



# U.S. Department of Homeland Security Nebraska Avenue Complex Master Plan DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

## APPENDIX A

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# Cultural Landscape Report

August 30, 2010



# NEBRASKA AVENUE COMPLEX Cultural Landscape Report

Washington, D.C.

*prepared for*  
**General Services Administration**  
Washington, DC

*prepared by*  
**John Milner Associates, Inc.**  
300 West Main Street, Suite 201  
Charlottesville, Virginia 22903

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## PROJECT TEAM

The project team consisted of the following people:

JOHN MILNER ASSOCIATES, INC. (JMA) • Preservation Landscape Architects and Planners

Annie Saucer, LEED AP — Project Manager

Joy Bunch, AIA — Architect

Laura L. Knott, ASLA, RLA — Historical Landscape Architect

Lauren F. Noe, Associate ASLA — Landscape Architectural Designer

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# Introduction

## Introduction

Near the hub of the Tenleytown community of Washington, D.C., is the Nebraska Avenue Complex (NAC), a campus of the Department of Homeland Security. The NAC is an approximately 38.6-acre site located at 3800 Nebraska Avenue, NW, at the northeast corner of the intersection of Nebraska and Massachusetts avenues, at Ward Circle (Figure 1-1). The site, sloping down from some of the highest ground in the District of Columbia, contains a dense complex of buildings, structures, roads, parking lots and landscaped spaces, many dating back to the original establishment of the campus in 1916.

Initially developed as the Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls, the NAC remained an academic campus until the U.S. Navy acquired the site in 1943 and developed it through 1952 to house its cryptanalysis activities in World War II (WWII). The NAC is a nationally significant historic resource that documents in physical form the evolution of a site from academic campus to military facility.

The NAC parcel includes more than 30 buildings containing approximately 650,000 square feet of interior space, along with associated utilities, parking, transportation and security infrastructure. Fourteen of the existing structures are considered contributing to at least one of the two periods of significance. Of these buildings, seven date from the first period of significance (1916-1942), associated with the Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls. Eight additional buildings date from the U.S. Navy cryptanalysis period of significance (1943-1952). The remaining structures were built between 1953-1997, when the site was used as the U.S. Naval Security Station. These are not considered contributing features to either period due to loss of integrity or time of construction post-dating 1952.

The northwestern portion of the NAC Study Area demonstrates a high degree of integrity in the persistence of features and spatial organization that originated during the first period of significance, from 1916 to 1942. Additionally, areas to the southeast of Building 1 associated with the field house, gymnasium and tennis courts retain a n associative relationship with the original land use.

Further, many of the structural and landscape additions to the site associated with the second period of significance remain.

## Methodology

In 2009, the General Services Administration (GSA) commissioned MTF Architecture, Inc. to develop a Master Plan to address issues of growth, land use and future development patterns at the NAC as it is re-purposed for use as one of the main facilities for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). John Milner Associates, Inc. (JMA), was commissioned to be part of the MTF team to develop a cultural landscape report (CLR) as supporting documentation for the Master Plan.

The project area for the CLR encompasses the parcel of land bounded by Massachusetts Avenue to the southwest, a TV station to the northeast, Nebraska Avenue to the northwest and Glover-Archbold Park to the east (Study Area). The scope of work for the CLR included three basic tasks:

- Gain an understanding of the landscape history and evolution by reviewing previous studies and nominations and obtaining and studying maps, aerial photographs and historic photographs;
- Develop detailed mapping and assess the condition of the extant landscape features through field observation; and
- Develop recommendations for landscape maintenance and conservation based on field observation, recordation and analysis.

This report describes the work undertaken and concludes with recommendations that address stewardship of the historic landscape of the NAC. The work and resulting recommendations were carried out following the Secretary of the Interior's

*Standards for Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes.*<sup>1</sup>

Work towards the completion of this report began with a review and compilation of historic documentation regarding NAC. Primary source research was limited to historic photographs and aerial images from the National Archives and the Library of Congress. A number of collections were consulted, including Mount Vernon Seminary and College Archives in the Special Collections Research Center at the Gelman Library of George Washington University, the Nebraska Avenue Complex Public Works Archives, the National Archives, the Library of Congress and the Mount Vernon Seminary and College Archives. Other valuable resources included the history of the Mount Vernon Seminary called *Dear Daughters*, the U.S. Navy CT history website, the D.C. Vote website for historic maps and the Tenleytown Historical Society of Washington, D.C. website.

The JMA project team also conducted field investigations of the cultural landscape of the Study Area, documenting the location, condition and character of landscape features, including spatial organization, topographic modifications, views and vistas, circulation, cultural vegetation, buildings and structures and small-scale features. The assessment of existing conditions of these features was observation-based. Field documentation was recorded on hard copies of base maps created from AutoCAD data provided to JMA by the GSA. Conditions were noted and recorded with digital photography. Features that were identified as possibly historic were documented in detail.

Comparing historic and existing conditions, the team assessed the integrity of each landscape feature to the two periods of significance. Based on this analysis, the JMA team was able to identify a pattern of organization that divided the landscape into component units by their distinct and identifiable character based on spatial organization, circulation, topography and vegetative patterns. Boundaries were loosely delineated by features such as dramatic changes in slope, lines of vegetation, building masses and major circulation features. The four units identified were:

**Mount Vernon Unit:** landscape related primarily to the historical use of the NAC as a female seminary during the first period of significance and including historic landscape features such as the landscape terracing, Building One, Building Six, the Hensley Memorial Gate, the semi-circular entrance drive and the demilune lawn;

**Recreational Unit:** landscape related to sports courts, terracing, buildings and circulation features including the service road, associated with the Mount Vernon Seminary during the first period of significance and Building 13 from the second period of significance;

**Cryptanalysis Unit:** landscape related primarily to the U.S. Navy cryptanalysis operations on the NAC during WW II including Buildings 7, 18, 19 and associated circulation features;

**East Unit:** landscape related to the construction of the maintenance buildings, recreation area and parking lots located in the easternmost portion of the NAC property. This portion of the property was not developed until after the conclusion of the final period of significance.

Within these four landscape units are a variety of features that give character to the landscape, including:

- **Spatial Organization**, that is, the three-dimensional organization and patterns of spaces in a landscape created by its cultural and natural features, including topographic changes, fences, vegetative groupings and building clusters.
- **Topographic Modifications**, which has to do with the shape and height or depth of the ground plan and may be natural or a result of human intervention. .
- **Cultural Vegetation**, which includes individual plants, or groups of plants such as might be found in a woodland and which is the type of landscape feature most susceptible to change, age, decay and death.
- **Circulation**, including roads, parking areas and walkways, their character defined by their alignment, width and materials.
- **Buildings and Structures**, which includes all habitable structures, that is, those with

<sup>1</sup> Birnbaum, Charles A. 1996. *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes*. Washington, DC: U. S. Department of Interior, National Park Service, Cultural Resource Stewardship and Partnerships, Heritage Preservation Services, Historic Landscape Initiative.

walls and roofs and meant for human habitation and non-habitable structures such as outbuildings, retaining walls, free standing walls, terraces, steps and fence systems.

- **Small-scale Features**, which includes site furnishings, such as benches; lights; signs; and some fencing.

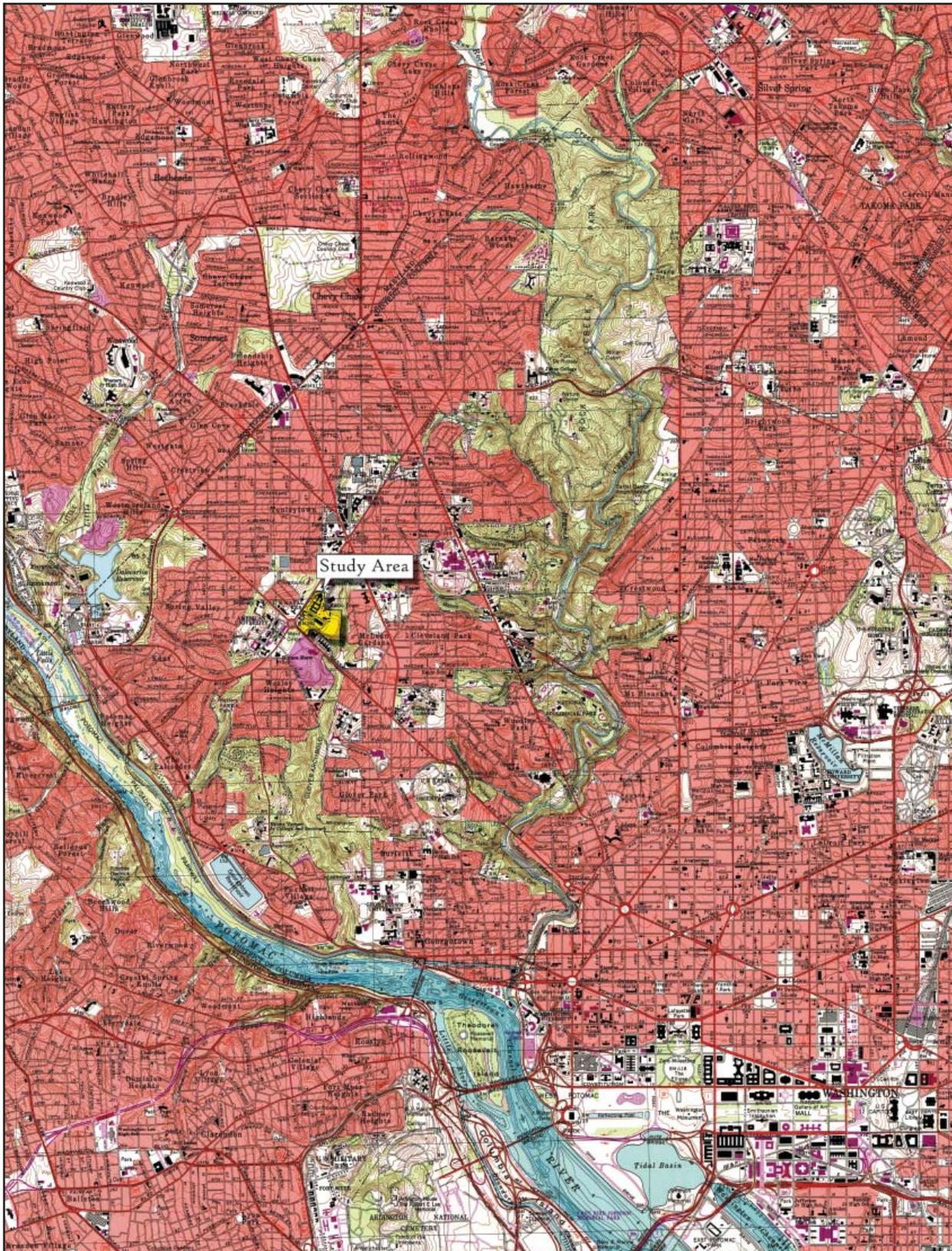
Each feature discussed in the landscape unit sections has been identified as either historically significant or not. Historically significant features are those that are either listed as contributing features in the U.S. Naval Communications Annex National Register nomination, closely associated by proximity or use to those features listed, or are extant from the period of significance and potentially eligible for listing as contributing features.<sup>2</sup> Those features listed as non-historic are those that originated after the period of significance and not considered potentially contributing.

The information gathered through the documentation and condition assessment of these features informed the assessment of the integrity of the landscape to the periods of significance, determined to be 1916-1942 and 1943-1952. JMA concluded that the draft National Register nomination should be expanded to include a more detailed discussion about significant landscape features within the Study Area.

Finally, the JMA team made both general and specific treatment recommendations for historic landscape features and offered guidelines to aid in future work processes affecting these features, including guidance for new construction and maintenance cycles.

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<sup>2</sup> Buildings that have lost historic integrity due to interior or exterior renovations are, nevertheless, included in the list as historically-significant cultural landscape because of their overall form and contribution to the spatial organization of the site.



**Figure 1-1.** Nebraska Avenue Complex Study Area location within the context of Washington, D.C. Source: USGS Washington West, D.C.-MD.-VA. Quadrangle, 1983, not to scale.

# Historic Context and Development Chronology

## Introduction

Developed originally to house the Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls (1916-1942) and later the U.S. Naval Communications Annex (1943-1952), the NAC Study Area contains historic resources that date to as early as 1914. Significant resources include a number of buildings constructed during these periods and landscape features such as designed outdoor spaces, trees, roads and walls.

The objective of this historic context and chronology is to gain an understanding of the developmental evolution of the campus and to inform the evaluation of character-defining features and the preparation of cultural landscape treatment recommendations. Much of the information presented below was gleaned from the report, "Phase I-B Archeological Investigations for the Proposed Electrical System Upgrades of the Nebraska Avenue Complex (NAC), Northwest, Washington, D.C.," completed in 2009 by JMA.<sup>1</sup> Details added from the National Register of Historic Places draft nomination will be identified as such.<sup>2</sup>

This chapter describes the chronological evolution of the NAC property through five periods spanning prehistory to the present:

- Prehistory and Early Contact
- Early Historic Period, 1608-1804
- Grassland Era, 1804-1913
- Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls, 1914-1942
- Naval Communications Annex , 1942 – 1952
- U.S. Naval Security Station and Nebraska Avenue Complex, 1952-present

These periods were established using the dates of known events and physical developments that significantly altered the land use and character of the NAC landscape and are treated as distinct sections within this chapter.

There is little documentary evidence and few surviving physical resources related to the site that predate the 20th century. However, a survey of what is known provides some understanding of the character and configuration of the landscape at various stages in its history and helps to identify the specific features and qualities that engender its particular sense of place.

Although the focus of this cultural landscape report is the site as described above, this chapter also covers the developmental history of the surrounding local area in order to provide a broad contextual understanding of the project site.

## Prehistory to Early Contact

The NAC is located in a portion of the Fall Zone is characterized by upland coarse sands and gravels deposited during the Miocene or Pliocene Periods. This deposit is an erosional remnant that caps hills in a small zone between Rock Creek and the Little Falls Branch that includes the project area (Figure 2-1). These remnant deposits provided prehistoric groups with inexhaustible supplies of quartz and quartzite, with occasional pebbles of chert, jasper, chalcedony and other rocks. It is likely that the prehistoric site identified within the project area may be related to quarry/lithic procurement and workshop activities where cobbles were collected and reduced.

The Archaic and Early Woodland periods exhibited a stable pattern of small group temporary and seasonal campsites in the uplands of the area in which the NAC is located. With the advent of agriculture in the Middle Woodland period, a gradual shift to larger floodplain settlements occurred. At this time, upland areas were only inhabited by small groups temporarily occupying

1 Charles E. Goode and Donna J. Seifert, "Phase 1B Archeological Investigations for the Proposed Electrical System Upgrades of the Nebraska Avenue Complex (NAC) Northwest, Washington, D.C. Prepared by JMA for Summer Consultants, Inc., September 2009.

2 DRAFT U.S. Naval Communications Annex National Register Nomination.

foray campsites to procure a specific resource, such as lithic materials.<sup>3</sup>

## Early Historic Period, 1608-1804

Beginning in the early 17th century, Europeans made small forays past the Fall Line towards the interior of Virginia. Early Native American footpaths through the area expanded to accommodate horse-drawn carts and coaches. One of these early roads was the Braddock Road, the first military road in colonial America. It was constructed in 1755 for British troops planning a campaign against the French at Fort Duquesne (present Pittsburgh), which was led by General Edward Braddock. Later, this route became known as the Georgetown to Frederick Road (Figure 2-2). This road provided access to the present Tenleytown and American University areas of Washington and led to their initial development for residential use. Its southern section approximated the present Wisconsin Avenue, which forms the eastern border of the block within which the NAC is located.

Access to the area was further improved with the construction of River Road by Jacob Funk in 1779 (Figure 2-3). Funk's road began at the Georgetown to Frederick Road and continued west until it paralleled the Potomac River on its way to Great Falls, Seneca and Harper's Ferry. Scattered farms were developed to take advantage of transportation links to Georgetown and other Potomac River ports. The River Road was later improved and became Nebraska Avenue.

The land on which the NAC is located was part of a 3,124 acre tract known as Friendship that was patented in 1713 by Colonel Thomas Addison and James Stoddert. The patent included large portions of the present Cleveland Park, as well as portions of the present Chevy Chase and Bethesda, Maryland. The southern portion of the patent, including the project area, was assigned to Thomas Addison. Addison was a resident of the Oxon Hill plantation in Maryland and it is unlikely that he ever lived on Friendship, nor did his sons, Anthony and Henry, who inherited the land after Col. Addison's death in 1727. Eventually, however, Anthony's portion was bequeathed to their sister Ann, who had married William Murdock (1710-1769), a member of the

Maryland House of Burgesses. Their sons, Addison and John, were in their twenties at the time and eventually inherited the land.

John Murdock bought out his brother Addison's portion of Friendship. In about 1760, he became the first property owner to reside on the tract when he built a frame house south of the present Massachusetts Avenue with a view of the Potomac to the west and south (Figure 2-4). This house, the first substantial country house in the Tenleytown section of present Washington, D.C., was eventually acquired by American University. The Chancellor's House of the university was later built on its site.

John Murdock became deputy surveyor of Frederick County under Maryland Governor Horatio Sharp and served as a colonel in the American Revolution. He divided his time between his town house in Georgetown and his country estate, still known as Friendship, where he was a gentleman farmer. By 1780, his land holdings included 1,562 acres of the original Friendship patent. Murdock was married to Ann Belt, a daughter of Joseph Belt, a well-known Georgetown innkeeper. Their son, William Murdock, was born in about 1760.

Colonel John Murdock died on August 3, 1790. His son, by then Captain William Murdock, had married Jane Contee Harrison in 1783. At the time of his father's death, William had three young children: Addison, Kitty and Eliza. Col. Murdock's will provided that the trustees of the estate would maintain his son's family but only Addison Murdock was to inherit any land. William Murdock died only a year after his father; his son, Addison, inherited a large portion of Friendship when he turned 21. Addison, too, died young, in his late 20s. Upon his death, control of his portion of Friendship passed to his widow. His heirs sold portions of Friendship, including the present site of NAC, to Nathan Loughborough in two transactions that occurred on December 5, 1804 and July 12, 1805. By these two transactions, Loughborough acquired about 250 acres of the former Friendship.

## Grassland Era, 1804-1913

Prior to the establishment of Washington, D.C. as the seat of national government, Nathan Loughborough was the Chief Clerk in the Land Office of Philadelphia. After the establishment of the National Capitol, Loughborough moved to Washington, D.C. and several years later, purchased

<sup>3</sup> Goode and Seifert, 12-19.

the Friendship tracts in northwest Washington for his country seat (see Figure 2-4).

Loughborough built a two-story brick house and a stone barn on the tract and called it Grassland. When this country seat was established, there was only one nearby dwelling, Rosedale, the home of General Uriah Forrest. Later, Joseph Nourse constructed a mansion in the vicinity. The house and barn of Grassland stood until about 1955 when they were demolished for the construction of the studios of WRC-TV.

After the death of his wife, Mary Webster, in 1844, Loughborough offered Grassland to his second son, Hamilton, who was practicing law in Richmond, Virginia. His offer was accepted and Loughborough moved to his upper farm, known as Milton, the house of which still stands at 5312 Allendale Road in Bethesda, Maryland. Upon his death, Loughborough was buried at Grassland.

Hamilton Loughborough practiced law until his health failed, after which he retired from Richmond to Grassland. He later purchased Milton from his father's heirs. The younger Loughborough owned Grassland at the time of the Civil War. Both of the Loughborough family seats were extensively damaged during the war. Grassland was subsequently acquired by Lewis E. Means, who also owned a property on Michigan Avenue known as Means Farm. In the fall of 1885, the property was leased by William C. Whitney for \$30,000. Whitney spent another \$10,000 on improvements to Grassland. During Whitney's ownership, the house was described as a

"Rather rambling place - the main structure of brick, painted a creamy yellow, with outbuildings galore, among which is preserved one of the slave quarters. It is but one room deep, with windows opening on each side, to admit all that is possible of air and light. The front hall is wide, almost square, with an old-fashioned clock, that has an apple-faced old man above the dial in the corner, antlers on the wall, a cabinet in another corner and a soft colored rug on the polished floor. A footworn doorstep...leads to a narrower hall and that to a wide porch. On the right of the hall is the parlor, one of those dainty luxurious rooms that look as if they were intended for lounging in ..."<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Goode and Seifert, 22

Whitney, an attorney, was a supporter of Grover Cleveland. Upon Cleveland's initial ascent to the presidency, he appointed Whitney as his Secretary of the Navy. Paxson indicated the role that the Whitney's played in the Cleveland administration:

"Whitney went to Washington accustomed to the habits of wealthy society; and he and his wife took a lead in the social affairs of the administration. Their remodeled home, with its great ballroom, offered entertainments beyond anything that Cleveland could manage while a bachelor and the like of which Whitney's colleagues in the cabinet could not afford to undertake..."<sup>5</sup>

Grassland became a favorite retreat of Cleveland and Secretary of the Treasury Fairchild. Cleveland's visits to Grassland inspired him to purchase his own country estate, a 272-acre farm on the Tennallytown Road near Grasslands, which he called Oak View (see Figure 2-3, "President Cleveland's").

It was not until construction of the Georgetown to Rockville trolley line in 1890 that intensive residential development occurred in the area of the present NAC. Whitney had initially hoped to build Grassland into a country estate, but his hope was dashed by the subdivision and sale of surrounding land (Figure 2-5). In December 1887, he sold a 76-acre portion of Grassland, including the house, to William K. and Martha A. Ryan and Arthur Barnwell. William Ryan, a resident of Charleston, South Carolina, who also owned several large parcels on Pierce Mill Road, was listed in an 1889 Washington city directory as a cotton broker.

Five years later, the Ryans and Barnwell sold a partial interest in the parcel to Robert E. Lee and H. Rozier Dulaney for the token sum of \$10.00. The purchasers were relatives of the Ryans, as evidenced by the following transaction.

In May 1913, Martha A. Ryan and Caroline Ryan Nash sold a 12.46 acre parcel of land to Elizabeth J. Somers for the token sum of \$10.00. The deed indicates that the sellers were acting in exercise of power granted them by Juliet Carter Lee, wife of Robert E. Lee and Anne C. Dulaney, wife of H. Rozier Dulaney. Somers was the founder of the Mount Vernon Seminary and acquired the parcel as a new home for her school.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Goode and Seifert, 23.

<sup>6</sup> Goode and Seifert, 24.

## Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls, 1914-1942

*Refer Maps 2-1 through 2-3, Period Plans 1916-1942.*

Elizabeth J. Somers, the daughter of a pioneer Methodist preacher, was born in Rush County, Indiana in 1837. She attended Ohio Wesleyan Female College in Cincinnati and graduated in 1855 with a degree in English literature. After graduation she became a teacher at the Northwestern Female College in Evanston, Illinois (present Northwestern University) and later taught at the Methodist Female College in Pittsburgh. In 1863, she moved from Indiana to Washington, D.C., as the wife of James Somers, an attorney. Government officials from Indiana remembered her and persuaded her to tutor their children. After a number of years of tutoring, she decided that her students needed the classroom competition and social contacts afforded by a real school.

In the fall of 1875, she opened a “family and day school for young ladies” in her own home at 204 F Street in Washington. Because several friends had asked that their daughters be allowed to live with her family, the institution was a boarding school from the time of its founding. It was the first non-sectarian girl’s boarding school in the city. She named it Mount Vernon Seminary, in memory of her brother, Dr. Thomas Eddy, who had been pastor of Baltimore’s Mount Vernon Place Church and who had died the previous year. In 1880, the school was relocated to the old Farnham home at 1103 M Street, N.W. This remained the school’s location until its Nebraska Avenue campus was constructed.

In 1913 Somers purchased 12.46 acres of the historic Grasslands estate on the east side of Loughboro Road (present Nebraska Avenue) (Figure 2-6). Suburban Washington, D.C. of the early twentieth century, with its rolling farmland and thick woodlots, was the ideal setting for the new campus of the Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls. Located at the end of the Massachusetts Avenue trolley line in 1914, the property was described by a neighbor who exclaimed that

There can be no more suitable site in the District of Columbia for a fine and progressive school such as Mount Vernon Seminary is and has been in the many years that I have known it....There can be no better moral security than

is offered by your situation. I predict for the school a brilliant future.<sup>7</sup>

The new school grounds of the seminary were on a commanding ridge, facing Virginia with views towards downtown Washington. Massachusetts Avenue, the southern boundary of the campus, was paved as far as Ward Circle and the buildings across Nebraska Avenue were already in use by American University. The area around Ward Circle and Tenleytown was being developed with large homes and new businesses were becoming established along Wisconsin Avenue to the north of the campus.<sup>8</sup>

Somers had originally purchased the tract to accommodate the program of competitive athletics and sports that were an important and regular component of Seminary life. However, at the same time, M Street, where the Seminary campus was located, was becoming increasingly commercial in character and parents of Somer’s students became concerned about the trolley line planned for the street. For upper-class parents, there was also an increasing demand for “country schools” in which their children could be both protected and educated. In addition, the Seminary was growing in size and the M Street campus was becoming crowded.

Somers named her property the “Country Playground,” describing her intention to use it as an outdoor recreation area for students. In 1915, Somers had constructed the “Shelter,” also known as the “Tea House,” to house indoor recreation activities and other amenities (Figure 2-7). The structure was described as “a strongly built cottage of picturesque rustic effect, contain[ing] one large room with an open fireplace...; a rest room, a toilet room and a small kitchen with electric appliances for cooking.”<sup>9</sup> Although the Shelter was set within a grove of trees above a creek, the Country Playground also featured three tennis courts, a basketball court, tether- and volleyball facilities and a six-hole golf course (Figures 2-8 and 2-9).

With the outbreak of war in 1914 and subsequent involvement of the U.S., Washington quickly evolved from a sleepy southern town to a bustling center of war-related activity; it was time to move. By this time, Somers had added approximately 3.24

<sup>7</sup> Mikhalevsky, *Dear Daughters*, 49.

<sup>8</sup> U.S. Naval Communications Annex, Draft National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.

<sup>9</sup> Goode and Seifert, 24.

acres to the property on its north end, incorporating what had been a right-of-way for a planned street called Sedgwick Street and an additional 2.18 acres to the north (Figure 2-10). Around the same time, the seminary acquired an adjoining 2.15 acre parcel from Adelia Hensley on which the school planned to eventually build a house for its headmistress.<sup>10</sup> In 1916, Somers incorporated the school and by June, had sold the original parcel and the additional tracts to the Mount Vernon Seminary, Inc., for \$72,000. Somers hired an architect and a few months later, construction on the new school began.

In 1916, the cornerstone of the new school was laid; the school moved to the new location the following year. An announcement in the *Washington Post* described the property in glowing terms:

“Mount Vernon Seminary, familiarly known as Mrs. Somers’ School, recognizing the demand of the present day for country schools, has purchased the most beautiful site in the immediate vicinity of Washington and is erecting upon it a building which will be in readiness of occupancy in October 1917... Fifteen and one-half acres of beautiful rolling land furnish space for hockey, golf, tennis, basketball and other desirable sports. The three-story, fireproof building [Building 1], which will accommodate one hundred and twenty-five pupils, is of Georgian architecture, built around a quadrangle, three sides, to be completed now and the fourth to be added when the need arises...”<sup>11</sup>

The campus opened on October 3, 1917, with 100 students. The first building was a large Georgian Revival structure containing enough classrooms and dormitory rooms for 130 resident students (Building 1, Main School Building) (Figures 2-11 and 2-12). It was designed by New York architect Wesley Sherwood Bessell.

The school opened during the early furor of World War I. One of the school’s faculty members, Reba J. Taylor, had volunteered for the American Red Cross as a nurse when war was declared. Ms. Taylor died in 1916 after succumbing to an infection while serving in England. The flagpole that was once situated to the west of Building 1, was given to the school in her honor, likely around the time of the opening of the school in 1917 (Figure 2-13 and see Figure 2-11).

From its inception until 1942, the campus maintained the domestic scale that made it a comfortable home for boarding students from all over the world. The building, itself, was designed as cloister with open arcades on two sides, much in the manner of a monastery or other retreat (Figure 2-14). A fourth side, which would have completed the enclosure, was designed but never constructed. The courtyard became a celebratory and ceremonial space in which numerous events were held, including graduation (Figures 2-15 and 2-16). Other outdoor rooms created using earthen terraces, plantings and white-painted site furnishings extended the domestic sensibility into the landscape of the campus around the Main School Building (Figures 2-17 through 2-21).

