ukraine, growing predominantly in the western region. With its recognizable columnar form, the Red Obelisk European Beech has a slow growth rate but will easily reach a height between 10'-12' and a width of 3'. Its reddish-purple leaves provide a distinctive backdrop to the proposed bronze bas-relief sculpture of wheat.



RED OBELISK EUROPEAN BEECH
Fagus sylvatica 'Red Obelisk'





METAL TYPE 1
Cast Bronze
(Medium Lacquered Finish)



METAL TYPE 2
Cast Bronze
(Satin Finish)

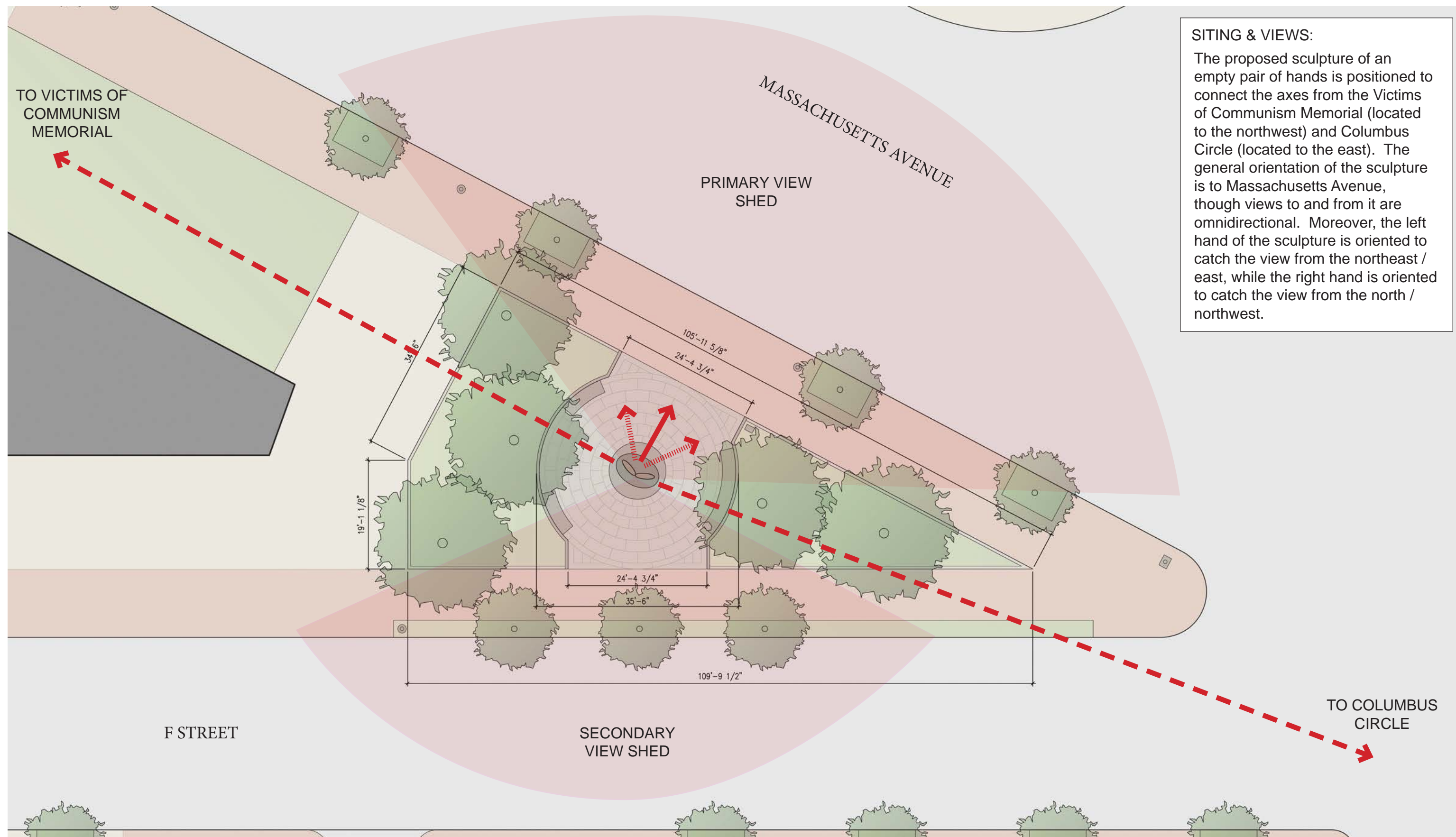


STONE TYPE 1
Granite "Rhino Black"
(Thermal Finish)



