

## 2.0 DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVES

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**2.1 Consideration of Potential Sites**

The site selection process for locating the Victims of Communism Memorial involved a review of 19 sites located within the National Capital area by the Foundation and the National Park Service. All 19 sites are located within Area II of the Commemorative Works Act of 1986. The suitability of each of the 19 sites was assessed based on criteria defined in the Memorials and Museums Master Plan as well as a weighing of the positive and negative features of each location.

Descriptions of 12 of the sites can be found in NCPC’s 2001 Memorials and Museums Master Plan:

<u>Site #</u>	<u>Location</u>
98A	Intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and New Jersey Avenue, G Street, NW
25	C and 1st Streets and Louisiana Avenue, NW
34	2nd and 3rd Streets, on Pennsylvania Avenue, SE
98B	F and 1st Streets and New Jersey Avenue, NW
27	East Potomac Park, facing Washington Channel and the Maine Avenue waterfront SW
39	East Potomac Park, opposite Fort McNair, in the vicinity of an extended line of Q Street, SW
40	East Potomac Park, on the Potomac River side
59	Off Theodore Roosevelt Bridge, in Arlington County, VA
57	Wisconsin Avenue, south of K Street, NW

- 54 Rectangular shaped reservation north of Tenley Circle Wisconsin Avenue, Nebraska Avenue, and Grant Road, NW
- 52 Across Key Bridge from Francis Scott Key Park
- 53 Macomb Street and Massachusetts Ave, NW

Six additional sites that are not identified in the Memorials and Museums Master Plan were also reviewed in the process:

<u>Reservation #</u>	<u>Location</u>
328	Fulton Street, 35th Street, Massachusetts Avenue, NW
329	Fulton Street, 36th Street, Massachusetts Avenue, NW
330C	Nebraska Avenue, Van Ness Street, 42nd Street, NW
686	Reno Road, Warren Street, 36th Street, NW
667	Reno Road, 34th Street, Springfield Lane, NW
147	New Hampshire Avenue, 16th Street, NW

After presentation of the site selection report to the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission, it was suggested that an additional site, Site 32 in the Memorials and Museums Master Plan, be considered.