Mrs. Somers lived at the school and showed a particular interest in the landscaping and gardens. She designed the rose garden that was located on the south side of Building 1, as well as the mixed plantings that ornamented the building and grounds (Figures 2-22 and 2-23). Her designs were developed in the Colonial Revival garden style meant to complement the Main School Building and incorporating some “irregular specimens of boxwood, some of great age and character.”<sup>12</sup> Historic photographs depict the colonial-style site furnishings she was likely responsible for, including the sundial in the rose garden, the white-painted trellises on the east ends of the building wings and the circular bench around the tree on the southeast corner of the building (see Figures 2-19 and 2-20). Other furnishings, such as delicate iron and wood benches, contributed to the domestic scale of the campus (see Figure 2-21).

In 1921, the Board of Governesses of the Seminary proposed construction of a residence for the headmistress. Funds were not immediately available, so Adelia Gates Hensley personally provided the necessary funds and hired Bessell to

10 1942 Plat of Survey indicates that the current parcel on which stands the Hensley House (Building 8) (Parcel 22 / 33) is only around one-half acre, with the remaining Parcel 22 / 23 at 4.23 acres, so it appears that there was an interim real estate transaction prior to 1942 that created the parcels as shown. Additional acreage may have also been added later to the east of this parcel because historic photographs indicate that the school used the field behind the house for archery and softball.

11 Ibid.

12 Mikhalevsky, *Dear Daughters*, 71

design a residence that would harmonize with the Main Building (Figure 2-24). It, too, was ornamented with plantings of evergreen shrubs and trees. The house was completed in 1922 and occupied by Mrs. Hensley until her death in November of the following year. This residence, presently known as “Gatesley” (Building 8), was bequeathed to the seminary.

On May 28, 1924, the students of Mount Vernon Seminary dedicated the Adelia Gates Hensley Memorial Gate in honor of their late headmistress (Figures 2-25 and 2-26). The gate was built of the same brick as Building 1, in a wide curve with square piers at the ends capped with white sandstone globes. The gate was inscribed, “Erected by students of Mount Vernon Seminary 1923-1924.” As with the buildings, the entrance gates were ornamented by curved beds of evergreens. Around the same time or shortly after, a gateway was constructed on the north end of the semi-circular driveway. The same materials were used, but the design was more modest.

Elizabeth Somers returned from travels to attend the funeral of Hensley in 1923 despite her own failing health. Somers passed in her sleep in June 1924 and laid in state at the Great Hall at Mount Vernon Seminary. An alumnae group had formed to begin plans for a chapel in honor of Somers’ even before her death. On May 24, 1925, the Elizabeth J. Somers Memorial Chapel, another Georgian Revival building, was dedicated on the north side of campus (Figures 2-27 and 2-28). The chapel building was designed by Bessell, who employed the square bell tower in order to reflect the look of a Methodist meetinghouse in memory of Mrs. Somers’ father and brother, both Methodist preachers.

Later, in the late 1920s, Mount Vernon Seminary developed additional facilities west of the existing Shelter and tennis courts. Several buildings were erected including the Field House (Building 14) and the open air gymnasium (now enclosed, Building 12) (Figures 2-29 and 30). Even the more sports-oriented area around the Field House and Gymnasium was arranged on a domestic scale with the sports courts set into the slope on two levels, the open green between the courts and the Field House, the outdoor dining terrace adjacent to the Field House and the garden room maintained at the west end of the Gymnasium (Figure 2-31 and see Figure 2-30). Some of the open fields to the west of this cluster were used for sports such as softball and archery and some were left unprogrammed

and kept in wildflowers with trees, primarily Eastern red cedar, dotted throughout (Figures 2-32 through 2-34).

The stock market crash of 1929 was the start of a national financial depression that affected schools like the seminary. Enrollment declined rapidly in the early 1930s and plans for a new classroom building were put on hold. The structure, now called Building 2, was not completed until 1940 (compare Figures 2-29 and 2-30).

At some time between 1929 and 1942, a pedestrian entrance gateway was constructed on the axis between the main entrance door of the school building and Nebraska Avenue (Figures 2-35 and 2-36). A bluestone flagstone platform was laid on the Nebraska Avenue end and a straight walkway of the same material extended to the main door. The walkway was interrupted by a circular node at the center of the demilune lawn in which what appears to be the sundial from the rose garden was placed. Two curved concrete benches flanked this central feature. Evergreen shrubs were planted to ornament the gateway and they lined the walkway all the way to the door.

With the beginning of the United States participation in WW II in 1941, the seminary became involved in war activities. One of the seminary’s buildings was used as a headquarters for the Community War Fund, directed by Herbert L. Willet, Jr. This activity drew attention to the campus and on October 12, 1942, the U.S. Navy notified the Mount Vernon Seminary that the school would be taken over for “special training,” the nature of which was secret. This acquisition was authorized under the terms of the Second War Powers Act of March 27, 1942. The U.S. Navy officially acquired the site after approval by the Secretary of the Navy, James V. Forrestal, on November 15, 1942. Mount Vernon Seminary vacated the campus after students left for Christmas break.

## **Navy Communications Annex, 1942-1952**

*Refer Maps 2-4 through 2-7, Period Plans 1943-1952*

With the United States’ entry into World War II in the European theater, a location was needed for analysis of German naval communications. Initially, Naval cryptanalysis was located in the overcrowded Navy Department building on Constitution Avenue

in Washington. In August 1942, a committee headed by the Director of Naval Communications (DNC) recommended that “certain naval communications security functions be physically removed from the Navy Department.”<sup>13</sup>

A DNC survey board was appointed to investigate possible relocation sites. The desired site had to be located on high ground with clear lines of sight to the Pentagon, Fort Meade and other military installations. It had to be away from tall buildings. In addition, it was desirable that the site contain a group of buildings, including dormitories, that could be immediately converted to the Navy’s needs and that the site be a campus which allowed room for expansion and erection of security fencing. The Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls campus met these criteria and was chosen as the relocation site.<sup>14</sup> On December 14, 1942, the Navy took possession of the property and immediately erected a double set of chain-link fences to secure its boundaries (Figure 2-37).

Shortly after the beginning of 1943, the Navy began moving in to the former seminary campus. On February, 7, 1943, after the move was completed, the campus was officially renamed the Naval Communications Activity. The name was later changed to the Naval Communications Annex.

Buildings acquired by the U.S. Navy included Building 1 (Main Building), Building 2 (Classroom Building), Building 6 (Elizabeth J. Somers Memorial Chapel), Building 8 (Gatesley House), Building 12 (Outdoor Gymnasium), Building 14 (Field House) and Building 15 (Power House). The U.S. Navy commenced a series of renovations and construction to these existing buildings in order to convert the former classroom, dormitory and supporting buildings to office space. The Somers Memorial Chapel (Building 6) was left unused.

The facility was the center for many activities, the most important of which was the recovery of the keys of the German primary cipher system. Banks of machines operated around the clock at the facility. Most of the machines were operated by WAVES, members of the Women’s Reserve of the

United States Naval Reserve, most of whom lived in barracks across Nebraska Avenue at the American University campus.

After it acquired the property, the Navy quickly set about designing and constructing additional buildings to house laboratories and support offices for their cryptanalysis activities. Building 3, located to the east of Building 1 and connected to it via passageways, was erected in 1943 to house additional offices (Figure 2-38). The building was designed by the Navy Public Works Department with Wesley S. Bessell as a consulting architect. During the same year, the U.S. Navy also erected Building 4 for use as a laboratory to house the bombe machines; Building 7 for use as a dispensary; Building 11 to serve as a gatehouse; Building 13, which connected Buildings 12 and 14, to be used as a mess hall; and Building 5, an addition to the laboratory building (Building 4). Plans for the gatehouse and security gate layout also showed the Hensley Gate and associated plantings that remained from the Mount Vernon Seminary (Figure 2-39). Plans developed for the construction of Building 7 still show that the original service drive entrance from the Mount Vernon Seminary was still in use (Figure 2-40).

In 1944, the Navy erected Building 17 to house additional offices and Building 18 to house a code and signal laboratory. Building 17, located to the south of Building 1, was designed by architects of the U.S. Navy Bureau of Yards and Docks. With the construction of Building 17, the earthen terraces on the south side of Building 1 were removed. However, a stretch of the original brick retaining wall along Building 1 still remains (Figure 2-41).

Building 18, located further south, was designed by the staff of the Naval Public Works Department. Building 43 was also constructed in 1944 to connect Buildings 1 and 17. It was the last building erected on the property prior to the end of World War II in May 1945. With the construction of Building 18 in 1944, the alignment of Mount Vernon Drive was established (Figure 2-42).

In August 1945, the NAC assumed its current lot size of 38.6 acres through the acquisition of the Quebec Street right-of-way from the District of Columbia (Figure 2-43). In exchange, the District received an approximately equal tract that ran east to west through the southern parcels in the NAC property.

13 Goode and Seifert, 25.

14 Douglas C. McVarish, Donna J. Seifert and Richard Meyer, *An Intensive Level Architectural Survey and Phase IA Archeological Survey of the Naval Security Station, Washington, D.C.* Prepared for TAMS Consultant, Inc. and the Department of the Navy by John Milner Associates, Inc., West Chester, Pennsylvania, 1994. p 21.

Construction continued at the NAC to accommodate the continuous use of the complex and the increase in personnel after the end of the war. In 1946, an additional office building, Building 19, was constructed to the east of Building 18 (Figure 2-44). The large, Georgian Revival building was designed by staff of the Navy Bureau of Yards and Docks. That same year, a two-story, arched passageway was constructed to connect Building 18 and Building 19 (Figure 2-45).

In 1947, construction was completed on Building 20, known as the Operations Building. The building, designed by Washington, D.C.-based architect Leon Chatelain, Jr., was located to the east of Building 5 and connected to it via a passageway.

In 1948, plans were underway to renovate Building 14, the Mess Hall (Figure 2-46). Plans for this work show that the original tennis courts on the east end of the campus were still extant and, although the median had been constructed at the main entrance, the south side of the Hensley Gate had not been relocated.

On July 1, 1948, the Naval Communications Annex became a separate field activity under a commanding officer and its name was changed to the U.S. Naval Communications Station. On September 21, 1950, the U.S. Naval Communications Station was officially disestablished and the U.S. Naval Security Station (NAVSECSTA) was established in its place at the NAC (Figure 2-47). In 1952, all cryptology activities, both military and nonmilitary, were brought together to form the National Security Agency (NSA), ending the association of the NAC with its association with Navy cryptanalysis operations.

## **U.S. Naval Security Station and Nebraska Avenue Complex, 1952-present**

The role of the station after 1952 was influenced by efforts to coordinate and centralize United States military intelligence efforts. By 1985 the largest functions at the station were the Naval Security Service (NSS), the headquarters of the Naval Security Group Command (NSGC), the headquarters of the Naval Telecommunications Command (NTC) and the Naval Electronics Systems Security Engineering Center (NESSEC).

Consequently, several major construction projects occurred at the NAC from 1952 into the 1990s. These included interior and exterior renovations to Building 7; interior renovations to Building 19; a security upgrade and renovation to Building 11, which included the removal of all Colonial Revival detailing; and the enclosure and renovation of Building 12. In the 1950s, the Chapel was fenced off separately from the rest of the facility and small parking areas paved on either side of the fence off of the semicircular drive (Figures 2-47 and 2-48). It was then that the original flagstone walkway to the Chapel was taken up and the material moved to build the flagstone patio that exists today on the west side of the Chapel. Years later, the security fence was later taken down and the walkway re-established in concrete.

Additional buildings were constructed at the facility, which included various maintenance and storage buildings (Buildings 49 and 101); an auto hobby shop (Building 60); a mechanical equipment building (Building 61); bachelor enlisted quarters (Building 81); a classified waste destructor (Buildings 59 and 94); an automated data processing facility (Building 100); and three small guardhouses in 1995. With the exception of Building 100, these buildings, smaller in scale than their predecessors, were erected outside the historic core of the NAC. Changes to the site to accommodate new buildings and uses continued, including the addition of utilities, driveways and sidewalks (Figure 2-49).

The 1993 Base Closure and Realignment (BRAC) process resulted in recommendations to realign the installation. The Naval Security Group Command was recommended to be moved to the National Security Agency at Fort Meade in order to provide better coordination of the Security Group with the NSA. Some National Capital Region Naval activities located in leased space in the Washington metropolitan area were relocated to the vacated space at the NAC. The secure property remained the home of various U.S. Naval activities until 2001 when the newly-formed Department of Homeland Security (DHS) became the major occupant.

In April 2005, ownership of the NAC was officially transferred from the Department of the Navy to the General Services Administration (GSA) in order to accommodate the headquarters for the DHS. The U.S. Navy retained ownership of the Gatesley House (Building 8) and the parcel was fenced out from the rest of the complex. Many of the buildings then underwent substantial interior renovations

for increased security measures; many first- and second-story window openings in the side and rear elevations of the administrative and office buildings were bricked in, including Buildings 1, 3, 4, 5 and 17. In addition, the former cryptanalysis lab (Building 4) was converted to house offices for the Secretary of the DHS and the Public Maintenance Building (Building 21) was converted to a Media Center.

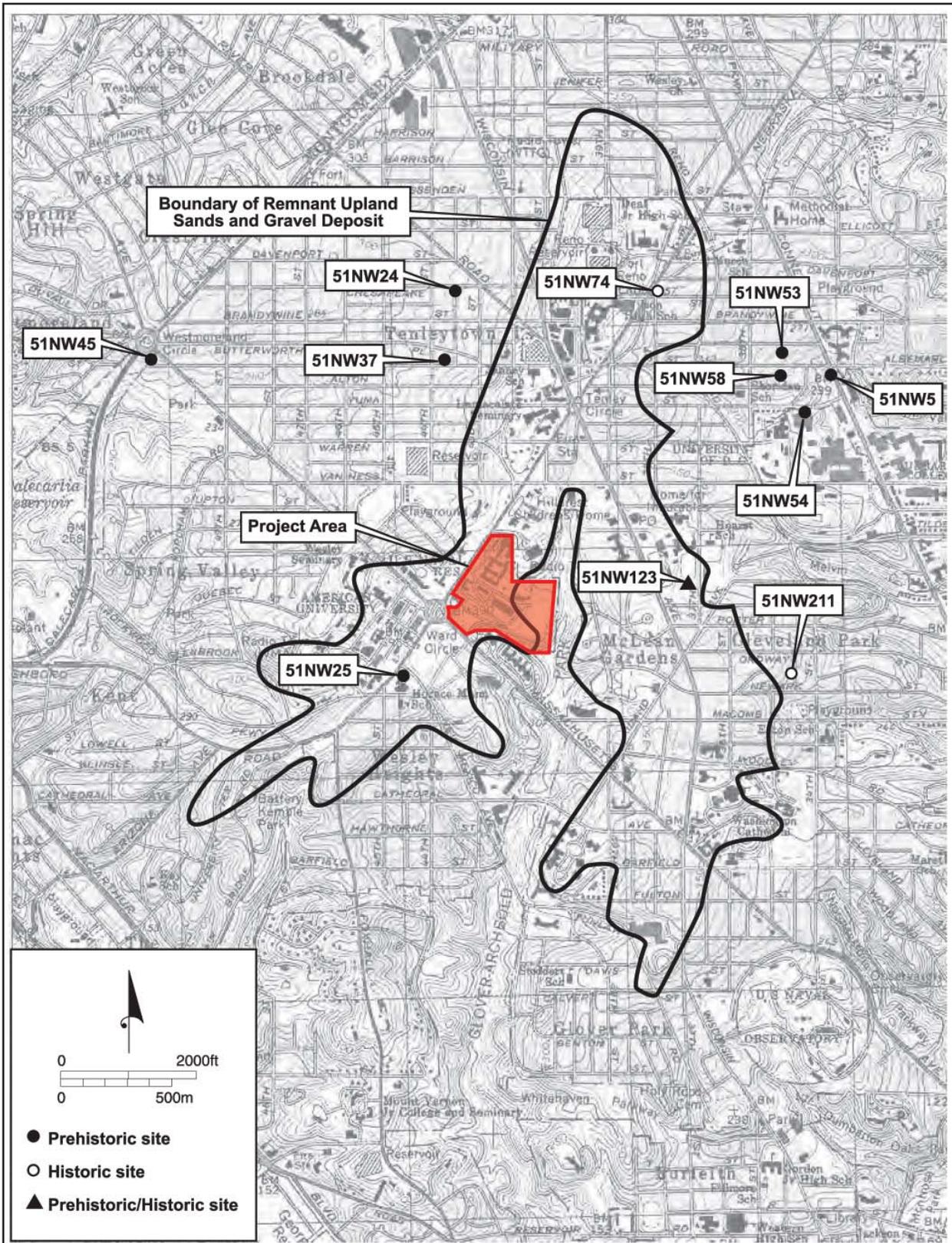
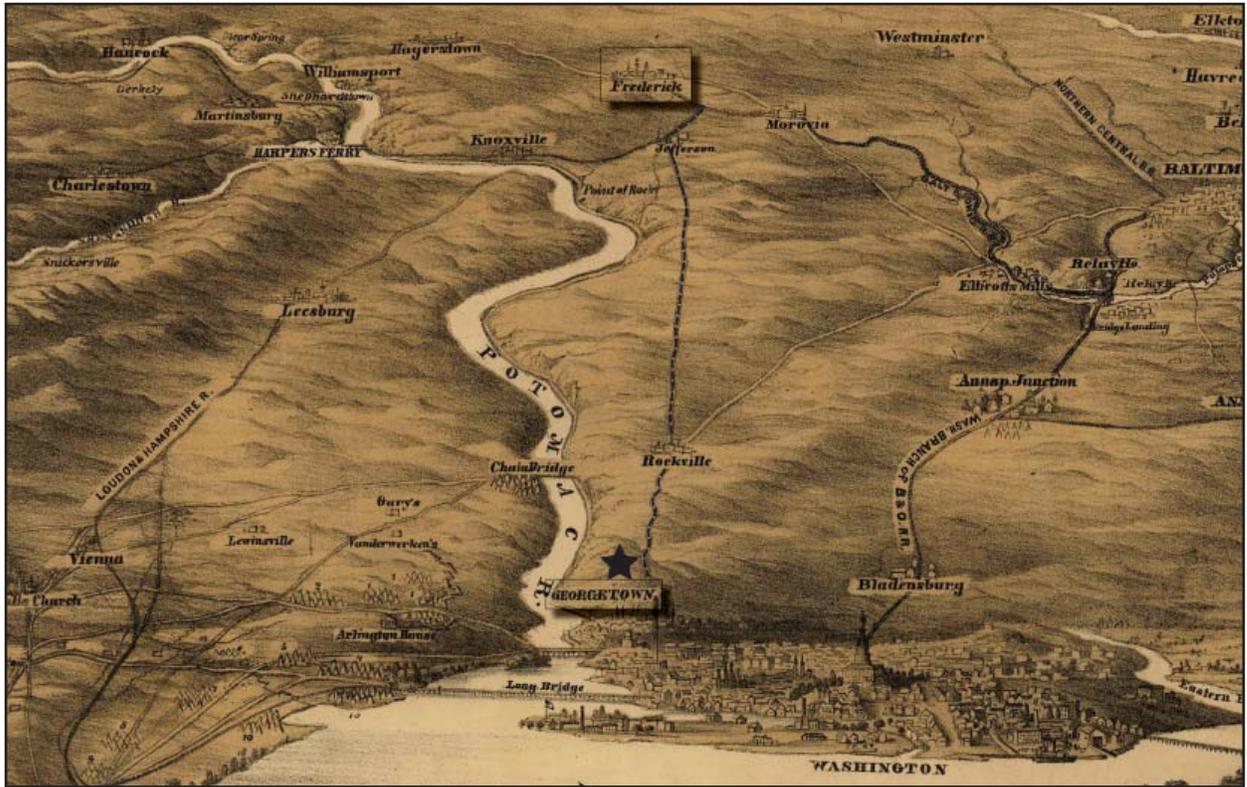
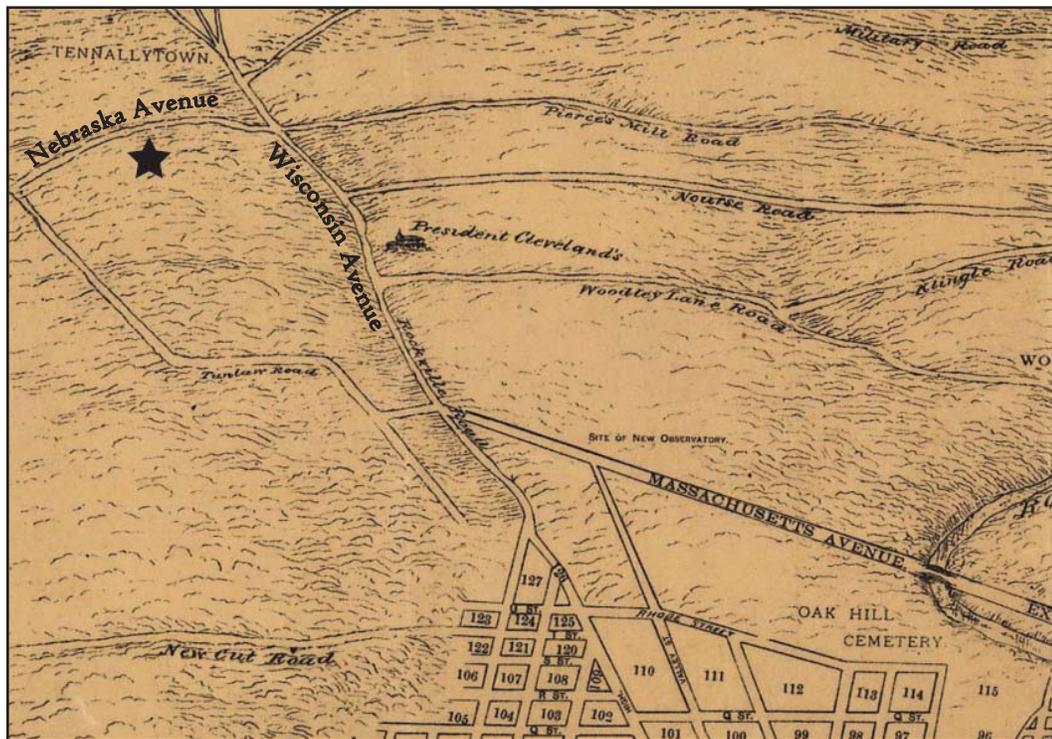


Figure 2-1. Location of the project area within the boundary of remnant upland sands and gravel deposits that made the site attractive to prehistoric peoples. Source: Goode and Seibert, 2009; modified by JMA 2010.



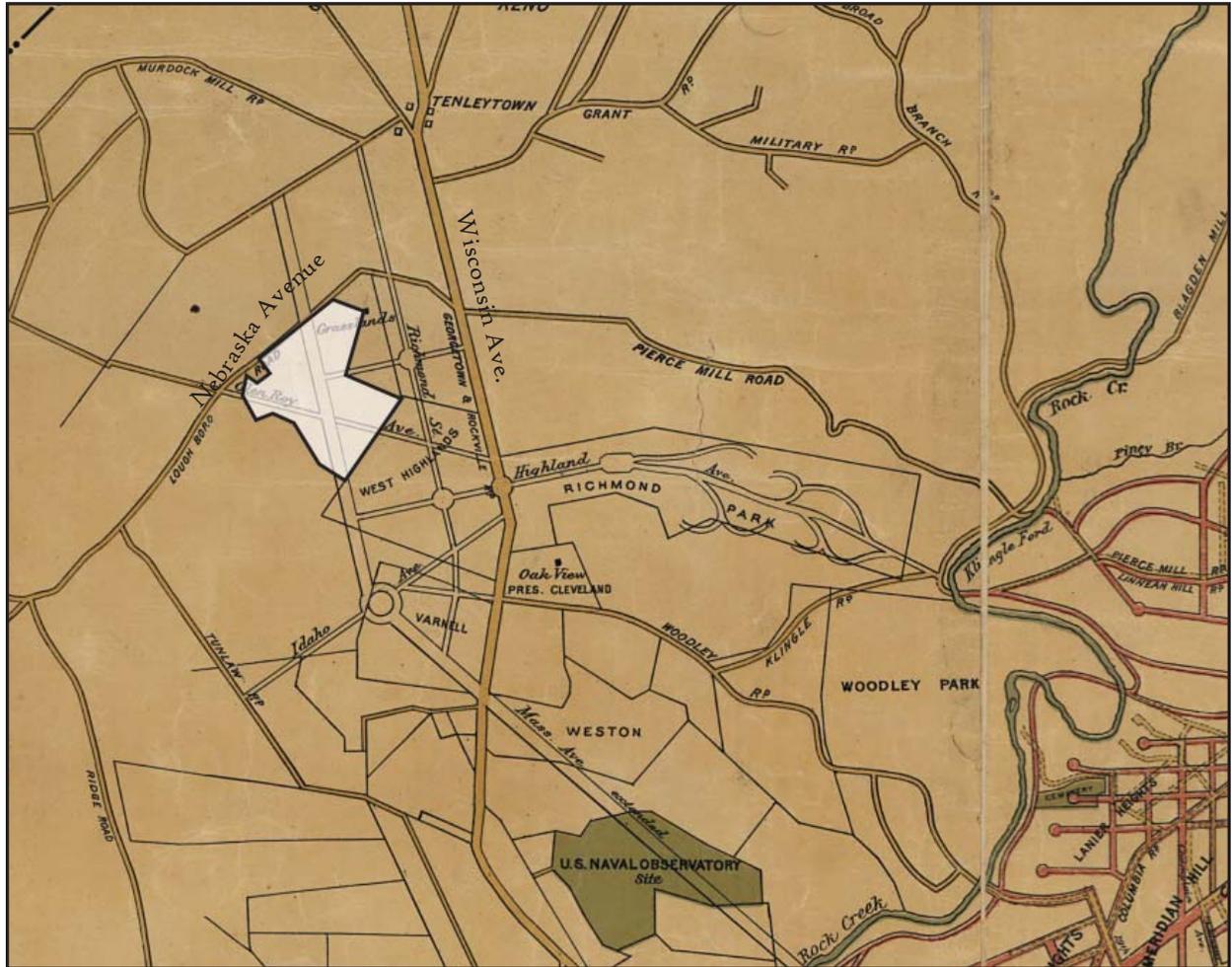
**Figure 2-2.** Annotated detail from Bohn map shows location of the NAC in relation to Braddock Road and the Rockville Road, also known as the Georgetown to Frederick Road and now Wisconsin Avenue. Source: D.C. Vote website: <http://www.dcvote.org/trellis/character/historicalmaps.cfm>, accessed May 2010.