STONE TYPE 2
Slate "Kirby"
(Line Textured Finish)





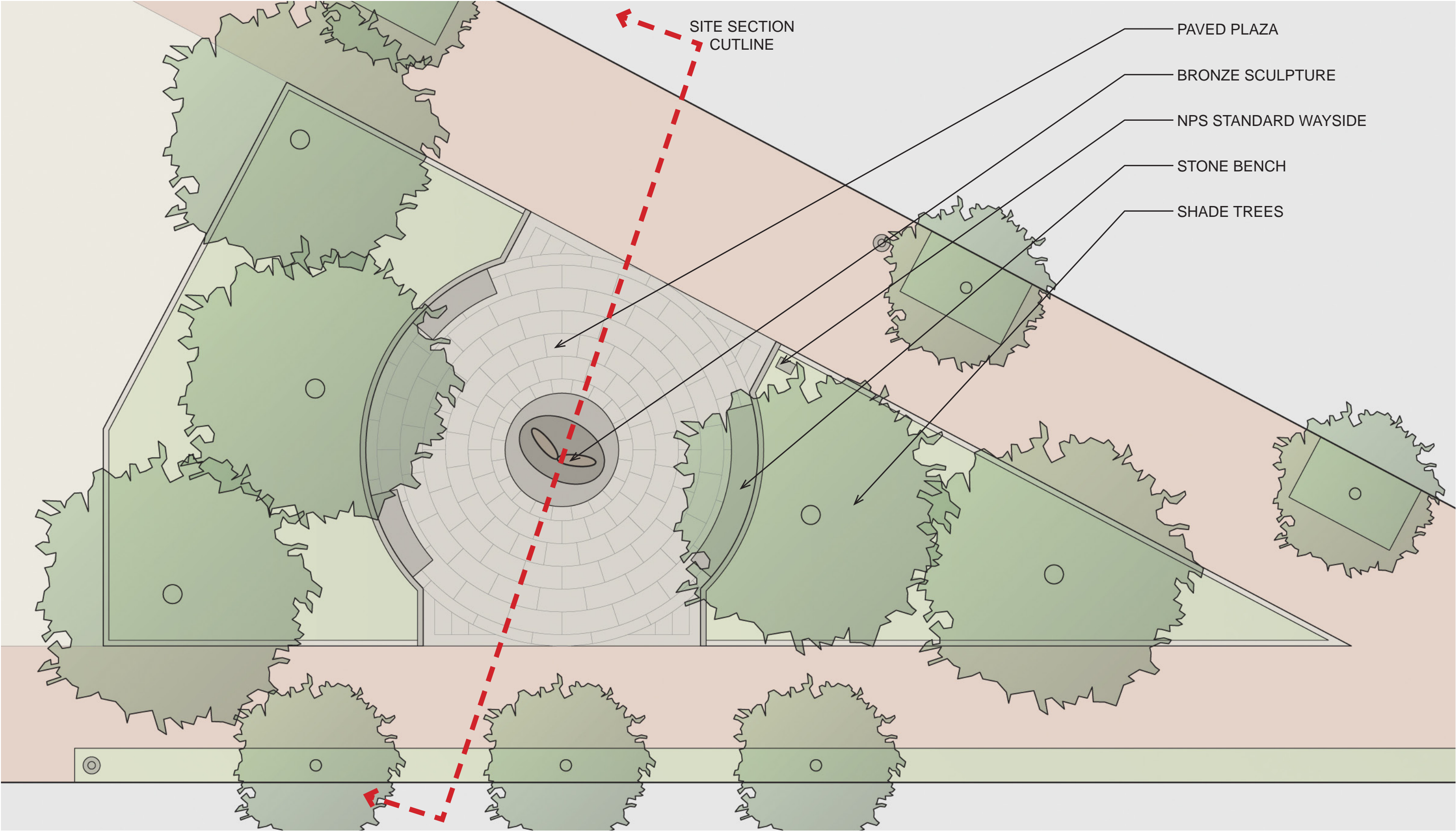
SITING & VIEWS:

The proposed sculpture of an empty pair of hands is positioned to connect the axes from the Victims of Communism Memorial (located to the northwest) and Columbus Circle (located to the east). The general orientation of the sculpture is to Massachusetts Avenue, though views to and from it are omnidirectional. Moreover, the left hand of the sculpture is oriented to catch the view from the northeast / east, while the right hand is oriented to catch the view from the north / northwest.