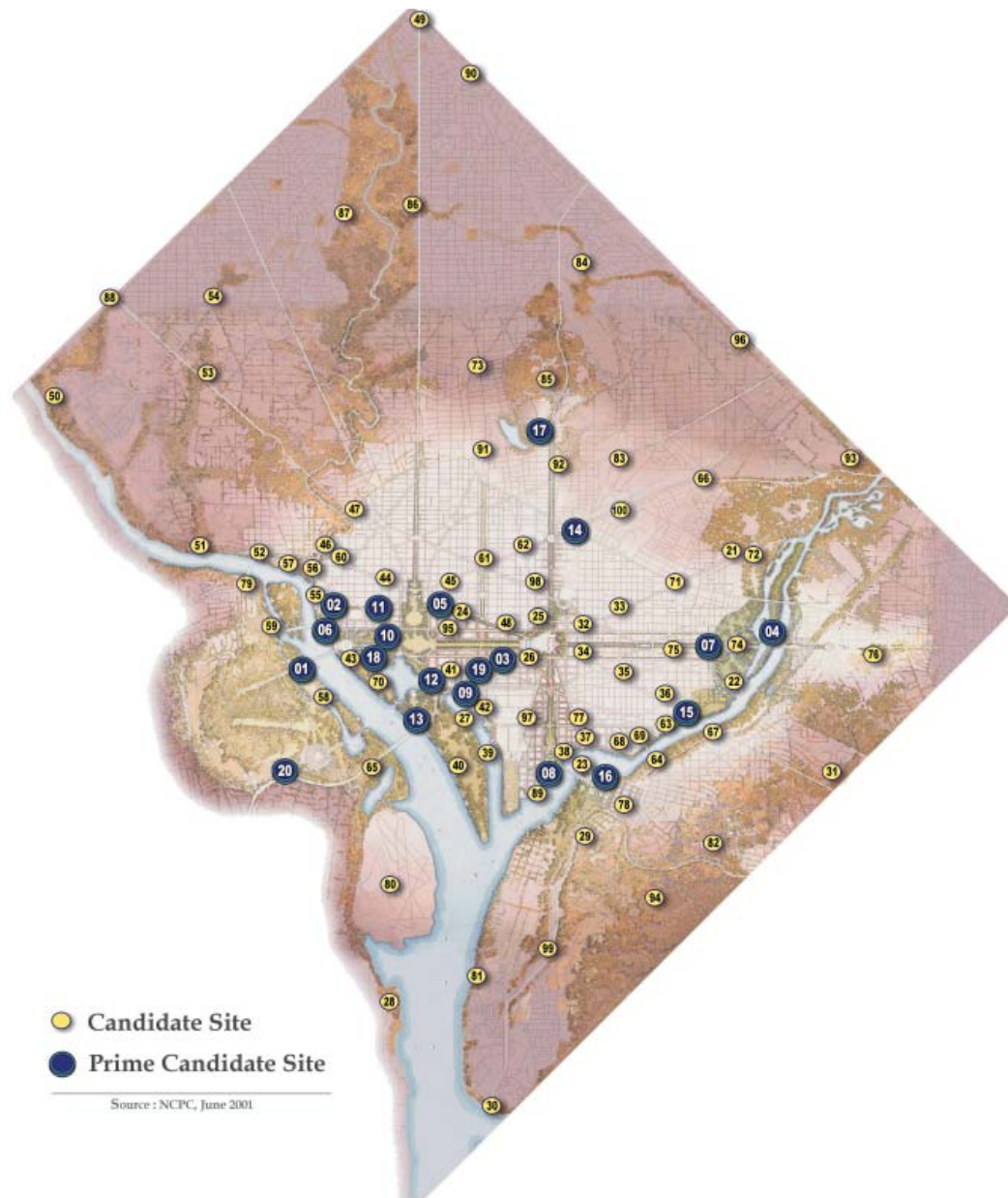


Figure 2-1: Prime and Candidate Sites identified in the Memorials and Museums Master Plan

## 2.2 Selected Alternative Sites

### Site 32

Site 32, located at the northeast corner of Maryland and Constitution Avenues, N.E. was chosen by the Foundation as the preferred location and approved by the National Capital Memorial Commission, contingent upon coordination with the local Advisory Neighborhood Commission, ANC 6C. Due to conflicting views expressed by the residents, the Foundation revisited the original 18 sites selected and chose Site 98 as the preferred location for the Memorial.

### Site 98

Site 98’s size and configuration at the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue, New Jersey Avenue and G Street, NW, make it an appropriate location for placement of a small memorial such as the Victims of Communism Memorial. Its proximity to the Georgetown University Law Center “begins a dialogue between the memorial and the school as the rule of law is an essential component of freedom and democracy and the antithesis of communism.” Site 98 will also provide for a direct line of site and connection between the planned Democracy Statue and Freedom Statue atop the U.S. Capitol. Unanimous endorsement of Site 98 as the location for the Memorial was provided by the Zoning and Planning Committee of ANC6 at its March 2, 2005 meeting and by the full ANC on March 9, 2005. Approval of Site 98 was also granted by the NCMC on March 15, 2005, the CFA on March 17, 2005, NCPC on April 7, 2005 and the SHPO on April 11, 2005.



Figure 2-2: Proposed Memorial site - NCPC Memorials and Museums Master Plan Site 98 - Reservation 77B

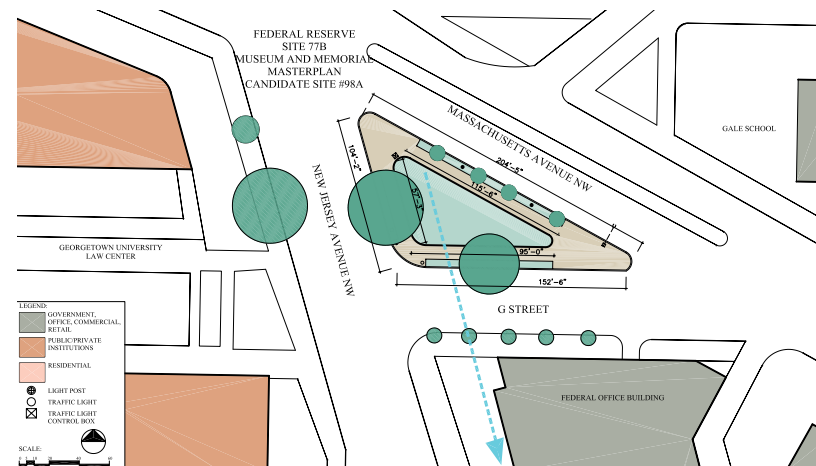


Figure 2-3: Proposed Memorial site location

### 2.3 Proposed Memorial

The proposed action is the establishment and maintenance of a memorial to commemorate the more than 100 million victims of communism. The proposed location is within a triangular area bounded by Massachusetts Avenue, New Jersey Avenue and G Street, NW. The Memorial site is to include the 10-foot tall Democracy Statue, standing upon a 3.5-foot pedestal, positioned within a triangular paved area. Benches for visitor seating will be incorporated into the site design, providing a place of contemplation and reflection.

The Democracy Statue was chosen as an embodiment of the people's aspirations for democracy and freedom from tyranny. The original inspiration for the Democracy Statue was the Statue of Liberty, serving as a symbol of strength and liberty.

“When it stood aloft in Tiananmen Square [the Goddess of Democracy] embodied the aspiration of the people of China for Democracy. It still embodies this aspiration, 12 years after it was demolished by the soldiers who invaded the square. It has even become a universal symbol of democracy because of the way it adapts a Western image to Chinese conditions”

-- Carl Gershman, President, National Endowment for Democracy, May 5, 2001

### 2.4 No Action Alternative

As part of the environmental assessment process, the consequences of a No Action Alternative are examined to provide a baseline for comparing impacts and to inform the decision-making process. The No Action Alternative assures that the site would remain in its existing condition as an undefined and underutilized space with minimal plantings. Under the No Action Alternative, the triangular parcel would remain in its open landscaped state and a new site would be sought for the placement of the Memorial.