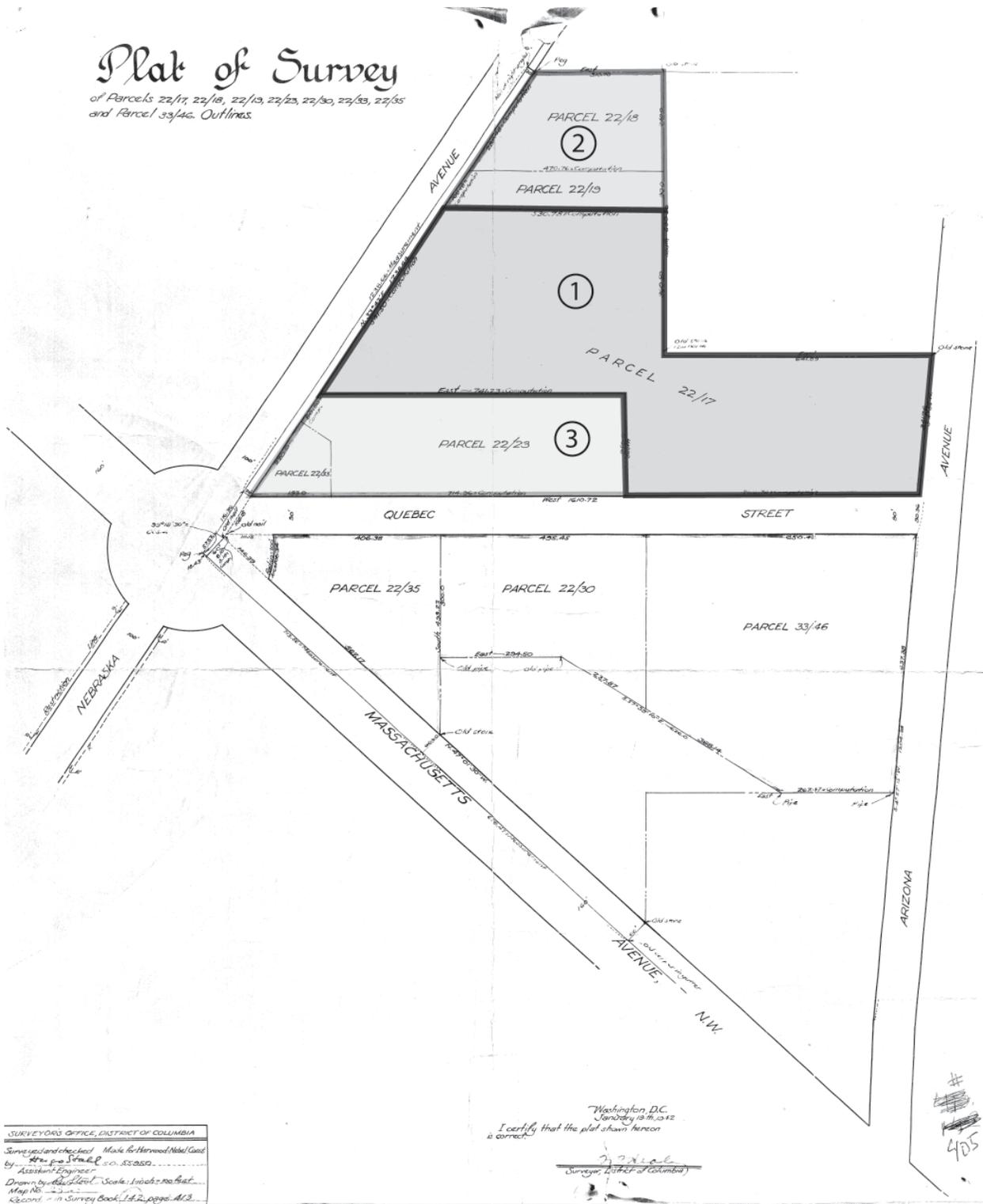
**Figure 2-3.** Annotated detail from ca. 1886 A.G. Gedney map, showing the location of site along Nebraska Avenue, once known as the River Road. Note the location of President Cleveland's house along Wisconsin Avenue. Source: D.C. Vote website: <http://www.dcvote.org/trellis/character/historicalmaps.cfm>, accessed May 2010.



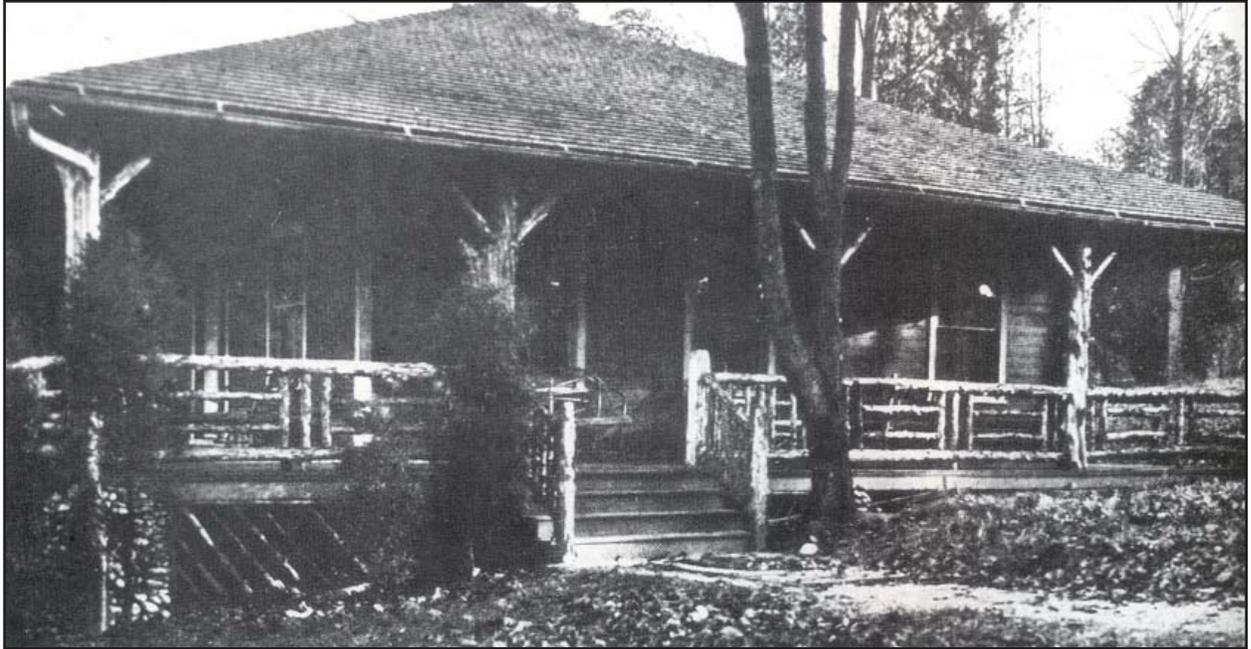
**Figure 2-4.** A. Boschke map from 1861, annotated to show the location of the project area and road names. Friendship was located just to the southwest of what is now the NAC property and indicated by the name of Murdock. Loughborough's property, later called Grasslands, is indicated by his name to the north. Source: D.C. Vote website: <http://www.dcvote.org/trellis/character/historicalmaps.cfm>, accessed May 2010.



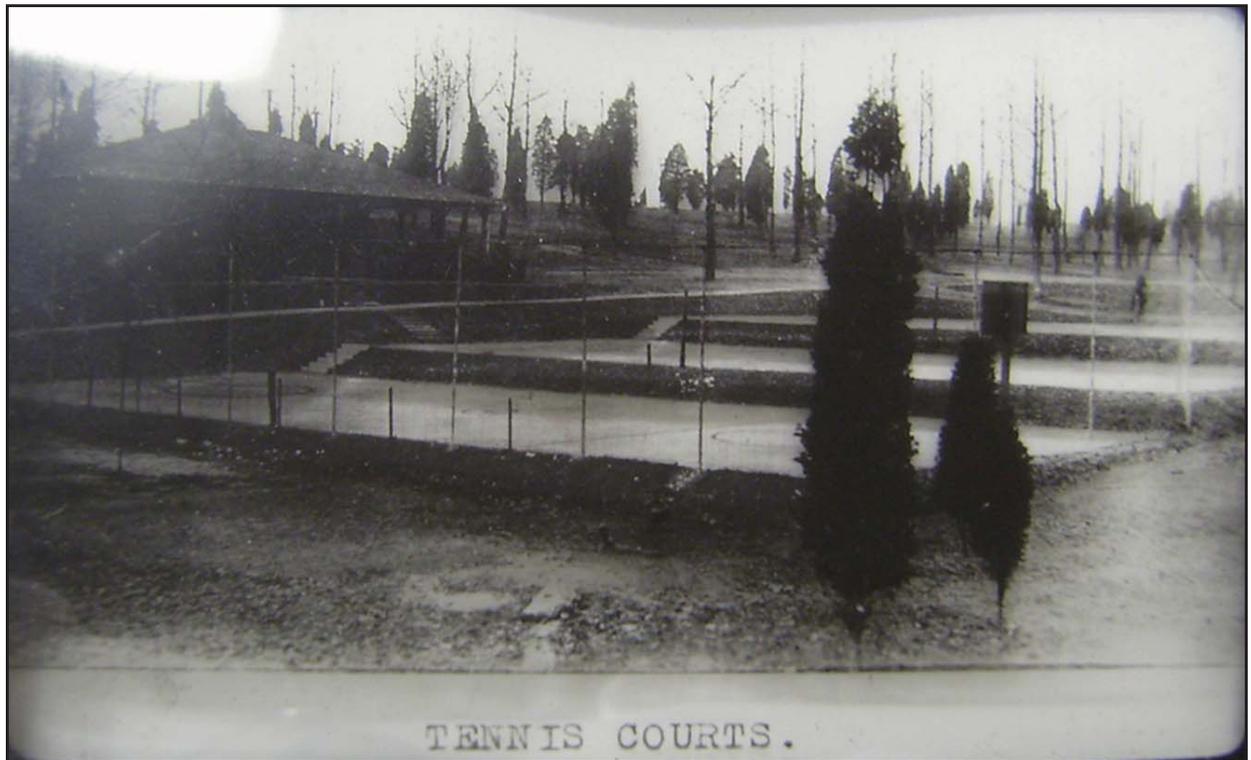
**Figure 2-5.** Annotated detail from Silversparre's Map of Washington, D.C. and Environs, showing layout of subdivisions proposed in the late nineteenth century. Source: Axel Silversparre, *Map of Washington, D.C. and Environs, 1887*, D.C. Vote website: <http://www.dcvote.org/trellis/character/historicalmaps.cfm>, accessed May 2010.



**Figure 2-6.** Survey of Mount Vernon Seminary property taken in 1942 for U.S. Navy acquisition, annotated to show sequence of property acquisition by Mount Vernon Seminary. Tract 1 is the original parcel purchased by Somers in 1913. She acquired Tract 2 just before she sold her holdings to Mount Vernon Seminary, Inc. The corporation either purchased or received in donation Tract 3 from Adelia Gates Hensley in the 1920s. Source: Nebraska Avenue Complex Public Works Archives.



**Figure 2-7.** Close-up view of the Shelter. *Source: Dear Daughters, 52.*



**Figure 2-8.** Photograph of the Shelter and tennis courts that served the Country Playground. *Source: Mount Vernon Seminary and College Archives, Special Collections Research Center, The Gelman Library, The George Washington University.*



**Figure 2-9.** Historic photograph showing students walking back to the school from the Shelter. The terraced tennis courts are visible left, center. Note the cobblestone gutter on the right side of the road. *Source: Mount Vernon Seminary and College Archives, Special Collections Research Center, The Gelman Library, The George Washington University.*

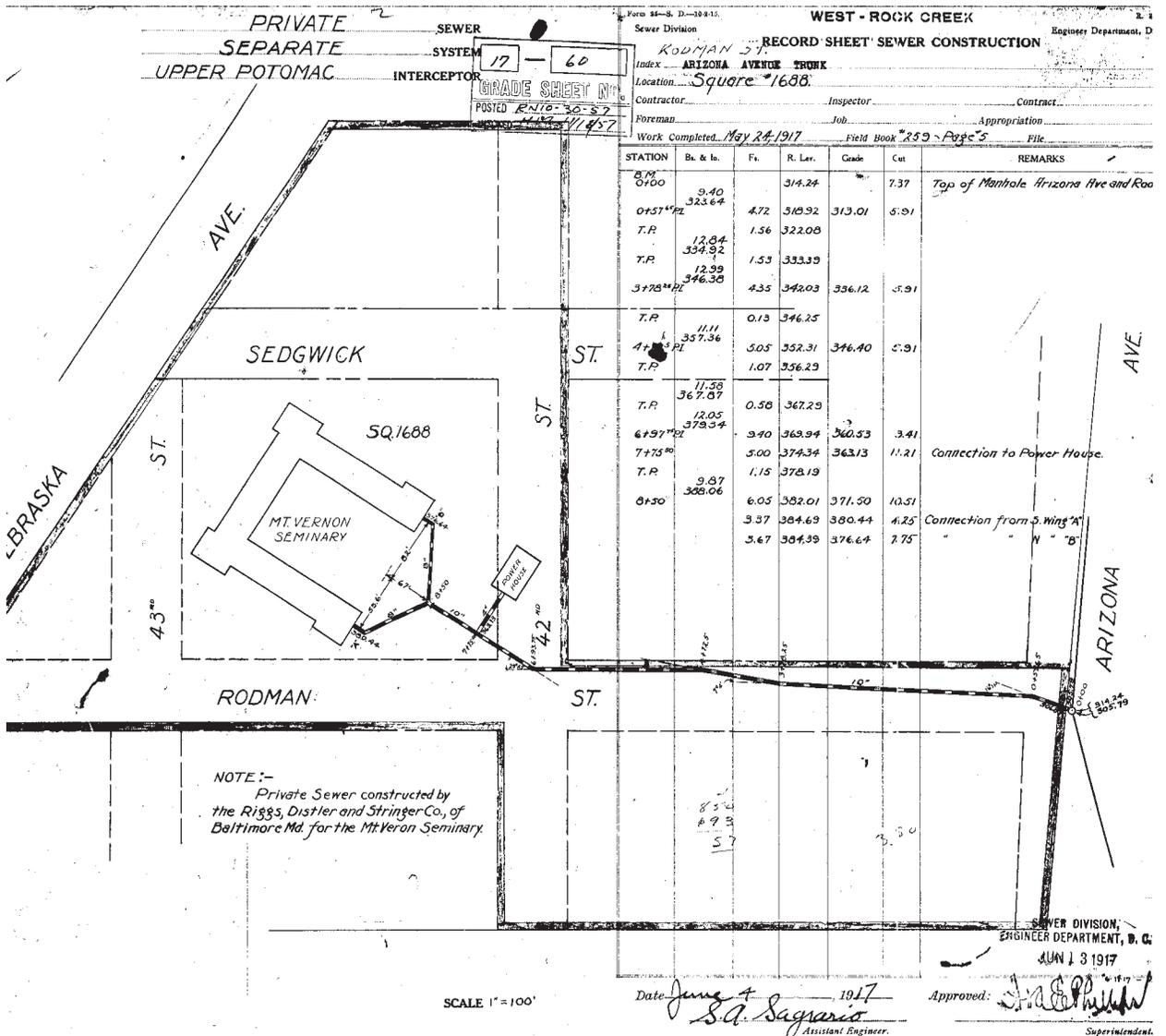


Figure 2-10. Construction permit document for installation of a sewer line to serve the Main School Building of Mount Vernon Seminary. Note that road plats for a subdivision planned in this location are visible, illustrating how the earlier subdivision affected the configuration of the property. The additional 2.15-acre property purchased from Adelia Hensley may be the platted rectangle on the plan containing the notes. It also appears that what was platted as Rodman Street became Quebec Street at some later date. Source: Nebraska Avenue Complex Public Works Archives.



**Figure 2-11.** Aerial photograph of the Mount Vernon Seminary taken in 1924, but prior to the construction of the chapel. Note the location of the entrance allée to Grassland (left) and the house and barn beyond, as well as the symmetrical layout of the main school building and the semi-circular drive. *Source: Mount Vernon Seminary and College Archives, The Gelman Library at Mount Vernon Campus.*



**Figure 2-12.** Photograph of Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls taken shortly after construction and subsequent installation of plantings. Note that the Hensley Gate has not yet been constructed. *Source: Library of Congress.*



**Figure 2-13.** Photograph of Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls taken after 1924. Note that the Chapel, the Hensley Gate and the flagpole have all been constructed by this time and many plantings have matured. The flagpole in the center was installed around 1917 in memory of Reba Taylor, a teacher at the school who died in England during her service with the Red Cross. *Source: Mount Vernon Seminary and College Archives, The Gelman Library at Mount Vernon Campus.*



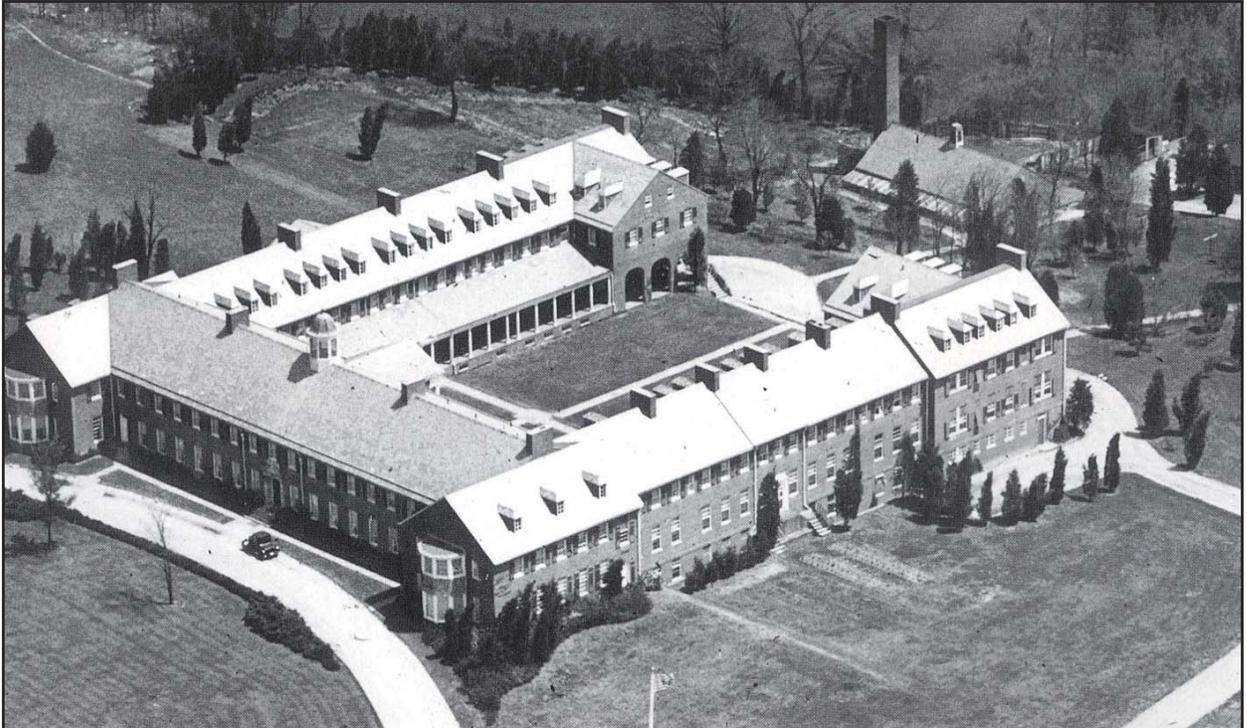
**Figure 2-14.** Main School Building (Building 1) cloister and colonnades. *Source: Mount Vernon Seminary and College Archives, The Gelman Library at Mount Vernon Campus.*



**Figure 2-15.** Photograph from of new graduates from the Mount Vernon Seminary standing in the Main School Building courtyard. *Source: Mount Vernon Seminary and College Archives, The Gelman Library at Mount Vernon Campus.*



**Figure 2-16.** Photograph of May Day activities from the courtyard of the Main School Building, looking eastward towards Washington, D.C. Note the view of the top of the National Cathedral, left central. *Source: Mount Vernon Seminary and College Archives, The Gelman Library at Mount Vernon Campus.*



**Figure 2-17.** Aerial photograph showing locations of earthen terraces (lighter grey bands). Source: *Dear Daughters*, 64.



**Figure 2-18.** Photograph from the early 1940s showing three students resting on the earthen terrace that was located on the north side of the Main School Building. The Chapel is visible in the background. This terrace was demolished during the construction of Building 4. Source: *Mount Vernon Seminary and College Archives, The Gelman Library at Mount Vernon Campus.*



**Figure 2-19.** Photograph from the 1920s showing the white-painted wood site furnishings and domestic scale of the landscape around the Main School Building. *Source: Mount Vernon Seminary and College Archives, The Gelman Library at Mount Vernon Campus.*



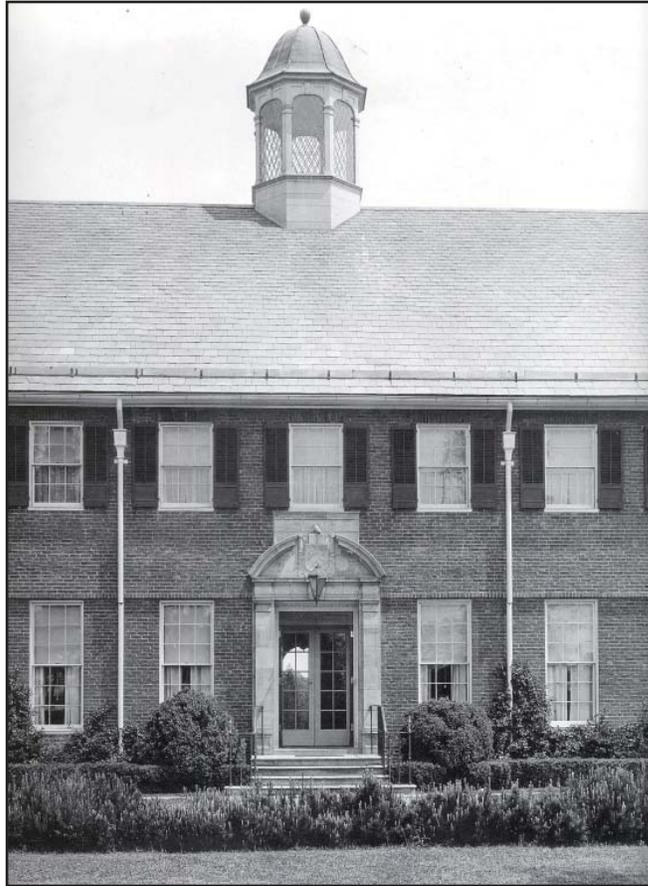
**Figure 2-20.** White-painted wooden trellis at the east end of the north arm of the Main School Building. *Source: Mount Vernon Seminary and College Archives, The Gelman Library at Mount Vernon Campus.*



**Figure 2-21.** Delicate cast iron and wood benches from the Mount Vernon Seminary, photographed during construction on the campus in the 1940s. *Source: Nebraska Avenue Complex Public Works Archives.*



**Figure 2-22.** Photograph of Mrs. Somer's Colonial Revival rose garden on the south side of the Main School Building (Building 1). Note sundial to the left, a typical furnishing for this style. *Source: Nebraska Avenue Complex Public Works Archives.*



**Figure 2-23.** Undated photograph of the main Nebraska Avenue entrance into the Main School Building depicting the boxwoods and other plantings designed by Mrs. Somers. *Source: Nebraska Avenue Complex Public Works Archives.*



**Figure 2-24.** Headmistress' residence (Gatesly and Building 8), designed also by Bessell. Note that a planting style similar to that surrounding the Main School Building was also used here. *Source: Nebraska Avenue Complex Public Works Archives.*



**Figure 2-25.** Photograph of student placing a wreath onto the Adelia Hensley Memorial Gate. *Source: Mount Vernon Seminary and College Archives, The Gelman Library at Mount Vernon Campus..*



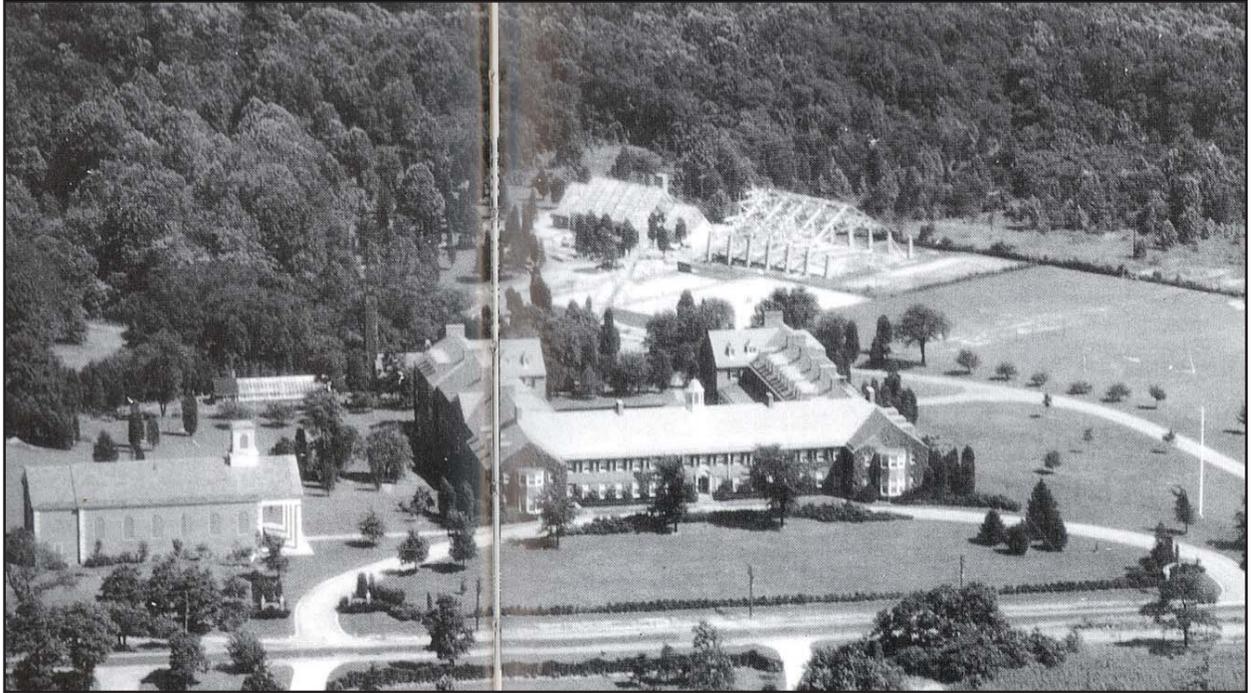
**Figure 2-26.** Hensley Memorial Gate as it framed the front of the main school building. *Source: <http://www.navycthistory.com/nsslockert01.html>.*



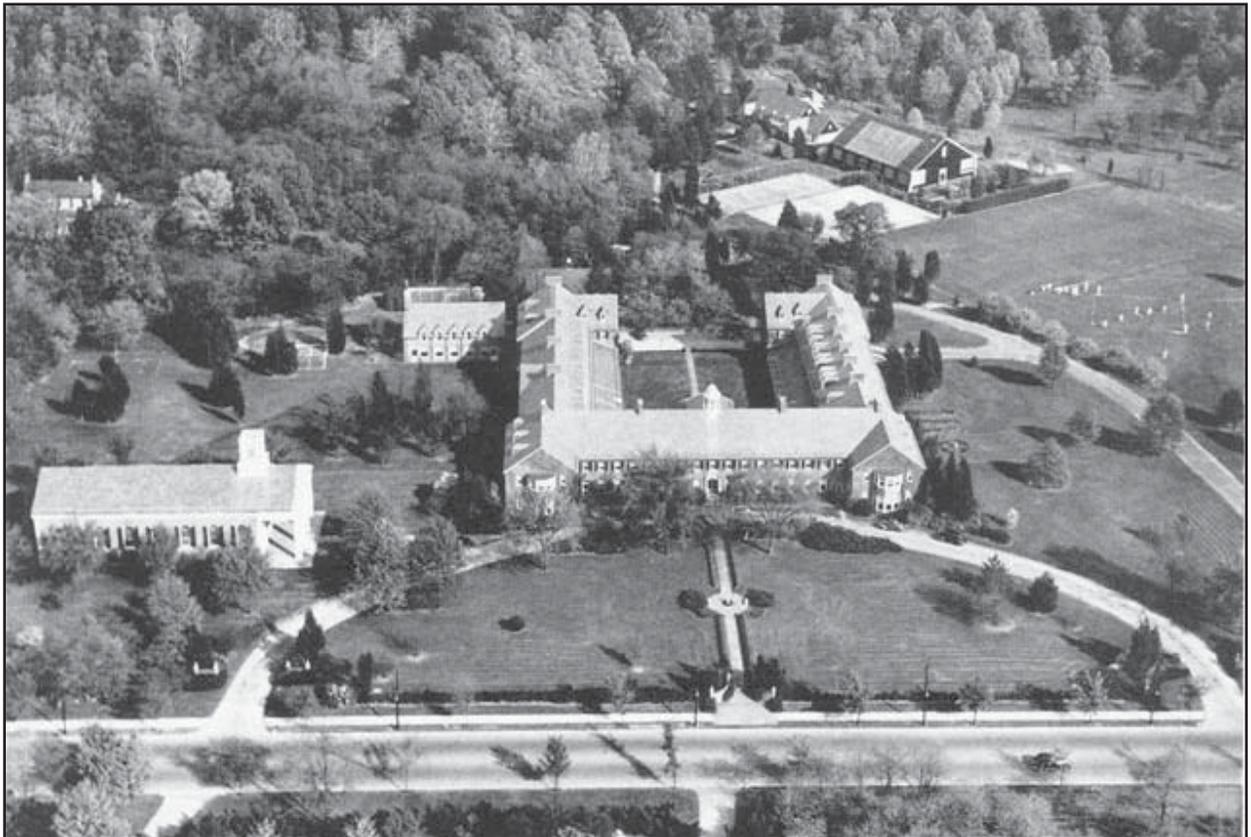
**Figure 2-27.** Artist's rendering of the Chapel. Note the tall masonry wall with inset door that the artist added to the east of the building. Source: *Dear Daughters*, 84.



**Figure 2-28.** View of the Chapel in 1925. Note the bluestone flags forming the main walkway. Source: *Mount Vernon Seminary and College Archives, The Gelman Library at Mount Vernon Campus*.