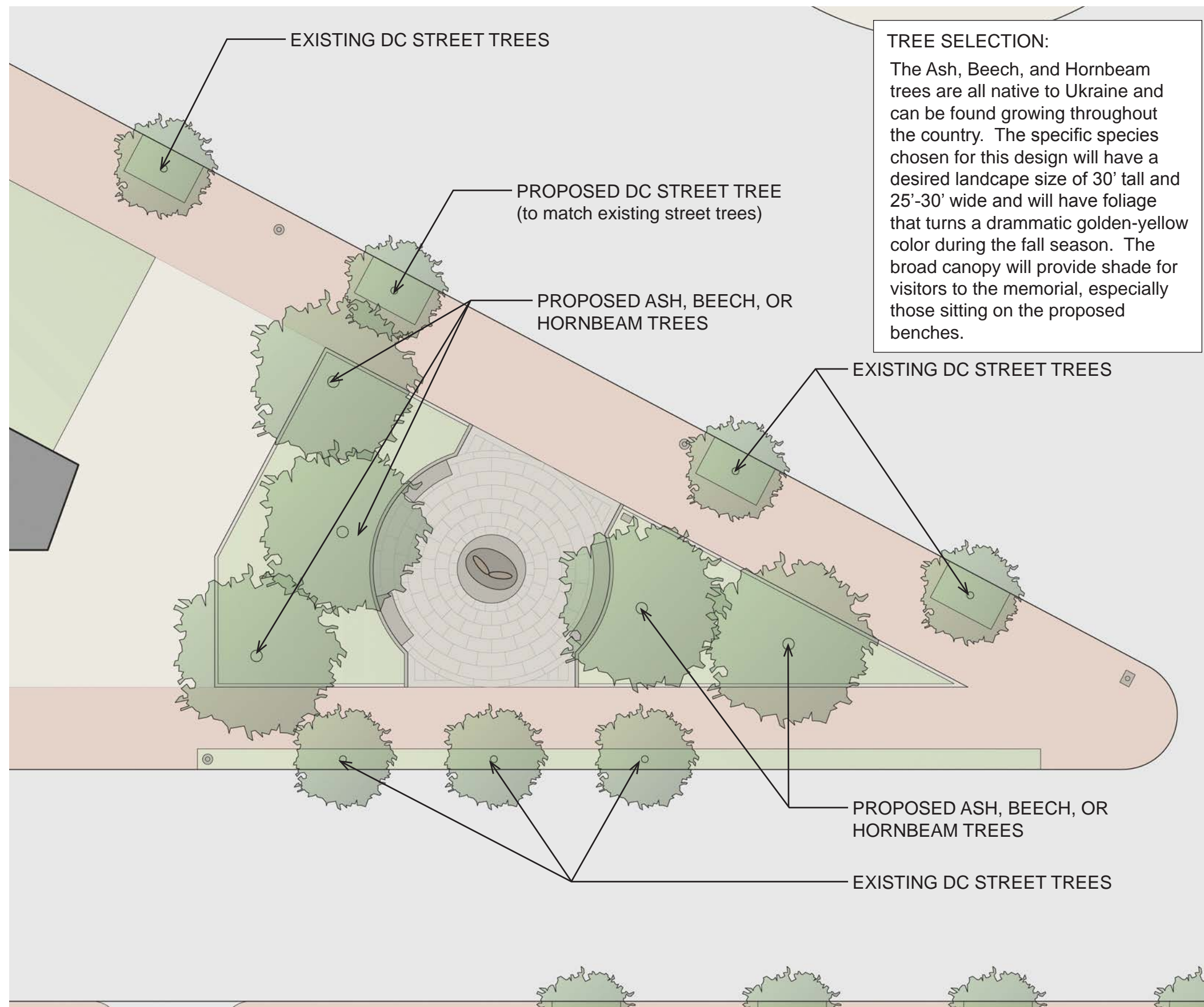
MEMORIAL TO THE VICTIMS OF THE UKRANIAN FAMINE-GENOCIDE OF 1932-1933
ALTERNATE SCHEME - ELEVATION AND PERSPECTIVE