**Figure 2-29.** Aerial photograph of the Mount Vernon Seminary campus in 1929, showing the construction of the Field House and Gymnasium (top center). *Source: Dear Daughters, 61.*



**Figure 2-30.** Aerial photograph of the Mount Vernon Seminary campus ca. 1942, showing the completed Field House and Gymnasium (top right) and the classroom building (Building 2) on the north end of the school building. Note the garden room created on the west end of the Gymnasium and the small geometric garden at the end of Building 2. *Source: <http://www.navycthistory.com/nsslockert01.html>.*



**Figure 2-31.** Aerial view of the Mount Vernon Seminary campus around 1942. Note that the open sports fields, right center, extend into what was the Quebec Street right-of-way. *Source: Mount Vernon Seminary and College Archives, The Gelman Library at Mount Vernon Campus.*



**Figure 2-32.** Rectangular flagstone terrace that was located to the north of the Field House during the period of significance. Note also the wooden trellises that support vines above the doorways. Also note the flagstone path leading to the side door of the building. *Source: Mount Vernon Seminary and College Archives, The Gelman Library at Mount Vernon Campus.*



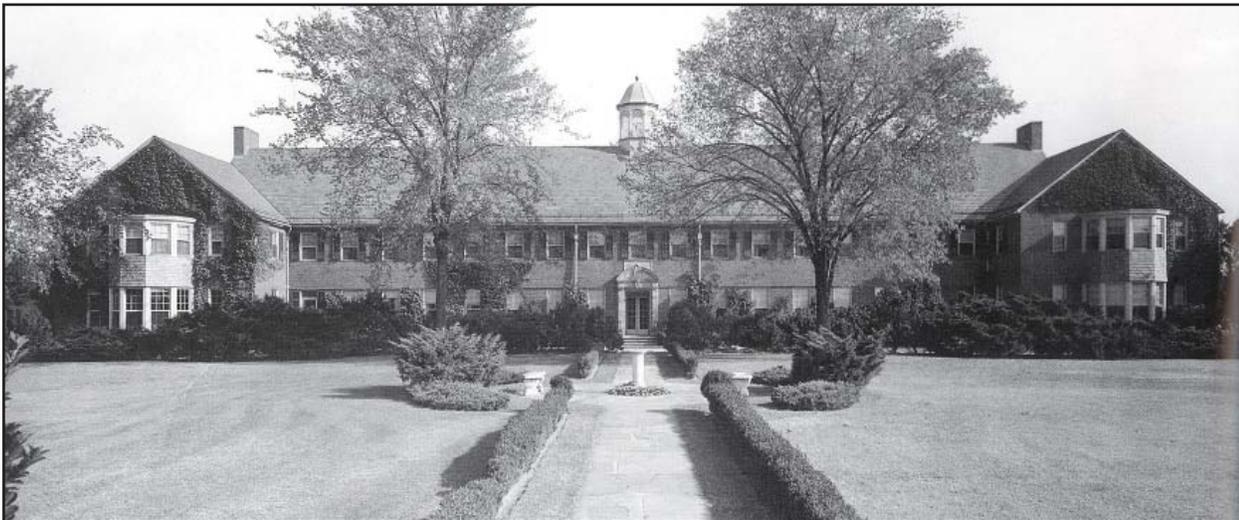
**Figure 2-33.** View of the open fields of the Mount Vernon Seminary. Tree species include oak, ash and Eastern red cedar. *Source: Mount Vernon Seminary and College Archives, The Gelman Library at Mount Vernon Campus.*

**Figure 2-34.** View of the spreading shade tree around which had been built the circular bench depicted in other photographs. The photograph shows the open fields of wildflowers dotted with Eastern red cedar. *Source: Mount Vernon Seminary and College Archives, The Gelman Library at Mount Vernon Campus.*





**Figure 2-35.** Central pedestrian gateway and flagstone terrace leading to the main door of the school building (no longer extant). The gateway was constructed of the same materials and in the Colonial Revival style used for the Adelia Hensley Memorial Gate and the north gate. *Source: Library of Congress.*



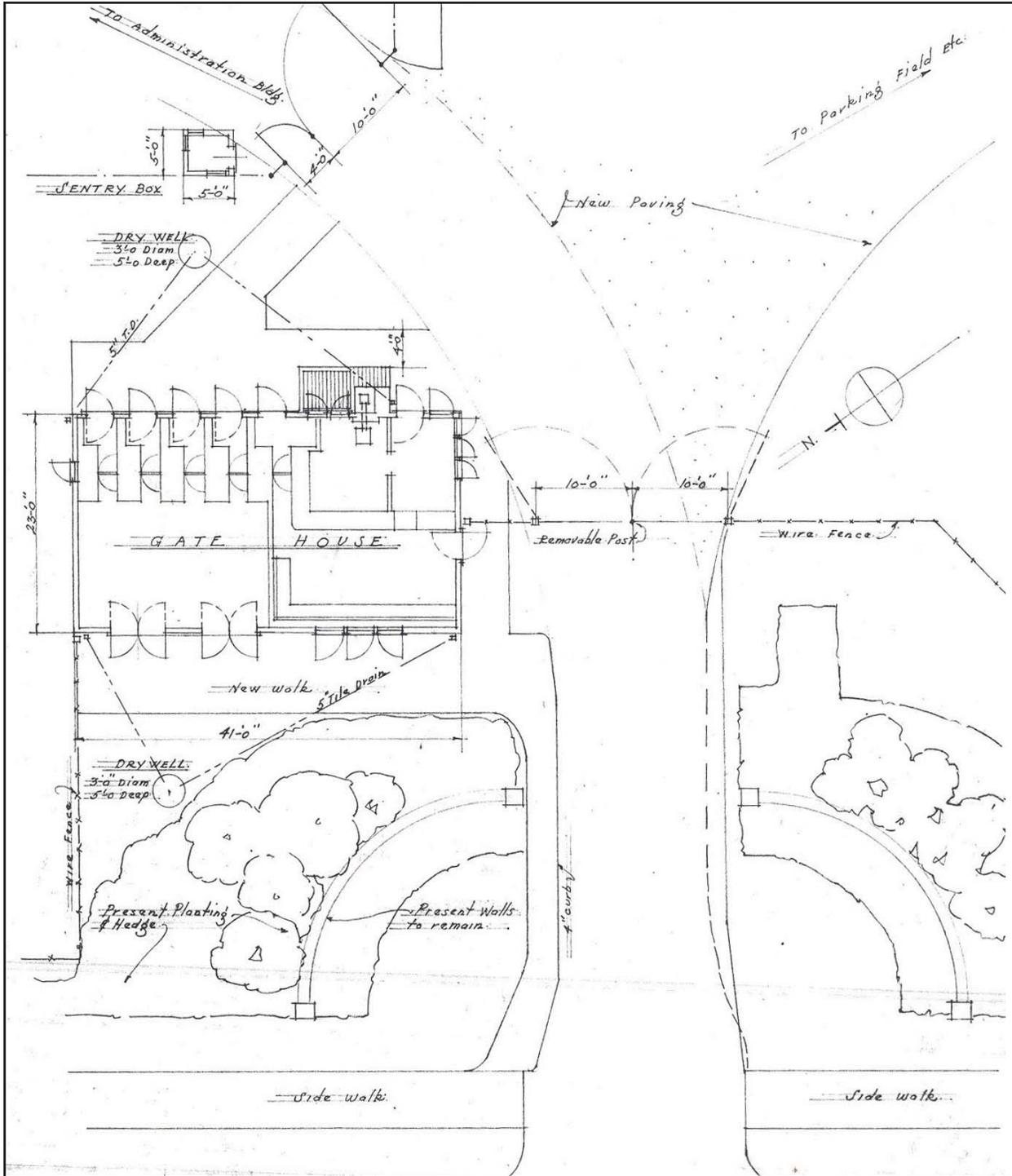
**Figure 2-36.** Photograph of the Main School Building prior to 1942 shows a bluestone flagstone walkway to the main door of the school building. Note the sundial at the center (from rose garden?) and flanking concrete benches, as well as the symmetrical evergreen planting. *Source: Dear Daughters, 66.*



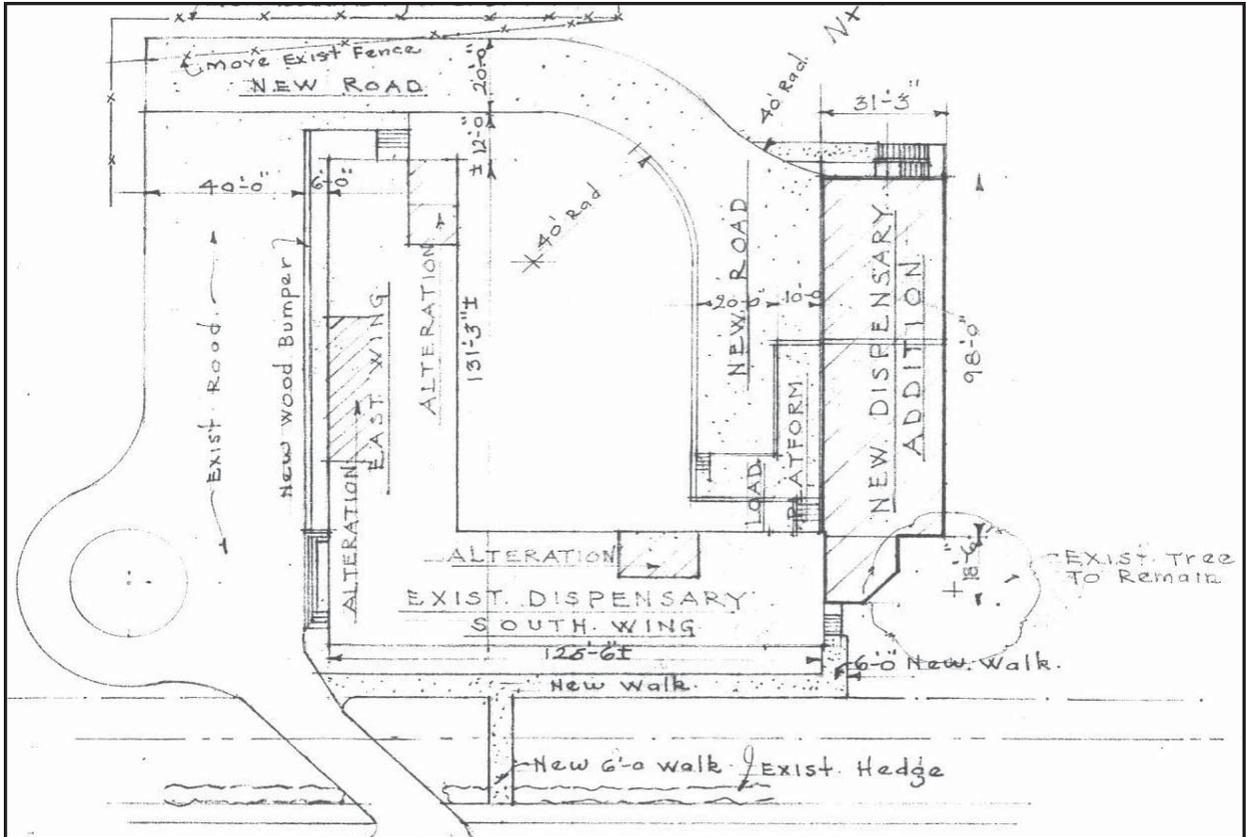
**Figure 2-37.** 1943 photograph of a guard patrolling the interior security fence installed around the new U.S. Navy cryptanalysis center in 1942. Note the chapel in the background. The sundial that had been at the center of the walkway has been replaced by a flagpole. *Source:* <http://www.navycthistory.com/nsslockert01.html>



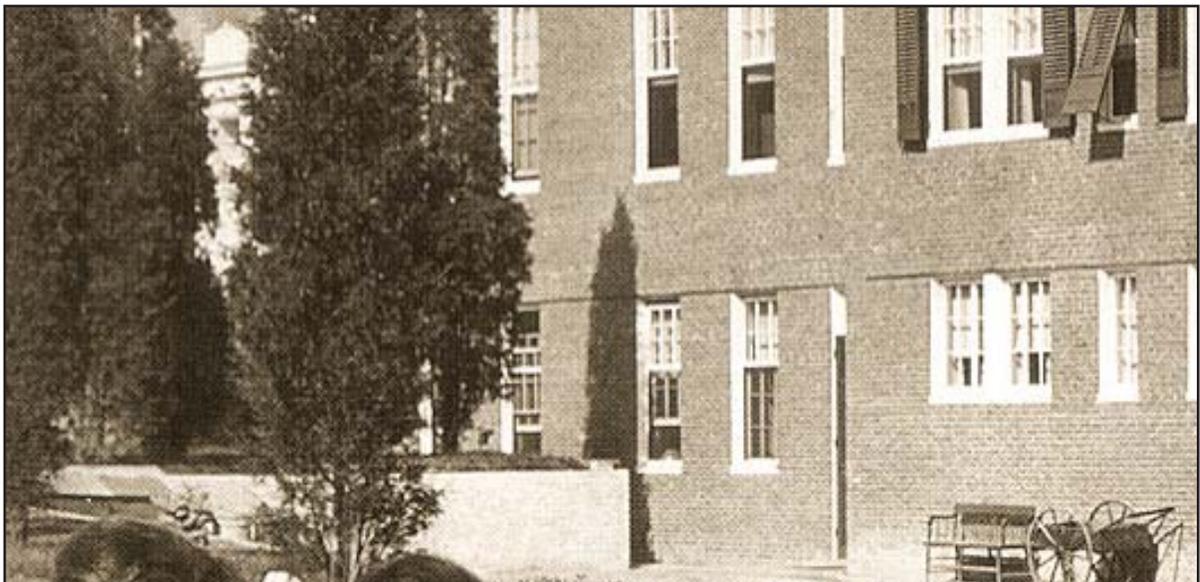
**Figure 2-38.** 1943 photograph of the construction of Building 3 behind Building 1. Note the wood trellises are still extant at the ends of Building 1. *Source:* *Nebraska Avenue Complex Public Works Archives.*



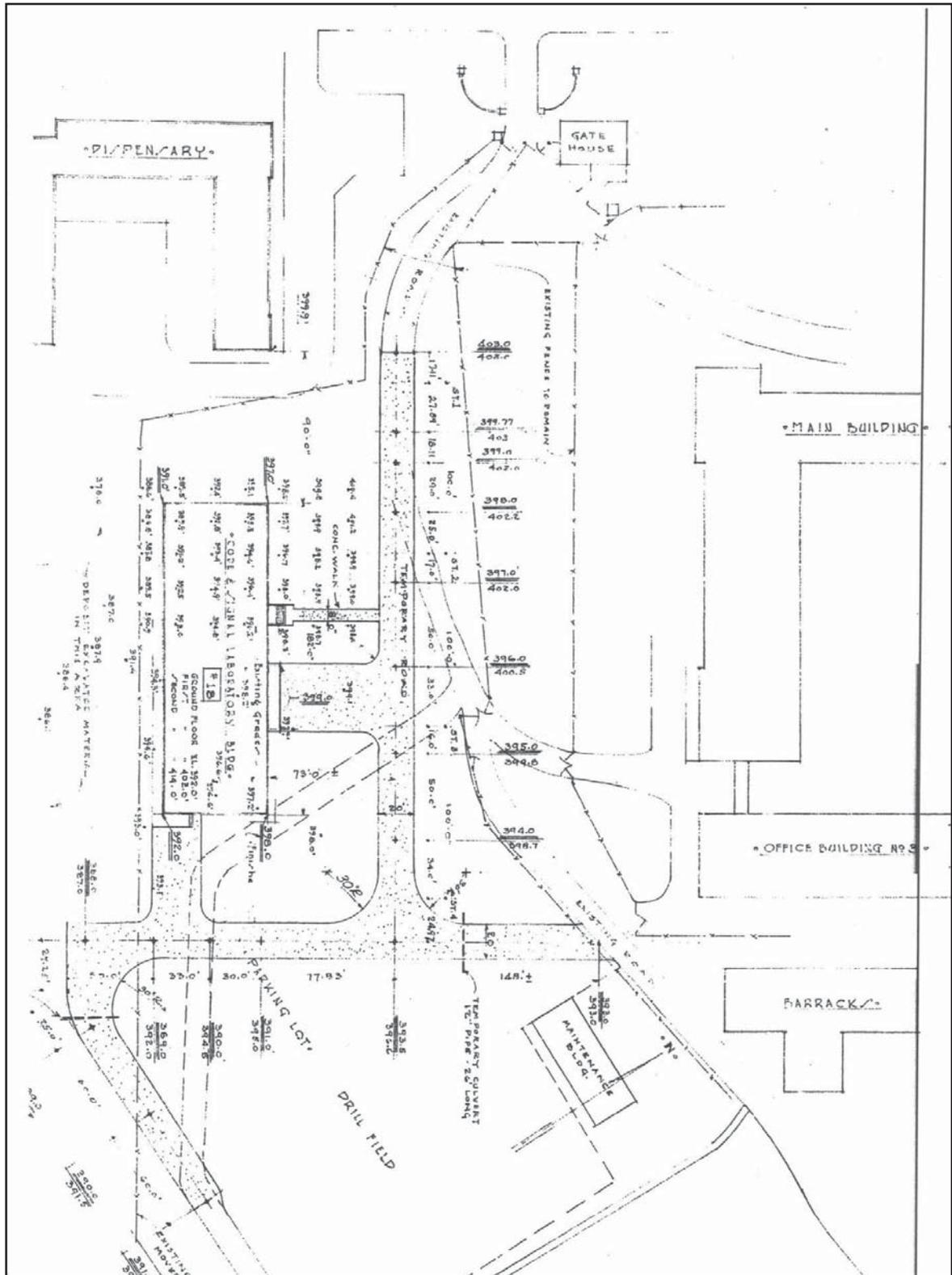
**Figure 2-39.** This plan for the Gate House indicated the retention of existing plantings, installation of drainage lines, installation of fencing and gates and new paving. Note that in this plan, the south side of the Hensley Gate is still extant but would at some point be moved to allow for a wider entrance. Source: Nebraska Avenue Complex Public Works Archives.



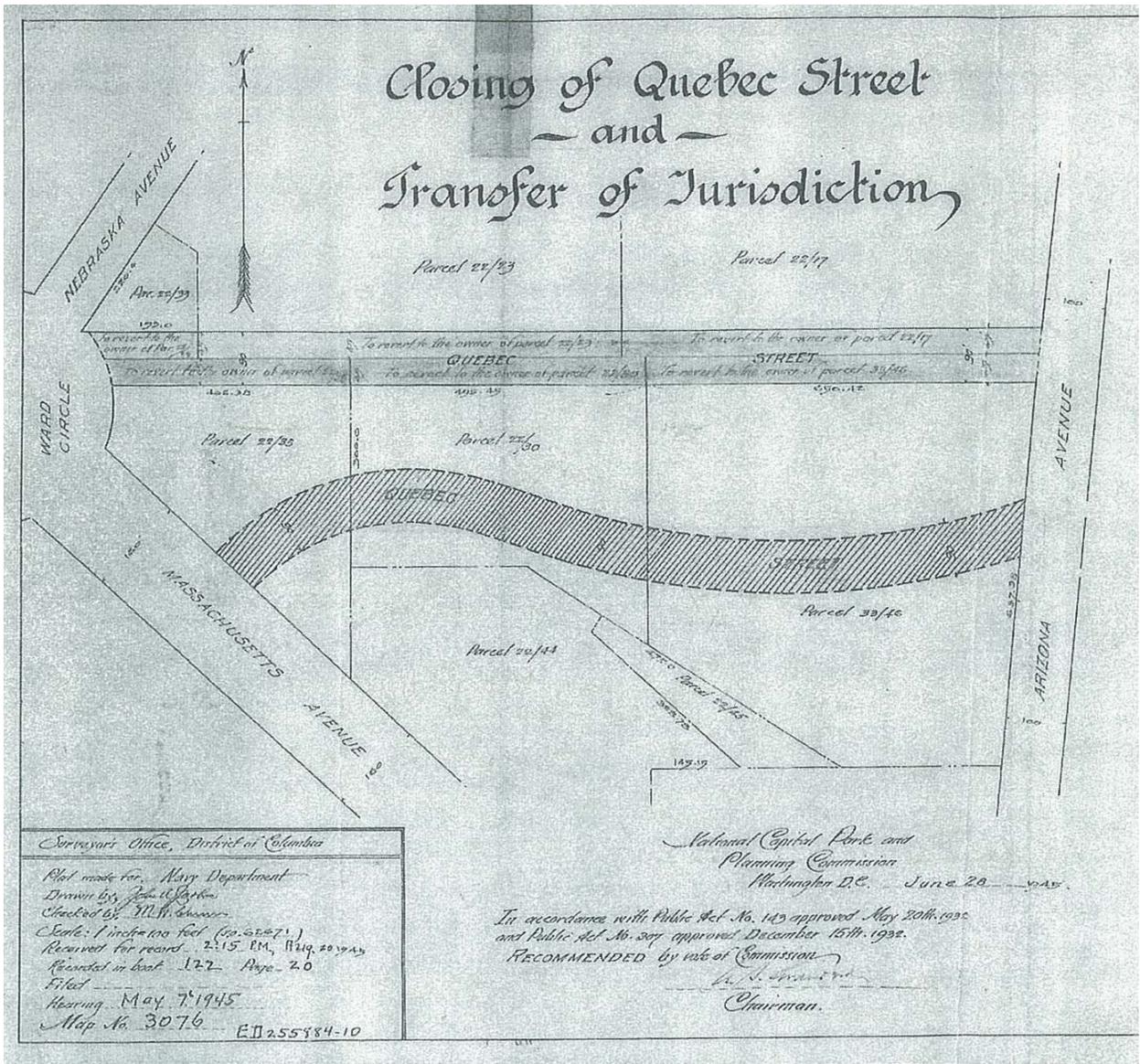
**Figure 2-40.** Plans for Building 7 from 1943 show existing plants and the retention of the original service drive entrance of Mount Vernon Seminary (diagonal entrance). Note that a remnant of this entrance still exists in the form of two parking spaces set at that angle in front of the building. *Source: Nebraska Avenue Complex Public Works Archives.*



**Figure 2-41.** Detail from a photograph from the 1920s shows the brick retaining wall south of Building 1 that is still existing in the landscape between Building 1 and Building 17. *Source: Mount Vernon Seminary and College Archives, The Gelman Library at Mount Vernon Campus.*



**Figure 2-42.** This plan from 1944 shows the circulation plan for Building 18 from that period. Note that this establishes the alignment for Mount Vernon Drive. Also note the building on the right indicated as Barracks; this building is no longer extant. The plan also indicated that the area now used as a group picnic area was once a parking lot and drill field. Source: Nebraska Avenue Complex Public Works Archives.



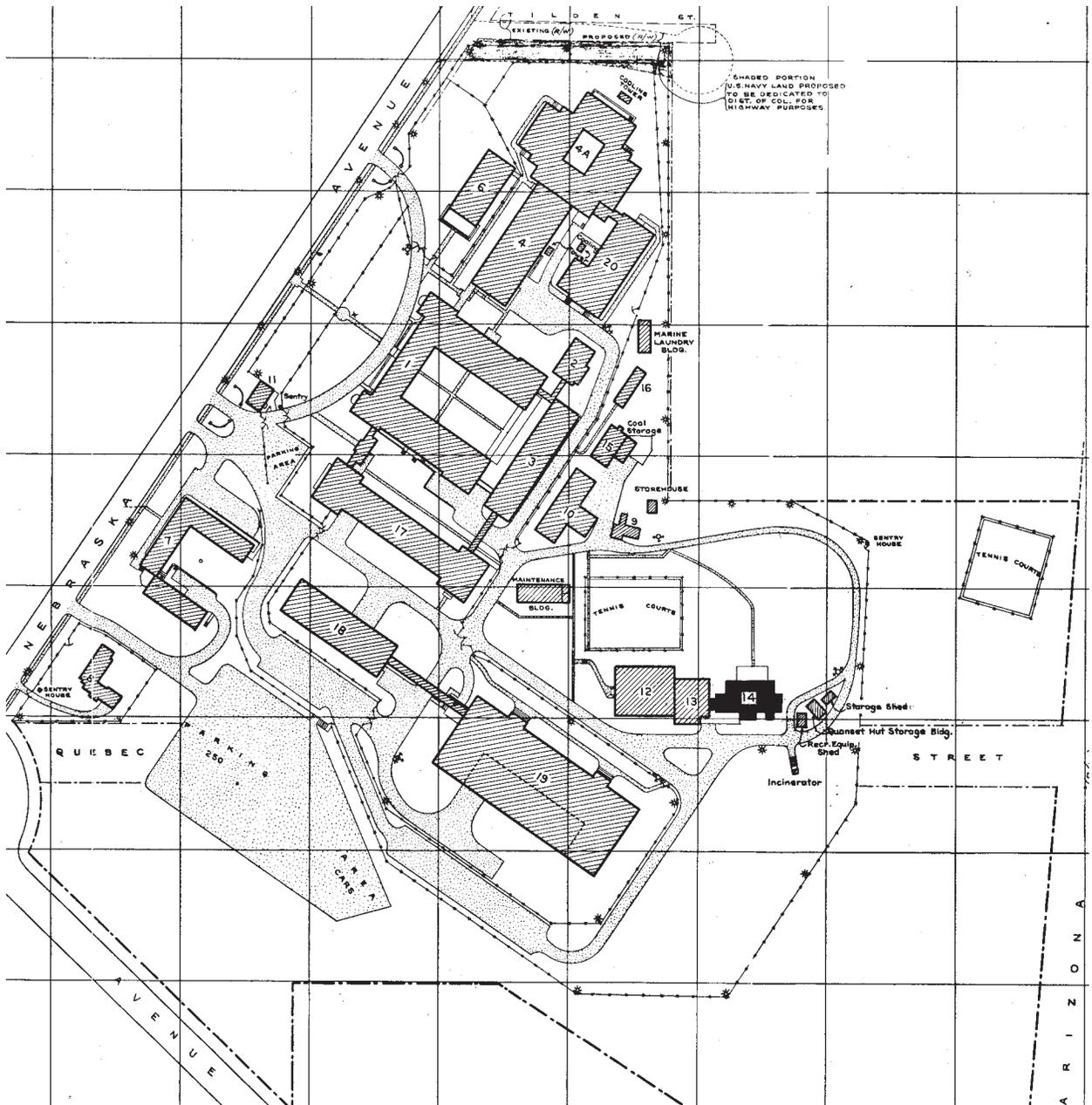
**Figure 2-43.** Detail taken from document detailing the relocation and reconfiguration of the Quebec Street right-of-way and the transfer of jurisdiction to the District of Columbia. Source: Nebraska Avenue Complex Public Works Archives.



**Figure 2-44.** Photograph taken in 1946, showing the construction of Building 19. Note that Grassland is still extant (right center). *Source: Nebraska Avenue Complex Public Works Archives.*



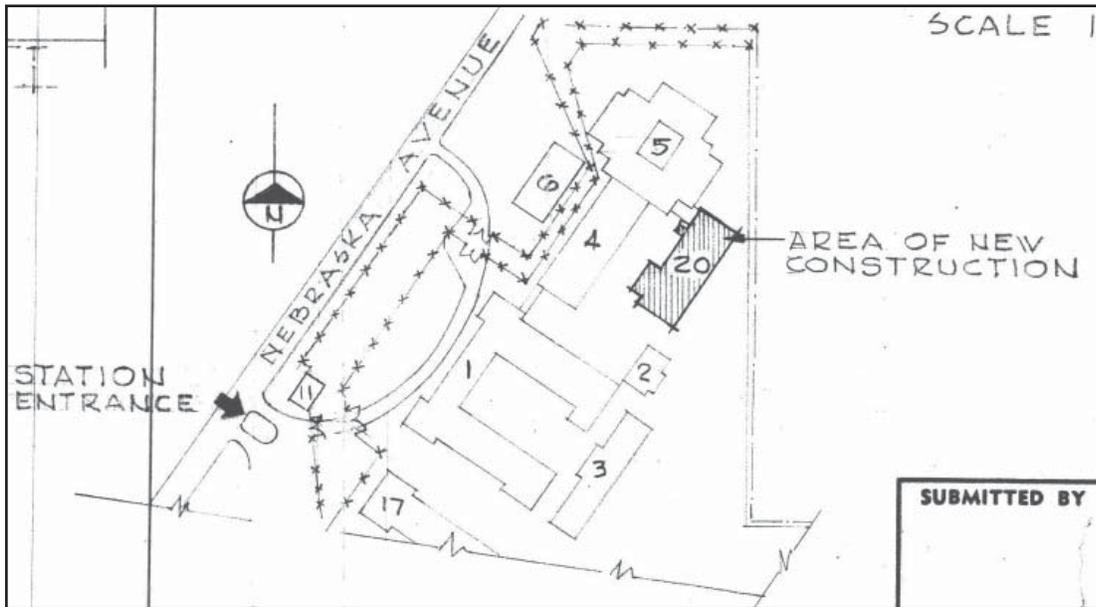
**Figure 2-45.** Photograph showing the connector between Buildings 18 and 19. *Source: Nebraska Avenue Complex Public Works Archives.*



**Figure 2-46.** Detail from construction plans developed in 1948 for alterations to Building 14, the “Mess Hall.” Note the double entrance to the site on Nebraska Avenue has been constructed, but the south side of the Hensley Gate is still in its original location. In addition, the tennis courts built by Elizabeth Somers are still shown in the eastern portion of the property and the diagonal path, still extant, is shown leading to the Building 14 terrace. *Source: Nebraska Avenue Complex Public Works Archives.*



**Figure 2-47.** Photograph taken in 1952, showing the appearance of the campus prior to subsequent building campaigns. Grassland is still extant in this photograph, it was demolished in 1955. *Source: National Archives.*



**Figure 2-48.** This location plan from 1959 shows the layout at the time of the double security fencing. Note that it also shows the main entrance in its current configuration with two lanes and an island, indicating that it dates to sometime between 1952 and 1959. *Source: Nebraska Avenue Complex Public Works Archives.*



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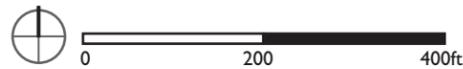
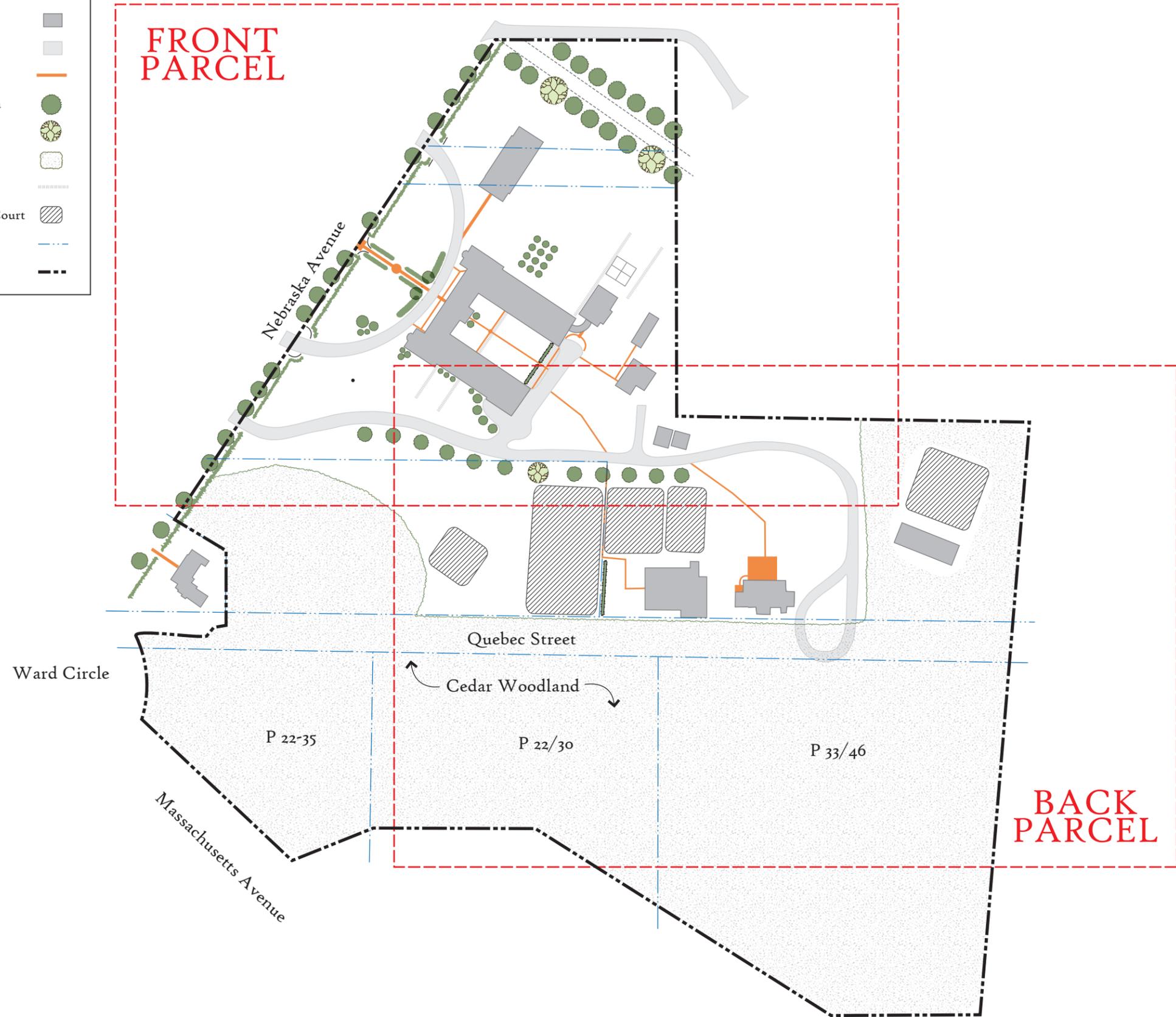
NOT FOR  
CONSTRUCTION

project: DHSNACPLAN  
drawn: LFN  
checked: LLK  
phase: planning  
date: 6 August 2010

**Map 2-1.**  
Period Plan:  
1916-1942  
Overall

**Legend**

- Building
- Road
- Pedestrian Path
- Misc. Vegetation
- Notable Tree
- Woodland
- Terrace Slope
- Sporting Field/Court
- Parcel Line
- Project Limits







- Legend**
- Building
  - Road
  - Pedestrian Path
  - Misc. Vegetation
  - Notable Tree
  - Woodland
  - Terrace Slope
  - Sporting Field/Court
  - Parcel Line
  - Project Limits

Linden allee for old  
Grassland entrance (ca. 1924)  
Lane to Grassland  
(ca. 1942)

Chapel (ca. 1924)  
Street Trees (ca. 1930s)

Easement for Grassland  
(see 1942 plat)

Curved Landscape Feature  
(planting? terrace?)  
Main School Building  
(ca. 1916)  
Four-square Garden  
Classroom (ca. 1940)  
Axial Path (ca. 1916)  
Greenhouse (ca. 1920s)  
Terrace Top Hedge (ca. 1916)  
Barbell Drive  
Powerhouse,  
Building 15 (ca. 1915)  
Barnyard

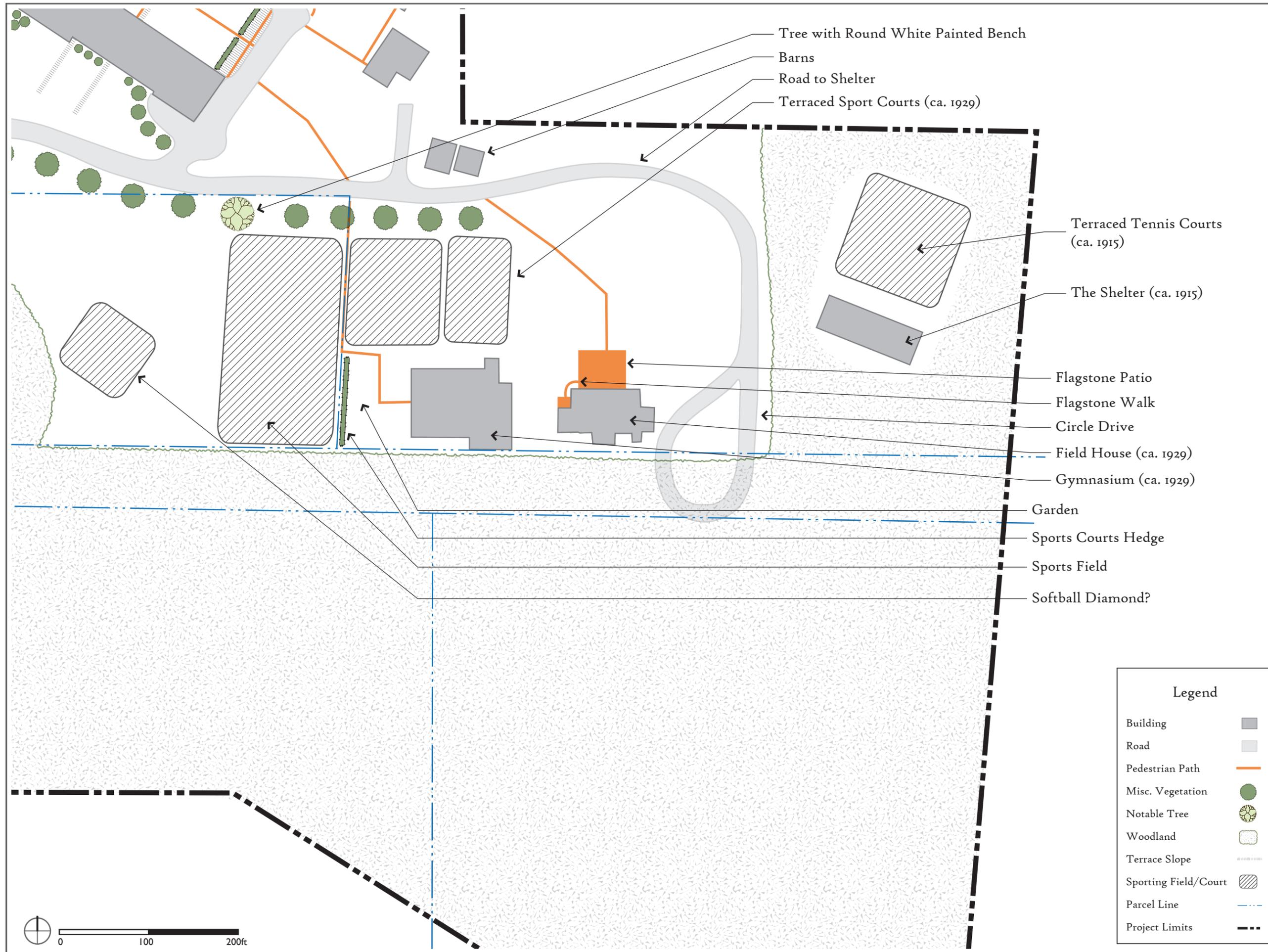
Chapel Gate (ca. 1924)  
Flagstone Walk (ca. 1924)  
Grove  
Hemlock Boundary Hedge  
Front Gate (ca. 1930s)  
Flagstone Axial Walk with  
Birdbath and Benches (ca. 1930s)  
Tree Plantings within the  
Demilune Lawn  
Hensley Gate  
(ca. 1924)  
MVS Flagpole (ca. 1924)  
Relocated Entry Wall  
Door and Stair  
Terraced Bird Bath  
Garden (1924)  
Terraced Rose  
Garden (1924)  
Row of Trees Along  
Service Road and  
Property Line

FOR PLANNING  
PURPOSES ONLY  
  
NOT FOR  
CONSTRUCTION

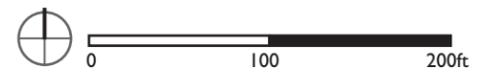
project: DHSNACPLAN  
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phase: planning  
date: 6 August 2010

**Map 2-2.**  
Period Plan:  
1916-1942  
Front Parcel Detail





- Tree with Round White Painted Bench
- Barns
- Road to Shelter
- Terraced Sport Courts (ca. 1929)
- Terraced Tennis Courts (ca. 1915)
- The Shelter (ca. 1915)
- Flagstone Patio
- Flagstone Walk
- Circle Drive
- Field House (ca. 1929)
- Gymnasium (ca. 1929)
- Garden
- Sports Courts Hedge
- Sports Field
- Softball Diamond?



Legend	
Building	■
Road	▬
Pedestrian Path	—
Misc. Vegetation	●
Notable Tree	⊗
Woodland	▨
Terrace Slope	⋯
Sporting Field/Court	▩
Parcel Line	- - -
Project Limits	— — —

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PURPOSES ONLY  
  
NOT FOR  
CONSTRUCTION

project: DHSNACPLAN  
drawn: LFN  
checked: LLK  
phase: planning  
date: 6 August 2010

Map 2-3.  
Period Plan:  
1916-1942  
Back Parcel Detail



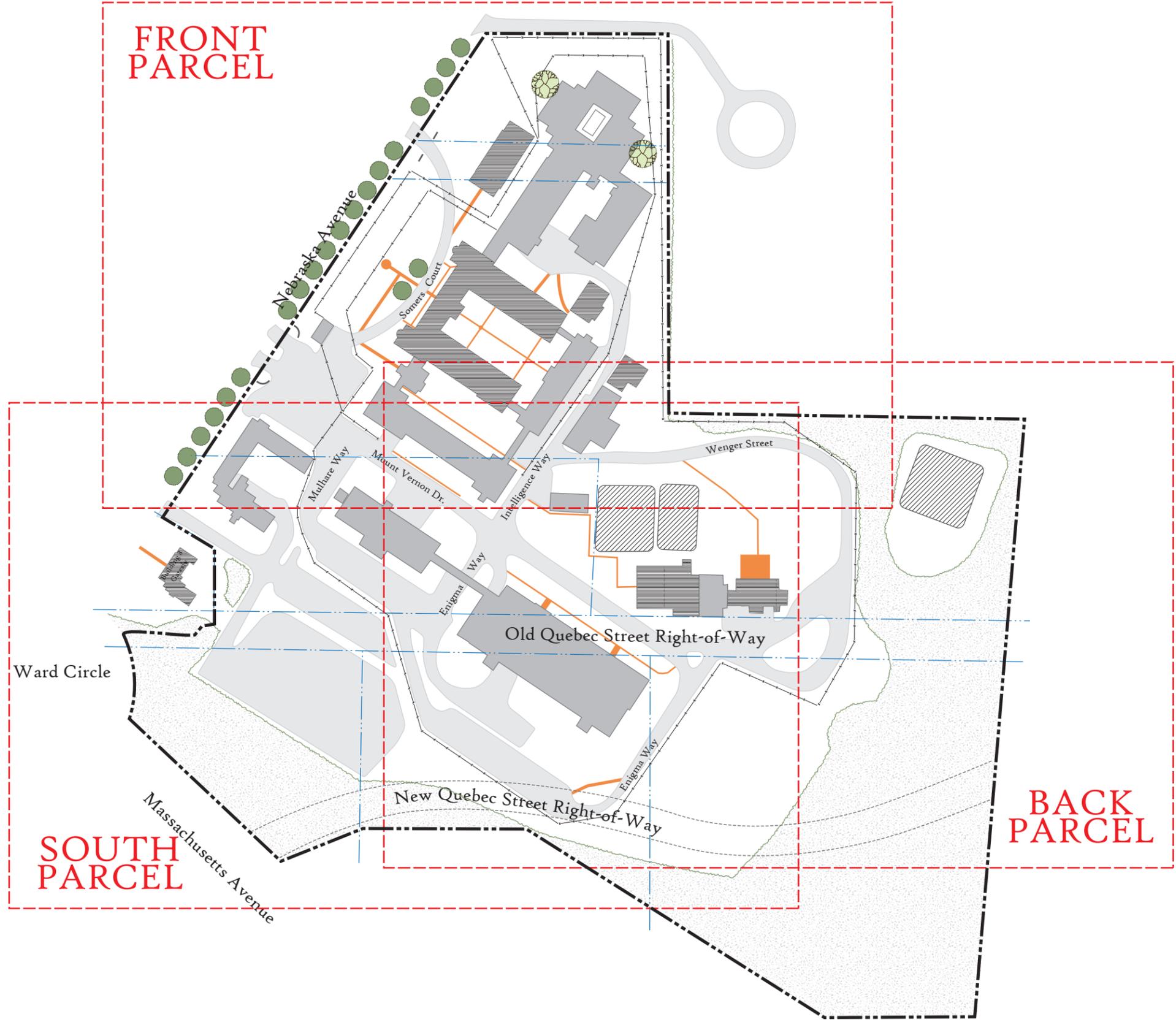
FOR PLANNING  
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NOT FOR  
CONSTRUCTION

project: DHSNACPLAN  
drawn: LFN  
checked: LLK  
phase: planning  
date: 6 August 2010

**Map 2-4.**  
Period Plan:  
1943-1952  
Overall

**Legend**

- Building 1916-42
- Building 1943-45
- Road
- Pedestrian Path
- Fence
- Misc. Vegetation
- Notable Tree
- Woodland
- Terrace Slope
- Sporting Field/Court
- Parcel Line
- Project Limits





Legend	
Building 1916-42	
Building 1943-45	
Road	
Pedestrian Path	
Fence	
Misc. Vegetation	
Notable Tree	
Woodland	
Terrace Slope	
Sporting Field/Court	
Parcel Line	
Project Limits	



Hemlock Row and  
Perimeter Walk  
Chapel Gate  
Street Trees

Fenceline by 1955  
Double Fence (1942)  
Building 5 (1944)  
Elms (pre-1944)  
Building 4 (1943)  
Building 20 (1946)

Building 11 (1943)  
Hensley Gate  
North Section  
Building 43 (1944)  
Building 17 (1944)  
Hensley Gate  
(Relocated)  
Service Road  
Entrance Remnant

Building 3 (1943)  
Building 10 (1952-1970)  
Building 21

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PURPOSES ONLY  
  
NOT FOR  
CONSTRUCTION

project: DHSNACPLAN  
drawn: LFN  
checked: LLK  
phase: planning  
date: 6 August 2010

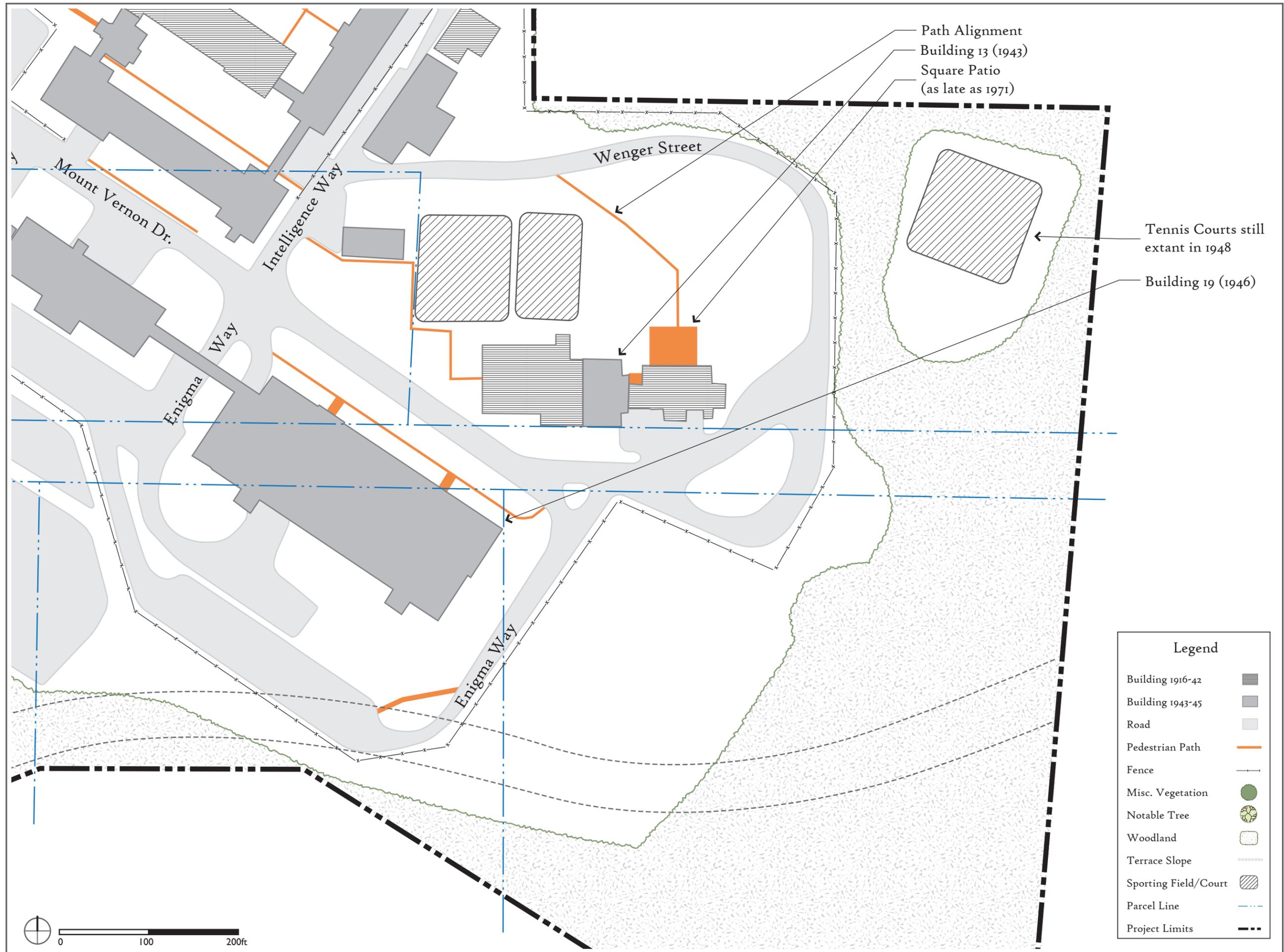
Map 2-5.  
Period Plan:  
1943-1952  
Front Parcel Detail



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PURPOSES ONLY  
  
NOT FOR  
CONSTRUCTION

project: DHSNACPLAN  
drawn: LFN  
checked: LLK  
phase: planning  
date: 6 August 2010

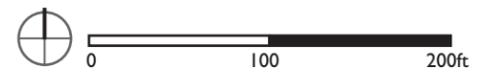
**Map 2-6.**  
Period Plan:  
1943-1952  
Back Parcel Detail



Path Alignment  
Building 13 (1943)  
Square Patio  
(as late as 1971)

Tennis Courts still  
extant in 1948  
  
Building 19 (1946)

Legend	
Building 1916-42	
Building 1943-45	
Road	
Pedestrian Path	
Fence	
Misc. Vegetation	
Notable Tree	
Woodland	
Terrace Slope	
Sporting Field/Court	
Parcel Line	
Project Limits	

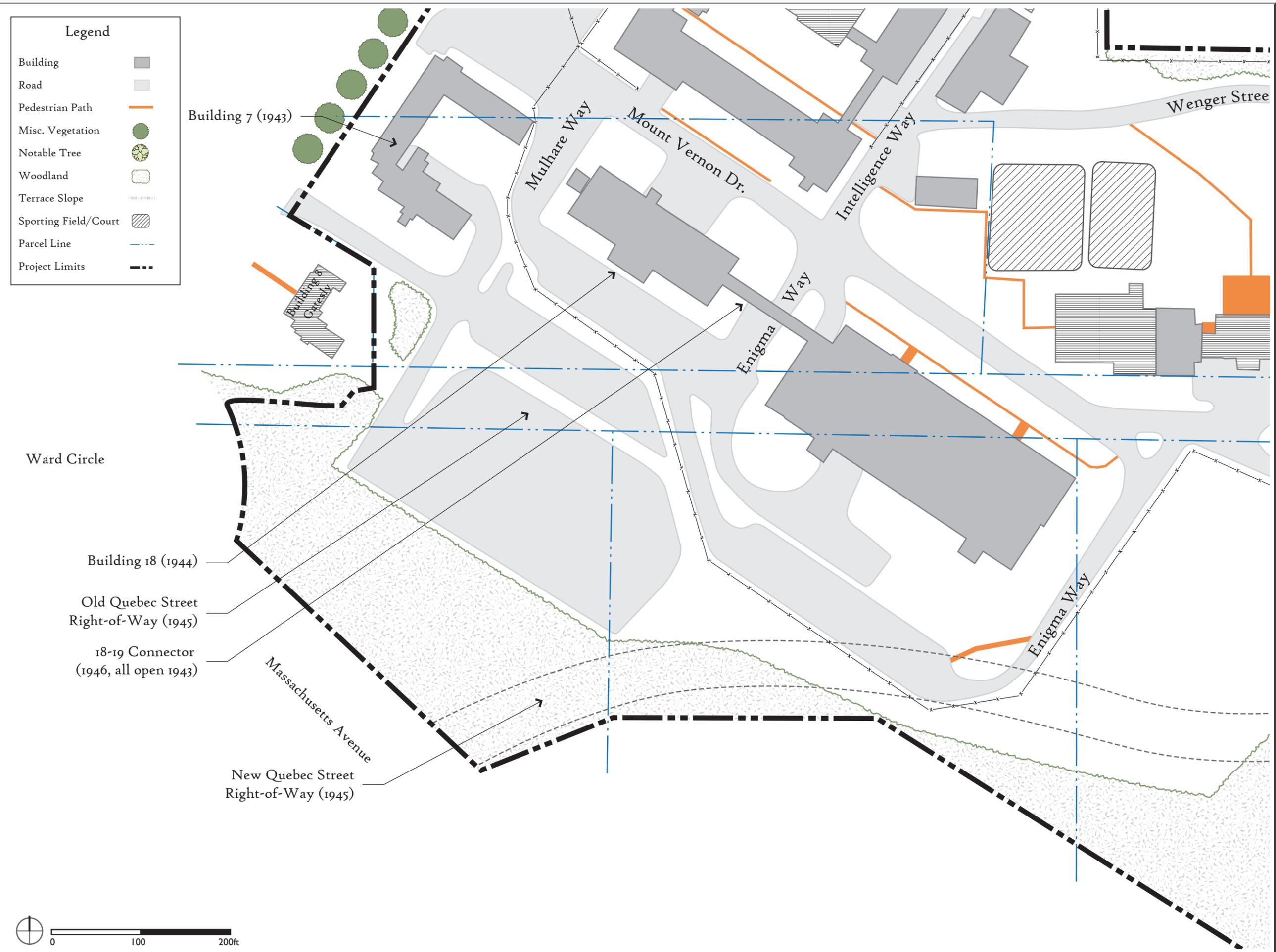




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PURPOSES ONLY  
  
NOT FOR  
CONSTRUCTION

project: DHSNACPLAN  
drawn: LFN  
checked: LLK  
phase: planning  
date: 6 August 2010

**Map 2-7.**  
Period Plan:  
1943-1952  
South Parcel Detail





# Existing Conditions

## Introduction

This chapter documents the existing features of the Nebraska Avenue Complex (NAC) landscape through narrative text, photographs and mapping. The chapter is organized into three sections. The first section – Environmental Context and Setting – sets the site within a regional context and looks at the broader natural systems that affect the NAC property. The second section – General Landscape Description – provides an overall site-wide summary of the landscape features found within the NAC. Description of features are organized into the following landscape characteristic categories:

- spatial organization;
- topographic modifications;
- views and vistas;
- circulation;
- cultural vegetation;
- buildings and structures;
- small-scale features; and
- archaeological features.

Use of these categories is consistent with the methodology recommended in National Register Bulletin 18: *How to Evaluate and Nominate Designed Historic Landscapes* and the National Park Service's *A Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports: Contents, Process and Techniques*. Maps and photographs illustrate the narrative features descriptions. An inventory list of each of the documented landscape features follows the documentation section. Features are identified as historic, potentially historic and non-historic based on their known dates of construction/installation. Features listed as potentially historic have undetermined dates of construction/installation and thus cannot be identified as historic or non-historic without further research.

Character area unit boundaries are delineated on Map 3-1 and reflect differences in the site based on time of initial development and unit function.

The Mount Vernon and Recreational units contain most of the features in the Study Area that are original to the first period of significance. The Mount Vernon Unit contains what used to be the primary classroom and dormitory buildings while the features of the Recreational Unit supported the athletic endeavors of seminary students. Both of these units also contain features and buildings from the second period of significance and after, as well. In contrast, the Cryptanalysis Unit is defined primarily by buildings, drives and parking areas that were constructed by the U.S. Navy for cryptanalysis operations, the second period of significance. In contrast, the East Unit contains almost exclusively post-period of significance features related to maintenance of the property and parking.

Each of the landscape unit descriptions below includes an evaluation and assessment of landscape characteristics particular to that area. For each landscape unit, existing landscape features and conditions were photographed and documented in the field by JMA personnel. Site photographs have been incorporated at the end of each unit description to illustrate features and condition issues described in the text. Based on this inventory, base mapping was updated to illustrate existing conditions. Unless stated otherwise, features were found to be in good condition.