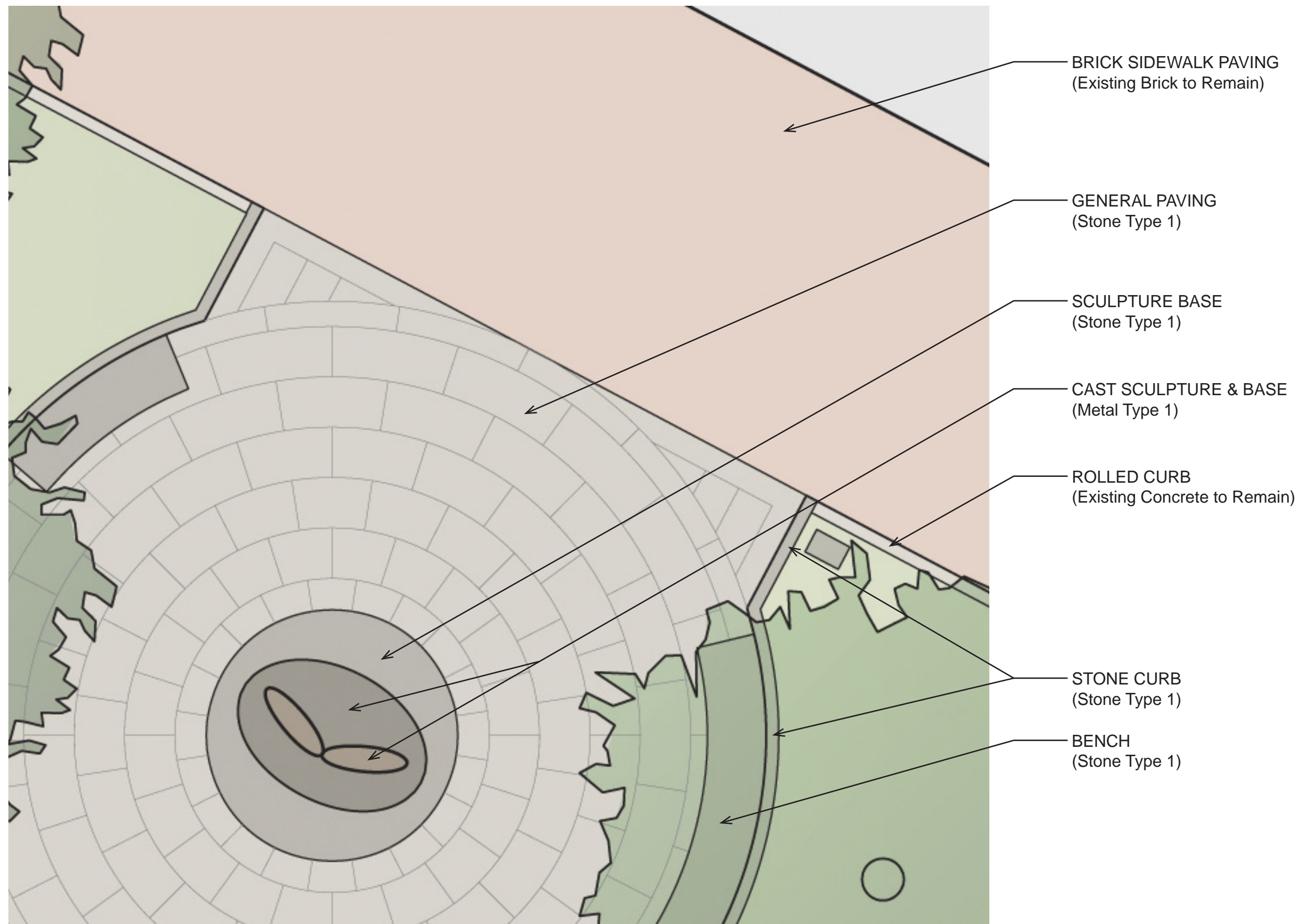
MEMORIAL TO THE VICTIMS OF THE UKRANIAN FAMINE-GENOCIDE OF 1932-1933
 ALTERNATE SCHEME - SITE SECTION





ASH, BEECH, OR HORNBEAM
 (n.b. images show *Fraxinus pennsylvanica* 'Patmore', known commonly as the Patmore Green Ash)





METAL TYPE 1
Cast Bronze
(Medium Lacquered Finish)



STONE TYPE 1
Granite "Charcoal Black"
(Thermal Finish)