## Environmental Context and Setting

When first developed, the NAC Study Area was on the outskirts of Washington, D.C. and occupied a “commanding ridge, facing Virginia.”<sup>1</sup> Much of the facility developed on a naturally occurring hilltop overlooking Foundry Branch, a tributary of the Potomac River. The shallow ravine was later partially filled to create level building and parking areas associated with Building 101.

Today, the Study Area is characterized by topography that slopes gradually to the southeast, from approximately 395 feet above mean sea level

<sup>1</sup> DRAFT NAC National Register nomination.

(AMSL) to 370 feet AMSL, before it slopes more sharply down to the branch. The open fields and riparian woodlands that characterized much of the NAC during the first period of significance are no longer present on the site. Many of the buildings and associated infrastructure associated with the second period of significance and after now occupy these spaces.

Some riparian vegetation remains along the property boundaries to the east where the Study Area shares its boundary with Glover-Archbold Park. The park, a strip of forest parallel to Foundry Branch, is known for its concentration of migrant birds in season. It is likely that these birds also occasionally occupy the eastern edge of the study area.

## General Landscape Description

An overall site-wide summary of the presence and condition of these features is presented below. Landscape characteristics are defined using descriptions provided by NPS.<sup>2</sup> More detail is provided within the subsequent section, Landscape Descriptions By Unit.

## Spatial Organization

Spatial organization refers to the three-dimensional arrangement of physical forms and visual associations in the landscape, including the articulation of ground, vertical and overhead planes that define and create spaces. The overall spatial organization of the NAC Study Area was originally influenced by the natural topography of the site, as well as its proximity to Nebraska Avenue. Subsequent building campaigns were influenced by the arrangements of the original Mount Vernon Seminary buildings. Today, the site is organized by the plateau and rolling slope topography, large-scale vegetative patterns, building forms and cluster arrangements and circulation patterns. The oldest developed areas maximize frontage along Nebraska Avenue, making Buildings 1 (Main School Building) and 6 (Chapel) prominent features along the roadway. While the western-most edge of the property is generally flat, the rest of the site slopes gradually down to Foundry Branch.

<sup>2</sup> Robert R. Page, Cathy A. Gilbert and Susan A. Dolan, *A Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports: Contents, Process and Techniques* (Washington, DC: National Park Service), p. 125-150.

## Topographic Modifications

Topographic modifications are those changes made to the natural shape of the land to accommodate human use. Within the NAC Study Area, adjustments to the naturally-sloping topography of the site have been primarily in the form of earthen terraces, sometimes supplemented by retaining walls, constructed to support building pads and outdoor use areas such as sports courts and parking lots. These are connected by vehicular drives graded to traverse the slopes and pedestrian walks often incorporating ramps and stairs.

The low terraces originally constructed for the Mount Vernon Seminary stepped gradually down the slope and provided a number of small use areas appropriate to the needs of a residential campus. Terracing installed later for the Navy facility was designed with a much broader brush, creating terraces twice as tall as the earlier examples. Even less subtle topographic modifications, particularly along the eastern property line, provide large parking areas associated with post period-of-significance expansions.

## Views and Vistas

Views and vistas are those prospects created by the range of vision in a landscape and are created by the interaction of other landscape features, such as vegetation or buildings. Views are generally expansive or panoramic, whether designed or naturally occurring and vistas are deliberately contrived linear views. Due to the density of development with and surrounding the NAC Study Area, available views are primarily close- and mid-range and dynamic in nature, being experienced by moving through the site. Vistas are few, consisting primarily of those associated with features from the Mount Vernon Seminary period of significance.

## Circulation

Circulation refers to the spaces, features and applied materials that constitute the systems of movement in a landscape. Circulation at Mount Vernon Seminary consisted of internal roadways for visitor and service access, some formal walkways and informal pedestrian trails. Today, circulation patterns within the NAC are dominated by the drives, sidewalks and parking lots of the modern era. Circulation features survive from both

periods of significance, but most are associated with the U.S. Naval occupation from 1943-1945. Construction projects associated with this period of significance obliterated much of the circulation system associated with Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls. Most roadways are asphalt-paved although some gravel service roads exist. Most sidewalks are poured concrete, although some around Buildings 1 and 17 are brick.

## Cultural Vegetation

Cultural vegetation refers to plants on the site that have been planted or otherwise managed by humans for ornamental or other purposes. There are a few trees in the Study Area that are associated with the first period of significance and several trees at various locations throughout the site that may be associated with the second period of significance. Ornamental planting patterns consistent with images from the first period of significance can be found in front of Building 1 and along Nebraska Avenue. Otherwise, most cultural vegetation within the Study Area is of more recent vintage.

## Buildings and Structures

Buildings are elements constructed primarily for sheltering human activity. Shelters are constructed for functional purposes other than sheltering human activity, including engineering systems ranging from retaining walls to utility systems and also including features such as fencing systems.

Thirty-four buildings are located in the NAC. Of these, seven date to the Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls and nine to the cryptanalysis period; eighteen were built between 1946 and 1997 in association with the U.S. Naval Security Station. The seminary buildings are generally brick and gabled-roofed with Colonial Revival detailing. When the U.S. Navy assumed ownership of the campus in 1943, it continued construction in a style that complemented these structures. The utilitarian buildings generally employed the same Colonial Revival detailing and overall mass, form and style as the seminary buildings. Buildings erected between 1946 and 1997 in the north-central part of the campus share the same mass, style and detailing as their predecessors, but those in the eastern quadrant of the site are industrial in nature

and consist of maintenance and storage structures for the complex.<sup>3</sup>

Landscape structures found throughout the Study Area include small outbuildings, the chain link fencing system that secures the property, entrance gates, the brick and metal boundary fence along Nebraska Avenue, retaining walls and stair systems for pedestrian circulation. Structures also include utility systems, such as overhead power and communication lines and underground water, sewer and stormwater drainage systems.

## Small-scale Features

Small-scale features are those elements that provide detail and diversity for both functional and aesthetic concerns in the landscape. They are distinguishable from landscape structures in that they can be moved with little loss of individual integrity.

Most of the small-scale features within the NAC site were installed after the second period of significance. However, remaining small-scale features associated with the periods of significance include the U.S. Navy flagpoles in front of Building 1, possibly the flagpole in front of Building 19, original signage and other features including pathway reconstructions using historic flagstone. The retention of such features helps to contribute to the overall integrity of the site as a former academic campus turned military complex.

## Archeological Resources

Phase 1A archeological investigations and an intensive architectural survey of the NAC Study Area were completed in 1994 for the purposes of compliance with regulations requiring federal agencies to identify significant cultural resources and take into account possible effects of federally funded, licensed, or approved activities on such resources. In this case, the activity was the pending realignment of the Naval Security Station (now NAC) property, mandated by the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990. The investigations concluded that the property is eligible for the National Register as a historic district.<sup>4</sup>

Phase 1B archeological investigations were completed in 2009 for proposed upgrades of the

<sup>3</sup> McVarish, et al., 1.

<sup>4</sup> McVarish, et al.

electrical system in the area west of Building 6 (Chapel), concluding that the project area contains enough evidence for prehistoric occupation as to make it eligible for the National Register of Historic Place. A Phase II evaluation was recommended.<sup>5</sup>

## Landscape Descriptions by Unit

For the purposes of this study, four individual landscape units have been identified within the NAC (Map 3-1):

- Mount Vernon Unit
- Recreational Unit
- Cryptanalysis Unit
- East Unit

The features of each unit are described in detail, below.

### Mount Vernon Unit

*Refer to Maps 3-2 and 3-3*

The Mount Vernon Unit contains the oldest group of buildings associated with the NAC Study Area, including the Main School Building for the Mount Vernon Seminary (Building 1), the Elizabeth Somers Memorial Chapel (Building 6) and the Classroom Building (Building 2). The unit is generally characterized by its hilltop location and east-facing slopes, axial layout and historic association with the Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls and U.S. Navy cryptanalysis activities.

#### Spatial Organization

Located on the crest of a hill overlooking the Potomac River, the Mount Vernon Unit is generally organized by axes related to the alignment of Nebraska Avenue. Building 1 faces Nebraska Avenue and is a symmetrical structure arranged on an axis perpendicular to the road (Figure 3-1). Two wings extend to the southeast to enclose what was an interior courtyard, but this space was disrupted by the construction of Building 100 in 1990 (Figures 3-2 and 3-3).

Subsequent additions to the campus during the second period of significance were designed around a series of parallel-and cross-axes that complemented the original design and, in many cases, creating interior service courts (Figures 3-4 and 3-5). The integrity of the service court between Buildings 1 and 17 was disrupted with the construction in 1997 of Building 10. Additional spaces were formed with addition of buildings and other structures.

Dominating the Mount Vernon Seminary landscape is the demilune lawn in front of Building 1 (Figure 3-6). The generous setback of the building enhanced the sense of privacy and seclusion from public view that was an important requirement in the original design program.<sup>6</sup> The turf expanse is defined by the lines of the semi-circular drive that leads to Building 1 from Nebraska Avenue. The swath of turf continues past the drive into the rectangular lawn area between Building 6 and Nebraska Avenue (Figure 3-7).

During the second period of significance, an entry court developed around the Hensley Memorial Gate for security screening (Figure 3-8). The area functions in much the same way today.

#### *Spatial Organization – Historically Significant Features:*

- Prominent location of Building 1 at crest of hill
- Orientation of Building 1 to Nebraska Avenue
- Axial and symmetrical organization of Building 1
- Building 1 interior courtyard
- Demilune lawn associated with Building 1
- Rectangular lawn west of Building 6
- Service court formed by Buildings 1, 17, 43 and 10
- Service court formed by Buildings 4, 5 and 20
- Entry court along Nebraska Avenue

#### *Spatial Organization – Non-historic Features:*

<sup>5</sup> Goode and Seifert.

<sup>6</sup> DRAFT NAC National Register nomination.

- Intrusive placement of Building 100
- Intrusive placement of Building 10
- Spaces created by the addition of buildings, structures and circulation features after 1952

### Topographic Modifications

The natural topography of the Mount Vernon Unit was modified during the periods of significance to accommodate the addition of buildings, roadways, recreational features and other site functions.

During the first period of significance, topographic modifications within the Mount Vernon Unit occurred primarily in the form of earthen terracing, developed to create flat outdoor spaces in which the school developed gardens and lawns to accommodate outdoor uses. A remnant of this terracing is located within the Building 1 inner courtyard (Figure 3-9). A portion of a retaining wall associated with the one of the outer terraces on the south side of Building 1 is present in the courtyard formed between it and Building 17 (Figure 3-10).

Subsequent topographic alterations made during the second period of significance were implemented primarily to accommodate building pads, utility structures, storm water drainage and internal vehicular circulation (Figure 3-11). Most of these modifications are present in the landscape today. More recent modifications include raised areas for utility pads in service areas and a detention pond near Building 5 (Figure 3-12). The scattering of utility pads within the service areas detracts from the historic character of these areas (Figure 3-13).

#### *Topographic Modifications – Historically Significant Features:*

- Building 1 courtyard terrace
- Grading for drive adjacent to Building 3
- Grading for service drives between Buildings 4, 5 and 20
- Grading for courtyard formed between Buildings 1, 17 and 43

#### *Topographic Modifications–Non-historic Features:*

- Raised areas for utility pads below Buildings 2 and 20

- Detention pond near Building 5

### Views and Vistas

Long views within this unit are limited by vegetation and building mass. Views of the façade of Building 1 are only available intermittently (Figure 3-14). The vista between the central door of Building 1 and the flagpole area is extant from the period of significance, as is the axial view to the Chapel from the semi-circular drive (see Figures 3-1 and 3-15). Views into the courtyard of Building 1 and other views that were possible during the first period of significance have been almost entirely eliminated due to the construction of other buildings, particularly Building 100 (see Figure 3-2).

From many areas of the site one can see the numerous antennae and satellite dishes set up by the adjacent television station (Figure 3-16). Views of this equipment negatively affect the character of the site.

Also negatively affecting the site's character are the two large parking lots on the southeast and southwest corners of the site (Figure 3-17).

#### *Views and Vistas – Historically Significant Features:*

- Views from Nebraska Avenue to Building 1 façade
- Axial view to front of Building 1 from flagpole area
- Axial view to the Chapel from the semi-circular drive

#### *Views and Vistas – Non-historic Features:*

- Intrusive views to off-site communications equipment to the northeast
- Intrusive views of large parking lots on- and off-site

### Circulation

The primary circulation feature in the Mount Vernon Unit is the semicircular driveway, now known as Somers Court, that runs in front of Building 1 and connects to Nebraska Avenue (see Figure 3-6). It has a concrete curb on one side and a concrete swale on lengths of the other side. A portion of the original axial sidewalk that runs from the front of Building 1

to the flagpole, currently paved with brick, remains in use today and helps to emphasize the symmetry within the unit (see Figure 3-1).

Sidewalks connect the semi-circular drive to Building 6 and run parallel to the front of Building 1 (Figures 3-18 and 3-19). They are paved in either concrete or brick, although their alignment remains true to both periods of significance when they were paved in bluestone. A small portion of the sidewalk that once extended from the rear of Building 1 to the southeast down a series of terraces within the quadrangle remains close to Building 1 (Figure 3-20). A brick walk and ramp system was installed, likely after the period of significance, to provide access to Building 6 from the Navy Chapel Gate (Figure 3-21).

Other circulation features include roads and sidewalks used to provide vehicular and pedestrian access to several buildings constructed by the U.S. Navy, including Buildings 3, 4, 5, 17, 20 and 43 (Figures 3-22 and 3-23). Typically, the roads are asphalt with concrete curb and the sidewalks are concrete. A drive that runs along the east side of Building 3 was given the name, Intelligence Way (Figure 3-24). Concrete sidewalks were installed during this time across the demilune lawn to provide an additional access to the central flagpole area (Figure 3-25).

A two-and-one-half-story, five-bay, rectangular passageway built during the second period of significance connects the south elevation of Building 3 to the northeast corner of Building 17 (Figure 3-26). The east elevation contains a centrally located, three-bay-wide vehicular entrance. A poured-concrete ramp leads to a one-bay pedestrian arcade that occupies the southernmost bay.

An asphalt path and a concrete sidewalk run parallel between Buildings 5 and 6 and appear to be remnants of guard patrol paths from the second period of significance or shortly after (Figure 3-27). A bluestone patio lies to the west of Building 6 and was likely constructed from the stone used in the original sidewalks and removed in the 1960s when the Chapel was fenced out of the NAC property and then later replaced with concrete (Figure 3-28). The broken remains of a concrete guard patrol path runs along the side of Building 4 (Figure 3-29).

Some asphalt parking areas and sidewalks have been added since the period of significance to accommodate modern security, parking and

accessibility needs (Figure 3-30). Additional parking spaces have been provided in the form of small bays constructed off of Somers Court and a gravel service drive was added to provide access to the back of Building 5 (Figure 3-31).

#### *Circulation - Historically Significant Features:*

- Semi-circular drive in front of Building 1 (Somers Court)
- Alignment of sidewalk from flagpole to Building 1
- Alignment of sidewalks parallel to Somers Court
- Alignment of sidewalk to Building 6
- Drives and sidewalks around U.S. Navy buildings
- Sidewalk remnant, Building 1 quadrangle
- Intelligence Way
- Concrete sidewalks along Mount Vernon Drive to building entrances
- Concrete sidewalks across demilune lawn
- Parking bays
- Vehicular and pedestrian entrances in connector between Buildings 3 and 17.

#### *Circulation - Date Unknown*

- Remnant asphalt path
- Remnant sidewalk along Building 4
- Brick sidewalks along south side of Building 17

#### *Circulation – Non-historic Features:*

- Modern security and parking modifications to the roads
- ADA ramps associated with Building 6
- Flagstone patio
- Gravel service drive around the back of Building 5

## Cultural Vegetation

The Mount Vernon Unit includes maintained turf areas, shade and ornamental trees and ornamental shrubs and groundcovers. Species frequently observed include Norway spruce (*Picea abies*), littleleaf linden (*Tilia cordata*), magnolia (*Magnolia sp.*), black walnut (*Juglans nigra*), cherry and pin oak. Turf, shrubs and perennial plantings are used as borders along fences and sidewalks (Figure 3-32).

Several ornamental trees may be historic and date to at least the second period of significance if not the first, including a large Southern magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*) and an American holly (*Ilex opaca*) which are located at the southwest corner of Building 1 (Figure 3-33 and 3-34). Additionally, several large trees are located in the area of the Buildings 5 and 6, including American hollies, spruces, elms (*Ulmus sp.*), maples (*Acer sp.*) and littleleaf lindens. Two 40" caliper littleleaf lindens located on either side of Building 5 likely date from as early as the turn of the twentieth century (Figure 3-35). A row of American hollies along the west side of Building 6 may also date to the second period of significance (Figure 3-36). Some of the evergreens around the Hensley Gate may be survivors from the second period of significance and some of these even to the first period of significance (Figure 3-37). A line of hemlocks parallel the asphalt guard patrol path and may have intended to screen the security fencing from the lawn adjacent to Building 6 (Figure 3-38). Two large spruces at the southwest corner of Building 17 may date to the second period of significance.

Other significant vegetation features includes the patterning of shrub plantings used to line the sidewalk that runs from the flagpole to the main entrance of Building 1 (Figure 3-39). While the existing plants are not themselves historic, the use of shrubs to line the walk is consistent with historic ornamental landscape patterns from the first period of significance. A large, 42" caliper red oak also dates to that period (Figure 3-40). Also, while not technically contained within the property, street trees along Nebraska Avenue have been an important element of the cultural landscape since the first period of significance.

Vegetation more recently planted within the unit includes trees within the demilune lawn such as magnolias, maples and willow oaks and a grove of ornamental trees, including crape myrtles,

magnolias, cherries and viburnums, at the front of Building 43 (Figure 3-41).

### *Cultural Vegetation – Historically Significant Features:*

- Littleleaf lindens on either side of Building 5 that were once part of Grassland allée
- Row of hollies on west side of Building 6
- Pattern of ornamental shrubs lining flagpole circle and approach to Building 1
- 42" caliper red oak
- Deciduous street trees along Nebraska Avenue

### *Cultural Vegetation – Date Unknown:*

- Larger shade trees
- Magnolias by Chapel
- Hemlock hedge north of Building 5
- Spruces by Building 17
- Evergreen planting around Hensley Memorial Gate

### *Cultural Vegetation – Non-historic Features:*

- Ornamental grass planting around flagpole
- Use of yew along axial path from flagpole to Building 1
- Weedy successional vegetation
- Ornamental grove in front of Building 43
- Ornamental vegetation planted after 1952 along the front of Building 1

## Buildings and Structures

The Mount Vernon Unit contains nine buildings associated with the period of significance. Two non-contributing buildings are also present within the unit.

Building 1 was the main facility for the Mount Vernon Seminary and provided classroom and residential spaces for the school (see Figure 3-1). Building 6 (Chapel) and Building 2 (Class and Recreation Building) as well as Building 15 (Powerhouse) are

also located within this Unit and were part of the Mount Vernon academic complex (see Figure 3-30 and Figures 3-42 through 3-44). Buildings 3, 4, 5, 11, 17, 20 and 43 were all constructed during the period associated with the U.S. Naval cryptanalysis era, as were the second and third story enclosed connections between Building 1 and 3 and 3 and 17 (see Figure 3-37 and Figures 3-45 through 3-52). Buildings 10 and 100 were constructed after the end of the period of significance (see Figures 3-3 and 3-5).<sup>7</sup> (Refer to historic structure report provided as a component of the NAC Master Plan for more detailed analysis.)

One of the most notable landscape structures within the Mount Vernon Unit is the Adelia Gates Hensley Memorial Gate (Figure 3-53). Located at the south entrance of Somers Court, the brick gateway consists of two brick piers topped with sandstone orbs, with a curved brick wall in between. It is paired with a matching composition that is either the original south portion of the gateway that was moved about twenty feet to the south or completely reconstructed in that location (Figure 3-54).

A second brick wall-and-pier composition surviving from the 1920s flanks the northern end of the semi-circular drive (Figure 3-55). It has a straight brick wall rather than a curved wall, but it is surmounted by a sandstone cap and the four gate piers support sandstone orbs similar to those on the Hensley Gate. Attached to the north wall is attached aluminum lettering that reads "The Navy Chapel."

The design vocabulary used for the Hensley Memorial Gate was repeated years later with the construction of the piers supporting the boundary fence on the street side of the complex sometime in the 1960s (see Figure 3-14 and Figure 3-56).

A remnant terrace retaining wall exists within the courtyard between Buildings 1 and 17 (Figure 3-57). The wall supports a turf courtyard that was once elevated above one end of a parking court but is now tucked in between Buildings 1 and 10.

Four wooden gazebos are located within the Mount Vernon Unit (see Figure 3-2). The gazebos are modern adaptations of the Victorian style and are intrusive elements in the landscape. Two guardhouses, one in the front entry court and one

between Buildings 3 and 17 (Figures 3-58 and 3-59). These are all recently built structures and are not historically significant.

The entire NAC campus, including the Mount Vernon Unit, is secured by fencing (Figure 3-60). Most of the fencing in this unit is chain link with the exception of the metal fence supported by brick piers along Nebraska Avenue. Much of the chain link fencing is in the same location in which it was originally installed by 1945. Other lengths of the fence structure have been relocated, demolished, or added since that time.

In addition to these structures, throughout the site can be found concrete pads that were built to support various exterior utility units. These are not considered historically significant and are intrusive elements in the historic landscape.

*Buildings and Structures – Historically Significant Features:*

- Building 1 (Main School Building)
- Building 2 (Class and Recreation Building)
- Building 6 (Chapel)
- Building 11 (Gatehouse/Visitor's Center)
- Building 15 (Powerhouse)
- Building 3 (Office Building)
- Building 4 (Laboratory Building)
- Building 5 (Extension to Building 4)
- Building 17 (Office Building)
- Building 20 (Operations Building)
- Building 43 (Administrative Building)
- Connector between Buildings 1 and 3
- Connector between Buildings 3 and 17
- North half of the Adelia Gates Hensley Memorial Gate
- Navy Chapel gateway
- Location of chain link security fencing
- Remnant terrace retaining wall, Building 1

<sup>7</sup> Refer to the Draft NAC National Register of Historic Places nomination for additional images of these buildings.

*Buildings and Structures – Non-historic Features:*

- Building 100 (Communications and Automated Data Processing Facility)
- Building 10 (Chiller Plant)
- Moved or reconstructed south half of the Nebraska Avenue entrance.
- Brick, stone and metal boundary fence along Nebraska Avenue
- Guardhouses 1 and 4 (circa 1995)
- Wooden gazebos (4)
- Chain link security fencing fabric
- Concrete utility pads

## Small-scale Features

Small-scale features persisting since the end of the period of significance include the U.S. Navy flagpole located in the front of Building 1, a small concrete bench that is one of the two that flanked the birdbath in the circular feature at the front of Building 1 during the first period of significance (see Figures 3-32 and 3-61). It is now located on the porch of Building 6 along with non-historic wood and metal park benches (Figure 3-62). Also of particular note are the two anchors that ornament the main entrance on Nebraska Avenue, although the year of their installation is unknown (see Figures 3-53 and 3-54).

All other small-scale features consist of a variety of site furnishings, lights, bollards, fire hydrants and other utilities. A variety of benches and trash receptacles have been set about for the convenience of users of the site (Figures 3-63 through 3-66). Many steel and concrete bollards have been installed to control internal vehicular access (Figure 3-67). Painted steel tube handrails have been installed in various places to either assist in walking or to prevent falling (see Figure 3-67). Lighting varies widely throughout the site and is used for security and for wayfinding (Figure 3-68). Fire hydrants and utility meters are also found throughout the unit (Figure 3-69). Signage within the site consists of blue and white building identification signs, street signs and a small number of parking and other regulatory signs (Figures 3-70).

Building drainage systems include the use of plastic black tubing to direct water flow away from building foundations but create erosion problems in other areas and negatively impact the overall aesthetic qualities of the site (Figure 3-71). Finally, trailers, dumpsters and other large movable objects have been placed throughout the site. Sometimes these are screened with wooden privacy fences. These features negatively affect the character of the site (Figures 3-72 through 3-74).

*Small-Scale Features – Historically Significant Features:*

- Flagpole in front of Building 1
- Concrete bench

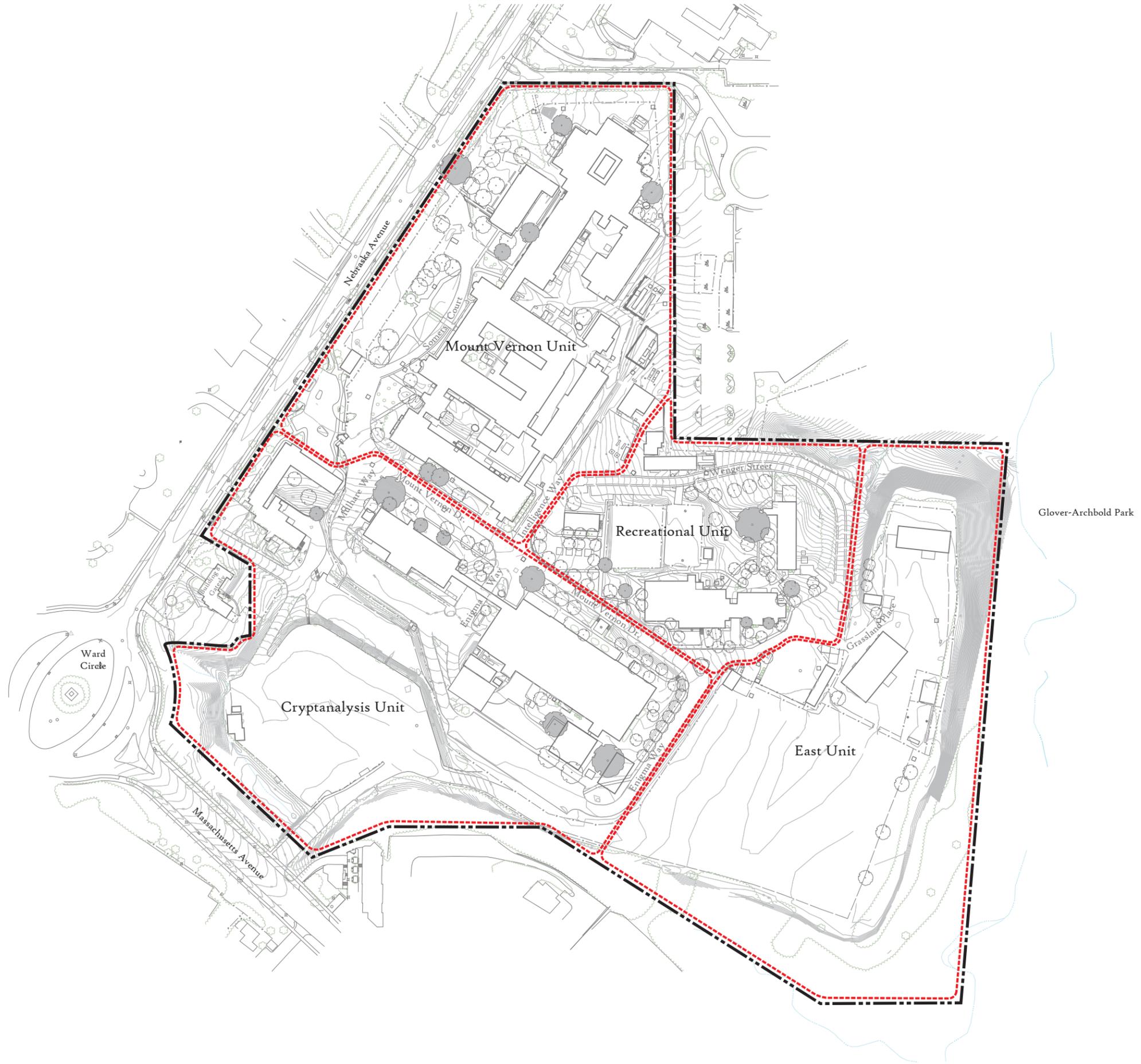
*Small-Scale Features – Potentially Historic Features:*

- Anchors at south entrance

*Small-Scale Features – Non-historic Features:*

- Metal and wood park benches
- Wooden picnic tables
- Fire hydrants
- Steel and concrete panel trash receptacles
- Exposed aggregate and plastic trash receptacles
- Steel trash receptacles
- Metal handrails
- Metal and concrete bollards
- Lighting
- Utilities, drainage and fire safety features
- Building and wayfinding signs
- Communications utilities
- Street and regulatory signs
- Trailers and dumpsters and associated enclosures





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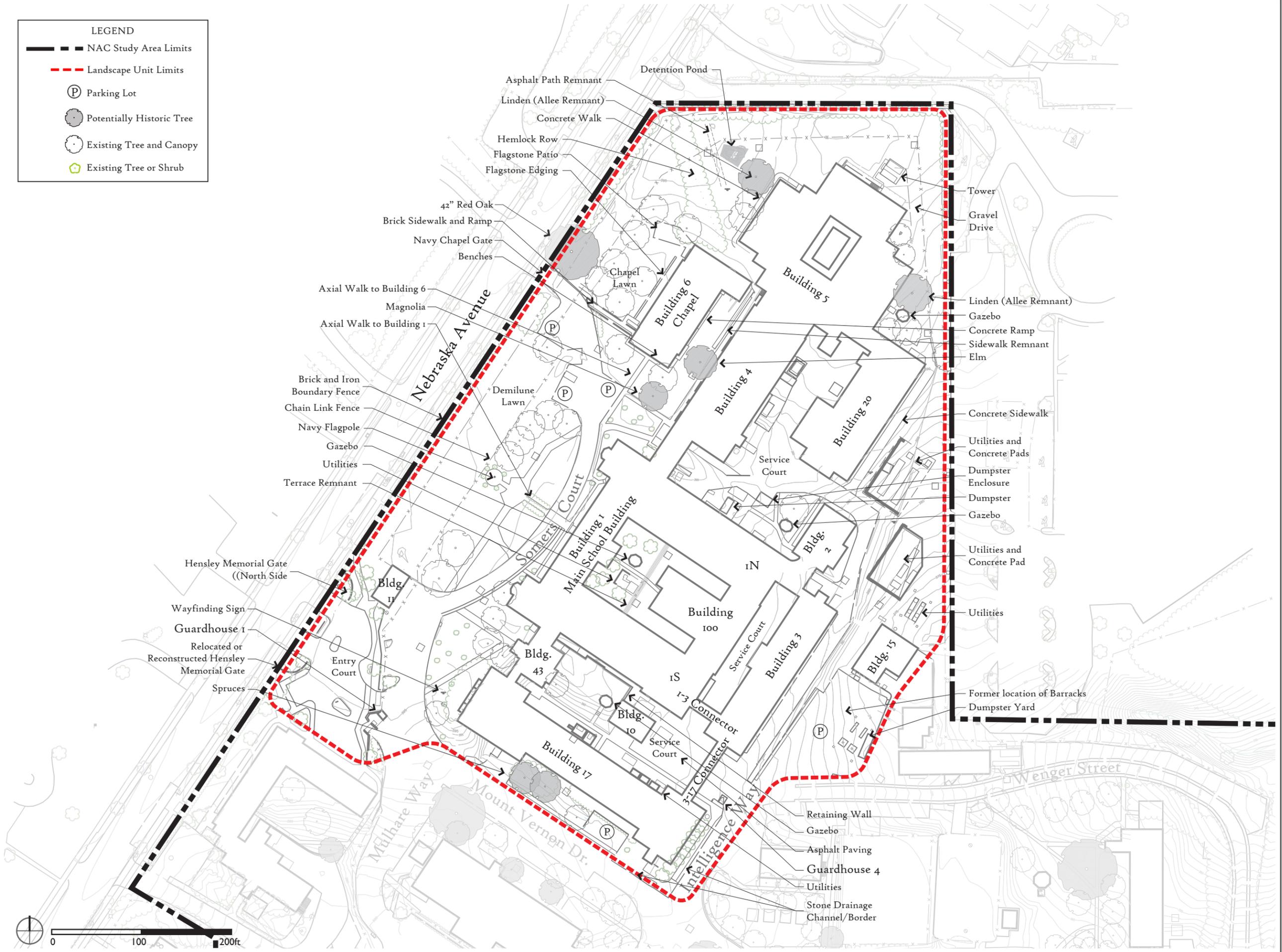
project: DHSNACPLAN  
drawn: LFN  
checked: LLK  
phase: planning  
date: 6 August 2010

**Map 3-1.**  
**Unit Boundaries**



**LEGEND**

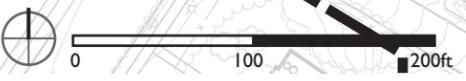
- NAC Study Area Limits
- Landscape Unit Limits
- Parking Lot
- Potentially Historic Tree
- Existing Tree and Canopy
- Existing Tree or Shrub



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**Map 3-2.**  
**Mount Vernon**  
**Unit**  
**Existing Conditions**





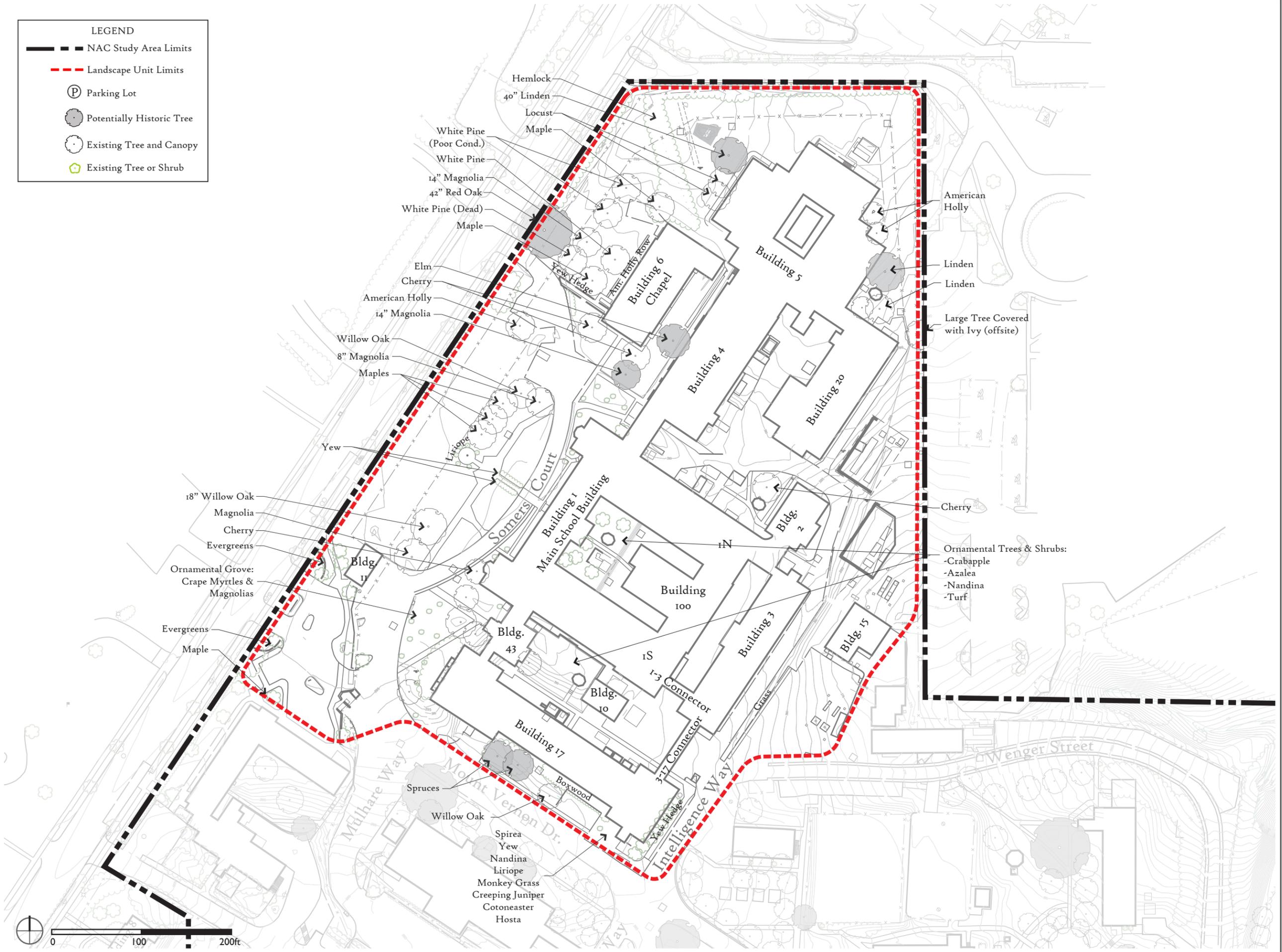
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CONSTRUCTION

project: DHSNACPLAN  
drawn: LFN  
checked: LLK  
phase: planning  
date: 6 August 2010

**Map 3-3.**  
**Mount Vernon  
Unit  
Vegetation**

**LEGEND**

- NAC Study Area Limits
- Landscape Unit Limits
- Parking Lot
- Potentially Historic Tree
- Existing Tree and Canopy
- Existing Tree or Shrub



Hemlock  
40" Linden  
Locust  
Maple  
White Pine (Poor Cond.)  
White Pine  
14" Magnolia  
42" Red Oak  
White Pine (Dead)  
Maple  
Elm  
Cherry  
American Holly  
14" Magnolia  
Willow Oak  
8" Magnolia  
Maples  
Yew  
Liriope  
18" Willow Oak  
Magnolia  
Cherry  
Evergreens  
Ornamental Grove:  
Crape Myrtles &  
Magnolias  
Evergreens  
Maple  
Spruces  
Willow Oak  
Spirea  
Yew  
Nandina  
Liriope  
Monkey Grass  
Creeping Juniper  
Cotoneaster  
Hosta

Building 1  
Main School Building  
Building 2  
Bldg. 2  
Building 3  
Building 4  
Building 5  
Building 6  
Chapel  
Building 10  
Bldg. 10  
Building 15  
Bldg. 15  
Building 17  
Building 20  
Bldg. 43  
3-17 Connector  
Intelligence Way  
Wenger Street  
Milhare Way  
Somers Court  
Yew Hedge  
Am. Holly Row  
Large Tree Covered with Ivy (offsite)  
Ornamental Trees & Shrubs:  
-Crabapple  
-Azalea  
-Nandina  
-Turf





**Figure 3-1.** The front of Building 1. The original axial connection from Building 1 to Nebraska Avenue followed this alignment. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-2.** The existing conditions at the Building 1 courtyard, including the remnants of the upper terrace and sidewalk, a metal railing, a gazebo, a building identification sign, HVAC equipment and ornamental plantings. Also note that the colonnade is enclosed and not open as it was during the first period of significance. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-3.** The placement of Building 100 interferes with the historical spatial organization of Building 1. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-4.** Courtyard surrounded by Buildings 4, 5 and 20. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-5.** Courtyard surrounded by Buildings 1, 17 and 43. Building 10 is located within the courtyard. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-6.** Demilune lawn in front of Building 1. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-7.** Rectangle lawn west of the Chapel. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-8.** South entry court. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-9.** Remnant earthen terrace in Building 1 courtyard. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-10.** Retaining wall within courtyard between Buildings 1 and 17. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-11.** Grading used to provide service access to the rear of Buildings 4 and 5 and to support utilities. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-12.** Dry detention pond near Building 5. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-13.** Concrete pad for utilities behind Building 20. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-14.** View from Nebraska Avenue to Building 1. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-15.** Axial view to the Chapel from the semi-circular drive. *Source: JMA 2010.*



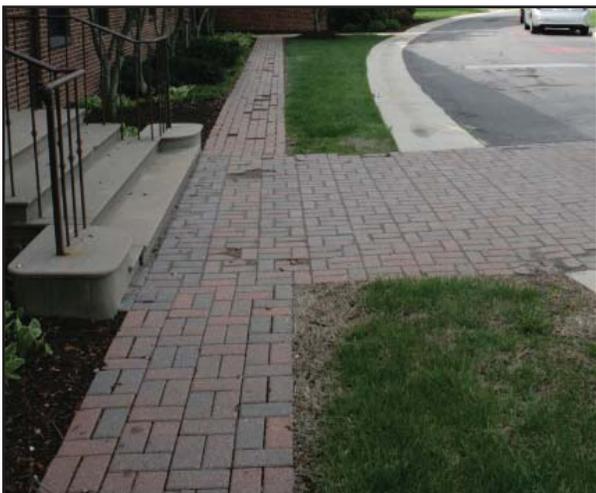
**Figure 3-16.** Views to off-site communications equipment. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-17.** Concrete pad and views to off-site parking lots. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-18.** Sidewalks around U.S. Navy buildings. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-19.** Brick sidewalk that connects the three front entrances to Building 1. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-20.** Portion of sidewalk in the Building 1 courtyard. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-21.** Modifications to the Chapel (Building 6) entrance to meet ADA requirements. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-22.** Brick sidewalk, vegetation and drainage swale along Mount Vernon Drive. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-23.** Concrete sidewalks and wayfinding signage along Mount Vernon Drive. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-24.** Intelligence Way, an asphalt drive with concrete curb and gutter on the east side of Building 3. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-25.** Concrete sidewalks leading across the demilune lawn. *Source: JMA 2009.*



**Figure 3-26.** Vehicular and pedestrian entrances through connector between Buildings 3 and 17. *Source: JMA 2010*



**Figure 3-27.** Remnant asphalt path near Building 5. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-28.** Flagstone patio near Building 6. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-29.** Remnant guard patrol path between Building 4 and 6. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-30.** Parking lots along Somers Court in front of the Chapel. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-31.** 2010. Gravel service drive around Building 5. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-32.** Pattern of ornamental shrubs (yews) lining the approach walk to Building 1. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-33.** Ornamental shade trees. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-34.** This magnolia may date to the period of significance. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-35.** 40" caliper linden near Building 5. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-36.** American hollies on the west side of Building 6. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-37.** Evergreen planting at the Hensley Gate. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-38.** Hemlock hedge north of Building 5. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-39.** Existing planting around the flagpole. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-40.** The 42" caliper red oak west of Building 6. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-41.** Ornamental grove in front of Building 43. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-42.** Building 2. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-43.** Building 2 entrance from service court between Buildings 3 and 100. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-44.** Building 15 (powerhouse) and dumpster. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-45.** Building 3, parking and dumpster enclosure. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-46.** Building 4 (left) and the entrance to Building 5 (right). *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-47.** Building 5. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-48.** Building 17. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-49.** Building 20. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-50.** Building 1-3 connector. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-51.** The entrance to Building 43. *Source: JMA 2010.*



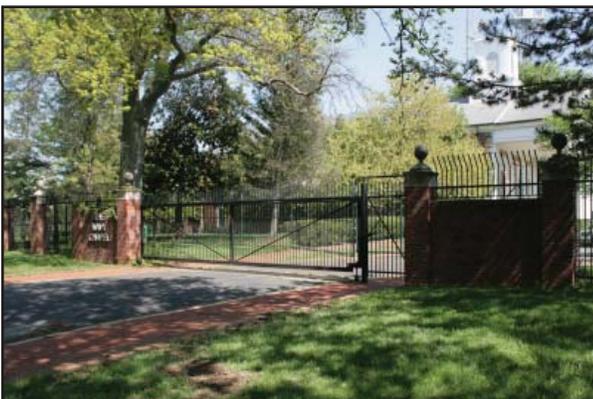
**Figure 3-52.** Building 3-17 connector. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-53.** Hensley Memorial Gate and anchor (north half). *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-54.** The composition and location of the south half of the south entrance has likely been refigured since the period of significance. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-55.** The Navy Chapel gateway and north entrance to the semi-circular drive. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-56.** Brick, stone and iron boundary fence along Nebraska Avenue. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-57.** Remnant retaining walls adjacent to Building 1 (south side). *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-58.** Guardhouse 1 in the entry court. *Source: JMA 2009.*



**Figure 3-59.** Guardhouse 4 between Buildings 3 and 17. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-60.** Chain link security fencing inside the boundary fence along Nebraska Avenue. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-61.** Concrete bench on the porch of the Chapel. This bench was moved from its original location in front of Building 1. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-62.** Metal and wood park bench and trash receptacle at the Chapel. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-63.** Wooden picnic tables and aggregate and plastic trash receptacle in front of Building 1. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-64.** Steel and concrete panel trash receptacles. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-65.** Exposed aggregate and plastic trash receptacles. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-66.** Steel trash receptacle and metal handrail. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-67.** Concrete and steel bollards protect utility units and entrances in the service court between buildings 3 and 100. Painted steel handrails along ramps and stairs protect and assist pedestrians. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-68.** Security lighting. *Source: JMA 2010.*



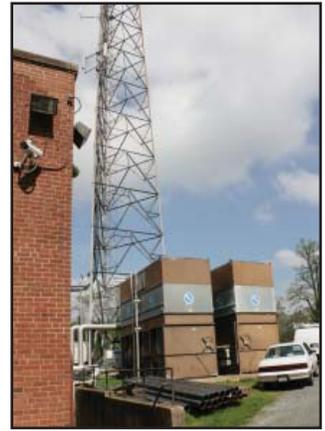
**Figure 3-69.** Fire hydrants in the Mount Vernon Unit. *Source: JMA*



**Figure 3-70.** Evacuation assembly area identification sign and building identification sign. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-71.** Above-ground storm drain system. *Source: JMA 2010, 2010.*



**Figure 3-72.** Communications utilities. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-73.** Dumpsters and dumpster enclosure in Buildings 1, 4, 5 and 20 service court. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-74.** Utility trailers. *Source: JMA 2010.*

## Recreational Unit

*Refer to Maps 3-4 and 3-5*

The Recreational Unit consists primarily of the sports courts and associated Gymnasium and Field House buildings (Buildings 12 and 14) that were constructed for use by the Mount Vernon Seminary, as well as additional buildings and features installed by the U.S. Navy. The unit also includes the service road (Wenger Street) that once led to additional tennis courts and the building known as the Shelter, both of which were also part of the school's athletic facilities but are no longer extant. Also included in the unit are features associated with the second period of significance and after, including Buildings 13 and 81.

### Spatial Organization

The Recreational Unit is organized around what now functions as the "Village Green" of the complex, that is, the sports courts and adjacent open lawn to the east, both surviving from the first period of significance (Figure 3-75). These features were placed within the original linear lot (north of the former Quebec Street right-of-way) acquired by Somers in 1916 (see Figure 4-1). The site slopes generally to the east-north-east and is partially terraced to accommodate the sports courts and the open lawn located between the sports courts, Building 12-14, Building 81 and the north arm of Wenger Street. The lawn is crossed by a network of pedestrian paths, both historic and non-historic and contains a number of smaller features that distract from the historic character of the area, such as recently installed picnic shelters (Figure 3-76). Parking along Wenger Street is also an intrusive element in this historic landscape (Figure 3-77).

Other notable spaces include the garden area on the west side of the Building 12, the picnic area to the south of Building 21, the service yard of Buildings 12-14 and the open, treed lawn to the east of Building 81 (Figures 3-78 through 3-81).

#### *Spatial Organization – Historically Significant Features:*

- Sports courts and associated historic buildings
- Field House lawn
- North arm of Wenger Street

- Garden area, west side of Building 12
- Service yard of Buildings 12-14

#### *Spatial Organization – Non-historic Features:*

- Location of Building 81
- Treed lawn east of Building 81
- Intrusive parking areas along Wenger Street
- Spaces created by the addition of buildings, structures and circulation features after 1952

### Topographic Modifications

The Recreational Unit slopes dramatically from west to east. Terraces were set into the hillside to provide level surfaces for the sport courts that remain today and are currently used for parking (Figure 3-82). A more recent modification to the topography in the area of the sports courts includes an extension of the lower terrace to support a picnic shelter (Figure 3-83). Within the lawn, more subtle topographic modifications have been added to promote adequate stormwater drainage (Figure 3-84).

Exposed soil around the sports court terraces is susceptible to erosion (Figure 3-85). Rip-rap has been used on a corner of the upper court to prevent further deterioration as a result of stormwater runoff (see Figure 3-85).

#### *Topographic Modifications – Historically Significant Features:*

- Earthen terraces supporting sports courts

#### *Topographic Modifications – Non-historic Features:*

- Intrusive grading for the picnic shelter
- Drainage swales in the quad surrounded by Buildings 81, 12, 13, 14 and the sports courts

### Views and Vistas

The short views and vistas offered within the Recreational Unit are limited by the density of trees and structures within the Unit. Intrusive views

from the Unit include those to hazardous waste management structures and parking lots (Figure 3-86). Dynamic views from travel on Wenger Street are framed by towering tulip poplars. Additionally, views across the lawn associated with Buildings 12, 14 and the sports courts are significant features of the landscape.

*Views and Vistas – Historically Significant Features:*

- Shaded and framed views through the tulip polar walk along east portion of Wenger Street
- Views of lawn area associated with Buildings 12 and 14

*Views and Vistas – Non-historic Features:*

- Intrusive views of hazardous waste management structures and parking lots along northern portion of Wenger Street

## Cultural Vegetation

The Recreational Unit includes a number of ornamental trees throughout and a small grove of what appears to be remnant forest in the eastern end of the unit, possibly from when that portion of the NAC site was wooded (see Figure 3-75). Notable large tree specimens, all of which are likely historic, include a spruce at the northern corner of Building 14 that is proposed to be removed as a result of proposed utility line work, a grove of large tulip poplars (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) located to the east of Building 81, a large willow oak (*Quercus phellos*) in front of Building 81, a 24" maple near Building 12, an Eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) at the southwest corner of the sports courts, two saucer magnolias on the service side of Building 14 and a row of hollies on the south side of the tennis court (Figure 3-87 through 3-92 and see Figures 3-78 and 3-81).

Plants installed after the second period of significance include maples, littleleaf lindens, white pine, plums, cherries, crape myrtles, dwarf hollies, yews, azaleas, daylilies, liriopse, monkey grass and ferns. Other vegetation includes weedy successional growth along the outside of Wenger Street.

*Cultural Vegetation – Historically Significant Features:*

- Spruce by Building 14
- Tulip poplar grove east of Building 81
- Willow oak by Building 81
- Eastern red cedar at sports courts
- Maple by Building 12
- Saucer magnolias in Building 14 service area
- Row of hollies along south side of tennis courts

*Cultural Vegetation – Non-historic Features:*

- Ornamental trees and shrubs throughout the unit planted after 1952
- Weedy successional vegetative growth

## Circulation

Several circulation routes within the Recreational Unit remain from both periods of significance. A portion of the service road (now Wenger Street) that originally ran from Nebraska Avenue and looped around the Seminary's tennis courts remains today, now paved in asphalt with concrete curb and gutter (Figure 3-93 and see Figure 3-75). The alignment of Mount Vernon Drive remains from the second period of significance (Figure 3-94)

Additionally, the alignment of the sidewalk leading diagonally from the service road through the lawn to Building 14 remains from the first period of significance, as does the sidewalk leading along the south side of the sports courts (Figures 3-94 through 3-96). The flagstone connector by Building 13 remains from the second period of significance and possibly the first (Figure 3-97)

This path connects to a dining terrace, which has retained its purpose as a gathering place, but has changed in shape (from rectangular to semi-circular) and in material (from flagstone to brick pavers and concrete) since its construction during the first period of significance (Figure 3-98).

Other circulation features within the Recreational Unit include a network of sidewalks that were installed as a part of the modification of the property

for use by the U.S. Navy, including those installed to access buildings from Mount Vernon Drive (Figures 3-99 and 3-100). Other sidewalks have since been modified from the original configuration and vehicular access points into the sports courts, which have been adapted for parking, have also been added. Roads constructed during the second period of significance still provide access to parking areas in the eastern most portion of the property (Figure 3-101).

*Circulation - Historically Significant Features:*

- Eastern end of Wenger Street
- Diagonal path from Wenger Street to Building 14 patio
- Concrete sidewalks from Mount Vernon Drive to building entrances
- Parking lots
- Location of concrete and brick terrace outside of Building 14
- Flagstone connector between Buildings 12 and 14

*Circulation – Non-historic Features:*

- Contemporary sidewalks (post-1952)
- Modern security, parking and accessibility modifications to the roads and sidewalks
- Vehicular access drives to the sports courts

## Buildings and Structures

Buildings and structures within the Recreational Unit include those constructed in the first and second periods of significance and a few after 1952. Built on the land purchased for the Seminary in the 1920s, Buildings 12 and 14 were built in 1929 and the Navy added Building 13 in 1943 (see Figure 3-75 and Figures 3-102 and 3-103). The other buildings were constructed after the end of the second period of significance: Building 21 in 1953, Building 59 in 1958, Building 81 in 1965 and Building 94 in 1974 (Figures 3-104 through 3-108). For detailed descriptions of these buildings, refer to the NAC Historic Structures Report.

Historic structures include the sports courts, the retaining wall between them and the surrounding

system of chain link fencing, as well as the location of the Building 14 terrace (shape and materials recently changed). More recently built structures include the wooden gazebo (1980s) and a picnic shelter (ca. 1990) and the wooden deck and ramp systems associated with Buildings 13, 14 and 81 (Figures 3-109 through 3-112 and see Figures 3-76, 3-83 and 3-98). Security fencing in the area also appears to be of recent vintage.

*Buildings and Structures – Historically Significant Features:*

- Building 12 (Gymnasium)
- Building 13 (Recreational Services)
- Building 14 (Field House)
- Sports Courts
- Retaining walls associated with the sports courts
- Chain link fence system around sports courts
- Location of Building 14 patio

*Buildings and Structures – Non-historic Features:*

- Building 21 (Public Works Maintenance)
- Building 59 (Classified Waste Destructor)
- Building 81 (Bachelor Enlisted Quarters)
- Building 94 (Special Purpose)
- Wooden gazebo
- Picnic shelter with brick grill
- Picnic terrace shape and materials
- Decks associated with Buildings 12, 13 and 81
- ADA ramps associated with Buildings 12 and 81

## Small-scale Features

Small-scale features located within the Recreational Unit are associated with post-1952 development, including site furnishings, safety and accessibility

features, lights, bollards, fire hydrants and other utilities.

A variety of benches, picnic tables, trash receptacles and BBQ grills, have been set about for the convenience of users of the site (Figures 3-113 through 3-116). Most of the grills are small, metal units on metal posts set within the picnic area south of Building 21, but one grill is a larger brick structure set in the center of the Fieldhouse lawn (see Figure 3-76). A set of aluminum bleachers have been placed above the sports courts and adjacent to Building 21 (Figure 3-117). Steel and concrete bollards have been installed to control internal vehicular access (Figure 3-118). Painted steel tube handrails have been installed in various places to either assist in walking or to prevent falling (see Figures 3-78, 3-82, 3-92 and 3-101). Additionally, the patio by Building 14 has a steel railing (see Figure 3-115). Lights, both ornamental and functional in design, are used for security and wayfinding (Figure 3-119). Signage within the site consists of blue and white building identification signs, street signs and a small number of parking or other regulatory signs (Figure 3-120).

Utilities and dumpsters are intrusive elements within the Sports Unit (Figures 3-121 and see Figure 3-107)). Drainage features fall into this category, as well as HVAC units. Dumpsters are partially screened with wooden privacy fences. These types of features are intrusive in appearance and negatively affect the character of the site.

*Small-Scale Features – Historically Significant Features:*

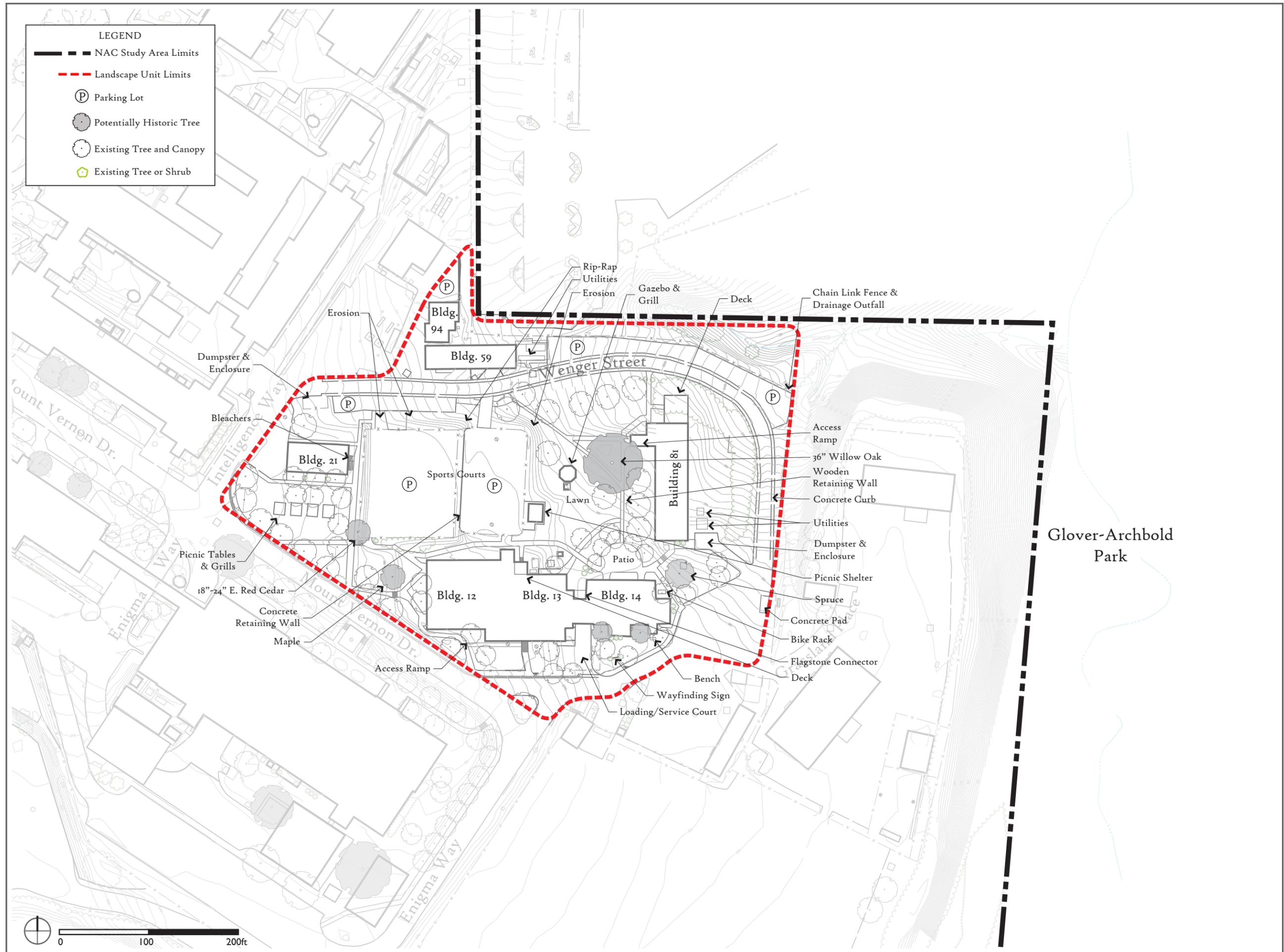
- None

*Small-Scale Features – Non-historic Features:*

- Picnic tables (made of metal and wood, plastic coated metal, or concrete)
- Fiberglass bench
- Exposed aggregate and plastic trash receptacles
- Steel and concrete panel trash receptacles
- Metal picnic grills
- Brick grill
- Aluminum bleachers
- Steel and concrete bollards

- Steel railings
- Lights
- Building identification and regulatory signs
- Utility, drainage and fire safety features
- Dumpsters and associated enclosure



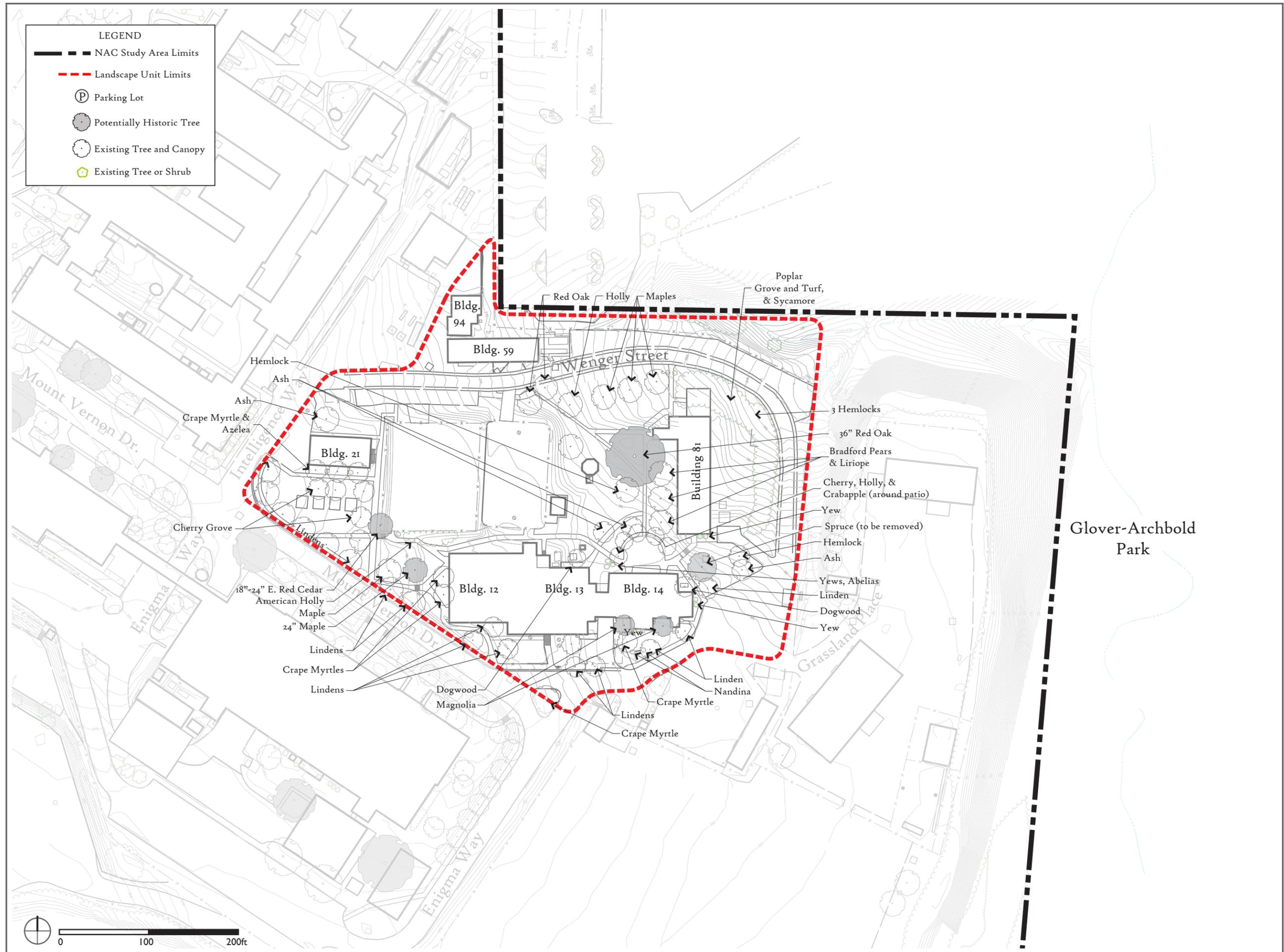


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project: DHSNACPLAN  
drawn: LFN  
checked: LLK  
phase: planning  
date: 6 August 2010

**Map 3-4.**  
**Recreational Unit**  
**Existing Conditions**





Glover-Archbold  
Park

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PURPOSES ONLY  
  
NOT FOR  
CONSTRUCTION

project: DHSNACPLAN  
drawn: LFN  
checked: LLK  
phase: planning  
date: 6 August 2010

Map 3-5.  
Recreational Unit  
Vegetation





**Figure 3-75.** Buildings 12-14 (bottom), Building 81 (right) and Building 21 (left) enclose the open lawn and sports space that have survived on the site since the first period of significance. *Source: Bing Maps, accessed 7/12/10. 2010.*



**Figure 3-76.** Photo of Field House lawn, showing recently-installed structures and small-scale features that are intrusive elements in this historic landscape. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-77.** Parking areas along Wenger Street that are intrusive elements in this historic landscape. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-78.** Garden space on the west end of Building 12 (Gymnasium). The 24" maple is on the left. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-79.** Wood and metal picnic tables and metal grills in the cherry grove by Building 21. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-80.** Service area for Building 14. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-81.** Open lawn with tulip poplar grove along Wenger Street. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-82.** Earthen terraces supporting the sports courts. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-83.** Fill installed to support this picnic shelter negatively impacts this historic earthen terrace. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-84.** Stormwater management in the lawn area. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-85.** Erosion and this rip rap solution threaten the integrity of the historic earthen terracing. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-86.** Views of parking and communications equipment along northern portion of Wenger Street. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-87.** Spruce adjacent to Building 81 and proposed to be removed for utility work. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-88.** Large willow oak in front of Building 81. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-89.** 24" caliper maple on the west end of Building 12. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-90.** Eastern red cedar at edge of tennis courts. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-91.** Saucer magnolia in the service area of Building 14. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-92.** Row of hollies on the south side of the tennis court that appear to be mature remnants of a screening hedge. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-93.** Eastern end of service road (Wenger Street). *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-94.** Mount Vernon Drive as it passes Building 12. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-95.** Pedestrian circulation to the east of the tennis courts. The alignment of the sidewalk running right/left in the image is consistent with the alignment of sidewalks from the first period of significance. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-96.** Sidewalk leading from the Building 14 patio toward Wenger Street. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-97.** Flagstone patio between buildings 13 and 14. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-98.** Building 14 terrace. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-99.** Recently-installed sidewalks near Building 81. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-100.** Concrete sidewalk of recent vintage, likely constructed when original flagstone terrace was replaced. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-101.** Parking along Wenger Street, vehicular access to tennis court and Building 59. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-102.** Buildings 12 and 13. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-103.** Building 14. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-104.** Building 21 (Public Works Maintenance).  
Source: JMA 2010.



**Figure 3-105.** Building 59 (Classified Waste Destructor).  
Source: JMA 2010.



**Figure 3-106.** Equipment associated with Building 59. Source: JMA 2010.



**Figure 3-107.** Building 81 (Bachelor enlisted quarters) and dumpster with wooden enclosure. Source: JMA 2010.



**Figure 3-108.** Building 94 (Special Purpose). Source: JMA



**Figure 3-109.** Retaining wall between the sports courts. Source: JMA 2010.



**Figure 3-110.** Deck associated with Building 81. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-111.** ADA ramp to Building 12 and building signage. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-112.** Deck associated with Buildings 12 and 13. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-113.** Exposed aggregate and plastic trash receptacle. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-114.** Fiberglass and metal bench in poor condition, located behind Building 14. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-115.** Steel and concrete panel trash receptacle, metal railing and concrete picnic tables on the Building 14 patio. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-116.** Wood and steel picnic tables and exposed aggregate concrete and plastic trash receptacle in the picnic area south of Building 21. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-117.** Aluminum bleachers above sports courts. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-118.** Metal and concrete bollards and stone road edging. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-119.** Light fixture near Building 14 (left) and security lighting (right). *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-120.** Building identification sign. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-121.** Utilities adjacent to Buildings 12 and 13. *Source: JMA 2010.*

## Cryptanalysis Unit

*Refer to Maps 3-6 and 3-7*

The Cryptanalysis Unit contains several buildings from the second period of significance as well as large asphalt surface parking lots for the NAC. The unit is generally characterized by its sloping and terraced landform, historic association with U.S. Navy WWII cryptanalysis efforts and current uses.

### Spatial Organization

Most buildings of the Cryptanalysis Unit are oriented along Mount Vernon Drive, which follows an axis set perpendicular to Nebraska Avenue (Figure 3-122). Most related parking areas and internal drives are arranged generally parallel to this axis, with the exception of the southwest portion of the unit, which is dominated by a large surface parking lot.

Mount Vernon Drive bisects the NAC and generally separates the major components of the first period of significance, to its northeast, from the components of the second, to the southwest. The line of Buildings 7, 18 and 19 subdivides the unit into two general areas, the Mount Vernon streetscape to the northeast and the parking and service area to the southwest.

The earthen terracing created for the buildings, the large trees planted in a row along Mount Vernon Drive and the sidewalks that parallel the drive emphasize the linear quality of this streetscape space, which joins this unit with the Mount Vernon and Recreational units (Figure 3-123).

Within the parking and service area, there are smaller spaces created between buildings and also by the earthen terraces that step down the slope towards Massachusetts Avenue. These include the courtyard created by the three wings of Building 7 and the four parking areas separated by the terraces (Figures 3-124 and 3-125).

#### *Spatial Organization – Historically Significant Features:*

- Mount Vernon Drive axis
- Streetscape of Mount Vernon Drive
- Perpendicular orientation to Nebraska Avenue

- Parking areas
- Building 7 courtyard

#### *Spatial Organization – Non-historic Features:*

- Spaces created by the addition of buildings, structures and circulation features after 1952

### Topographic Modifications

The slope of the Cryptanalysis Unit trends downwards towards the south and the east, towards Massachusetts Avenue and Glover-Archbold Park. Terracing has been done to create more level parking areas and to support nearby development (see Figures 3-123 and 3-125). A small stream valley defines the southwest corner of the unit.

#### *Topographic Modifications – Historically Significant Features:*

- Earthen terracing to create parking areas
- Earthen terracing for Building 19

#### *Topographic Modifications – Non-historic Features:*

- Grading to support post-1952 development of parking areas and buildings

### Views and Vistas

Views and vistas within the Cryptanalysis Unit are directed Mount Vernon Drive and the parallel line of Buildings 7, 18 and 19 and limited by heavy vegetation within and surrounding the property (see Figures 3-122 and 3-123). Vistas created by the arches in the Building 18-19 Connector have been blocked due to the filling in of some of the arches but views are still possible through the one remaining open archway (Figure 3-126).

The view down Mount Vernon Drive, once ending in a view of the surrounding woodland, now terminates into the lower parking lot (Figure 3-127).

#### *Views and Vistas – Historically Significant Features:*

- Framed view up Mount Vernon Drive
- Framed vista through arched passageway

*Views and Vistas – Non-historic Features:*

- Views down Mount Vernon Drive that terminate in a large parking lot, an intrusive features

## Cultural Vegetation

Vegetation within the Cryptanalysis Unit includes turf areas, shrub borders, ornamental trees and a woodland fringe along Massachusetts Avenue. The woodland fringe is likely a remnant of the wooded condition that was present in this area in aerial photographs from both periods of significance.

A large willow oak, known as the Darlington Oak, is located near the parking lot entrance north of Building 18 and is possibly historic (Figure 3-128). Other potentially historic trees include another large willow oak near the north corner of Building 18, two large willow oaks on either side of Building 19A and several Norway spruce (*Picea abies*) near Building 18 (Figures 3-129 and 3-130). Additionally, several large boxwoods around Building 19 were transplanted in the 1960s from the flagpole area in front of Building 1 to their current location (Figure 3-131). An Eastern red cedar growing in the Building 7 courtyard appears to have survived from the period of significance (see Figure 3-124). Some healthy stands of the invasive species, Tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) that have been allowed to develop within the unit, but these are non-historic (Figure 3-132).

Street trees planted along Mount Vernon Drive include rows of ornamental cherries in front of Building 19, white pines, elms, maples, dogwoods, American hollies, littleleaf linden and crape myrtles (Figure 3-133). Shrub, perennial and groundcover species found throughout the unit include yew, boxwood, cherry sage, nandina, ligustrum, azalea, liriopse, euonymus, privet and cotoneaster (Figure 3-134).

A green roof was recently installed as part of a new Building 61 associated with the heating and cooling plant behind Building 19 (Figure 3-135). The roof is planted with a variety of sedums and also uses metal screens to encourage the growth of vines along the sides of the brick enclosure.

*Cultural Vegetation – Historically Significant Features:*

- Darlington Oak

- Woodland fringe
- Large oak in front of Building 19
- Large oaks on either side of Building 19A
- Norway spruce
- Boxwoods planted around Building 19 that were transplanted in the 1960s from the flagpole in front of Building 1
- Cedar in Building 7 courtyard

*Cultural Vegetation – Non-historic Features:*

- Weedy successional vegetative growth including ailanthus
- Ornamental vegetation, including street trees, foundation plantings and traffic island plantings, planted after 1952
- Green roof and associated sedum (*Sedum sp.*) planting

## Circulation

Most of the circulation features in the Cryptanalysis Unit are parking areas and access roads that were constructed during and after the second period of significance. Entrance into the Unit and parking areas is provided via roads from the Mount Vernon Unit and the entrance beside the Gatesly House along Nebraska Avenue, which is currently closed to traffic (Figures 3-136 and 3-137 and see Figure 3-122). Additional smaller parking areas associated with the second period of significance are located behind Building 18 (Figure 3-138). The parking and service areas behind Building 19 were originally constructed following the second period of significance and have undergone recent changes to their layout as a result of the development of a new Building 61 (Figure 3-139). A drive located along the south perimeter of the property now provides access to the large parking lot on its eastern corner (Figure 3-140).

The large surface level parking lot and associated pedestrian circulation system along Massachusetts Avenue was constructed after the second period of significance. Vehicles parked in this lot may enter and exit via the road from Massachusetts Avenue.

Some sidewalks remain from the second period of significance, particularly in the areas along Mount Vernon Drive near Buildings 18 and 19 as well as

additions that post-date 1952 (see Figures 3-122 and 3-123). The sidewalks are poured concrete. Several flights of steps are used for pedestrian navigation up the slope from the lower parking lots but were installed after the second period of significance.

*Circulation - Historically Significant Features:*

- Parking lots, service drives and access roads in the northwest portion of the Unit
- Access road from Nebraska Avenue
- Vehicular entrance on Nebraska Avenue
- Mount Vernon Drive
- Concrete sidewalks along Mount Vernon Drive
- Sidewalks associated with Buildings 18 and 19

*Circulation – Non-historic Features:*

- Lower level parking lot and associated drives
- Stairs from lower parking lot
- Vehicular entrance from Massachusetts Avenue

## Buildings and Structures

Several buildings within the Cryptanalysis Unit were constructed by the U.S. Navy in facilitation of their cryptanalysis effort from 1943-1945. Building 19 and the Building 18-19 Connector were also constructed during the second period of significance and considered contributing features (Figure 3-142). Building 18 served as the Code and Signal Laboratory but is not considered a contributing feature to the National Historic District because of extensive remodeling (Figure 3-141).

While Building 7 (Dispensary) dates to the second period of significance, it has been modified extensively and is no longer considered contributing due to loss of integrity (Figure 3-143). Building 60 was constructed after the second period of significance and thus not considered contributing. Guardhouse 2 secures the vehicular entrance from Massachusetts Avenue and was built in 1995.

A wood gazebo is located within the Cryptanalysis Unit between Buildings 18 and 19 (Figure 3-144).

This structure is a contemporary addition and not a contributing feature. Buildings 19A and 19B are temporary structures and are not historic (Figure 3-145).

Structures within the Unit include boundary, security and screening fencing; screening walls; concrete retaining walls and stairway systems; and the stormwater drainage system (Figures 3-146 through 3-151).

*Buildings and Structures – Historically Significant Features:*

- Building 19 (Office Building)
- Building 18-19 connector
- Retaining walls and stairway systems associated with Building 19

*Buildings and Structures – Non-historic Features:*

- Building 7 (Dispensary)
- Building 18 (Code and Signal Laboratory)
- Building 19A (Trailer)
- Building 19B (Trailer)
- Building 60 (Parking Permit Issuance)
- Guardhouse 2
- Fencing along entrance drive (wood, chain link)
- Wooden screening fencing
- Wooden gazebo (1)
- Brick screen walls
- Stormwater drainage system

## Small-scale Features

Few small-scale features within the Cryptanalysis Unit have persisted since the periods of significance and most are associated with post-1952 development, including site furnishings, safety and accessibility features, lights, bollards, fire hydrants and other utilities.

A flagpole is located in front of Building 19 and is possibly historic although the date of installation is

unknown (Figure 3-152). A variety of picnic tables, benches and trash receptacles have been set about for the convenience of users of the site (Figure 3-153). Steel and concrete bollards have been installed to control internal vehicular access (see Figure 3-151). Painted steel tube handrails have been installed in various places to either assist in walking or to prevent falling. Lighting varies widely throughout the site and is used for security and for wayfinding (Figure 3-154). Signage within the site consists of blue and white building identification signs, street signs and a small number of parking or other regulatory signs.

HVAC and other utility units and features (Figure 3-155) are found throughout the site. Dumpsters are located at various locations within the Cryptanalysis Unit (see Figure 3-149). Sometimes these are screened with wooden privacy fences. These features are visually intrusive and negatively affect the character of the site.

*Small-Scale Features - Historically Significant Features:*

- None

*Small-Scale Features - Possibly Historic Features:*

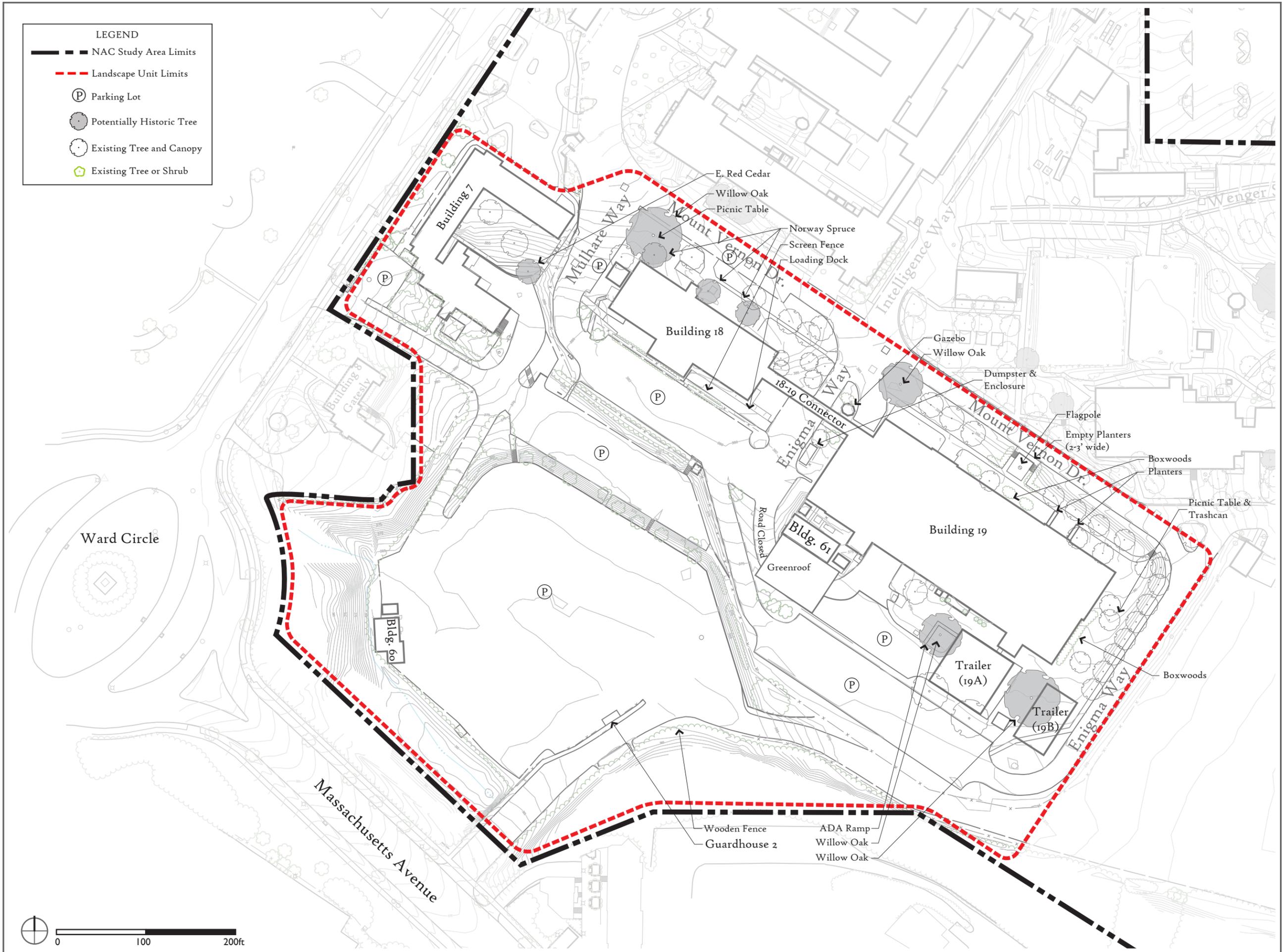
- Flagpole in front of Building 19

*Small-Scale Features - Non-historic Features:*

- Picnic tables
- Exposed aggregate and plastic trash receptacles
- Steel and concrete bollards
- Painted steel tube handrails
- Security lighting
- Building and wayfinding signs
- Street and regulatory signs
- Dumpsters and associated enclosures
- Utility and fire safety features
- Metal standpipes (function and origin unknown)

**LEGEND**

- NAC Study Area Limits
- Landscape Unit Limits
- Parking Lot
- Potentially Historic Tree
- Existing Tree and Canopy
- Existing Tree or Shrub



FOR PLANNING  
PURPOSES ONLY  
  
NOT FOR  
CONSTRUCTION

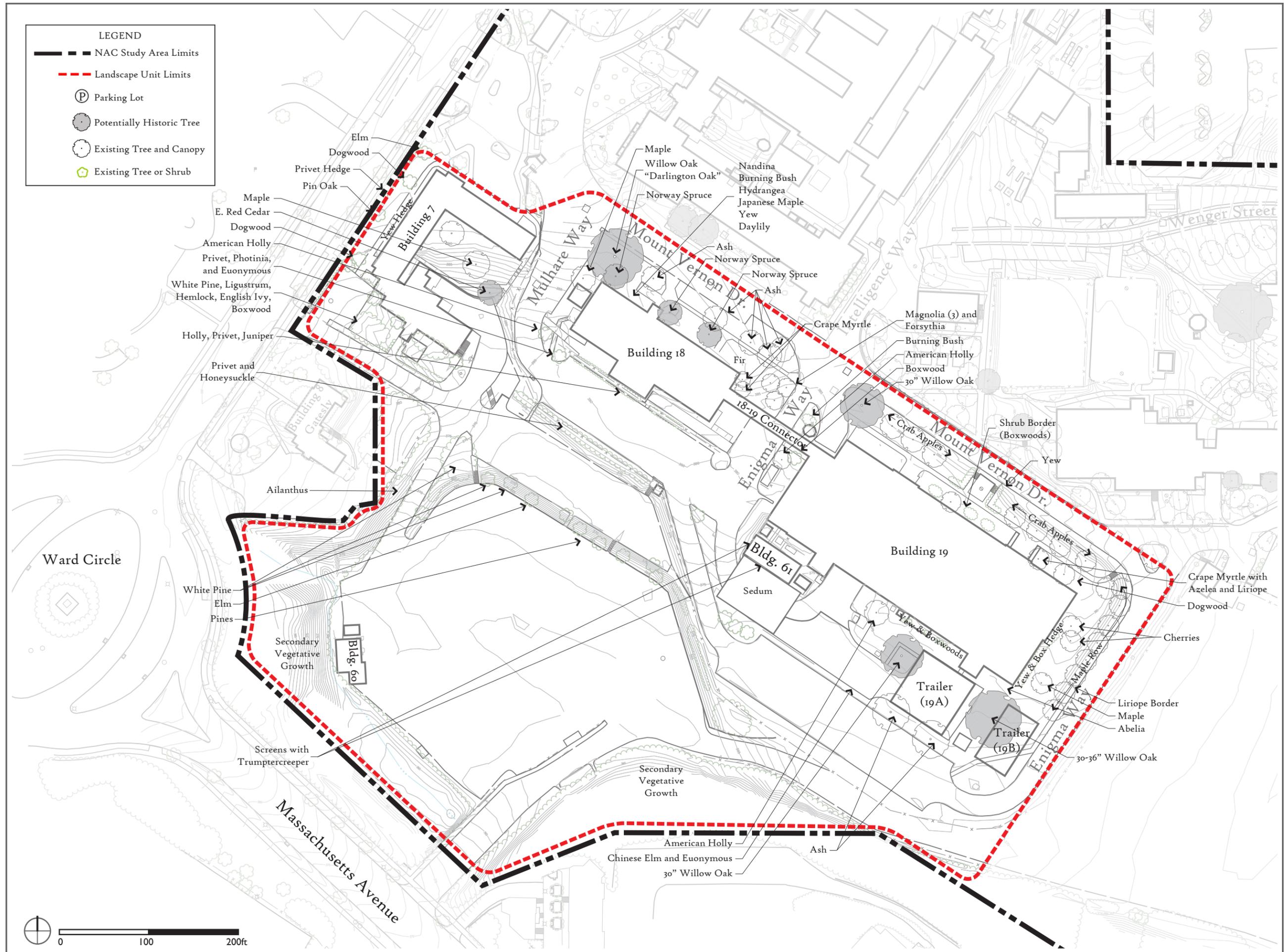
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phase: planning  
date: 6 August 2010

**Map 3-6.**  
**Cryptanalysis  
Unit**  
Existing Conditions



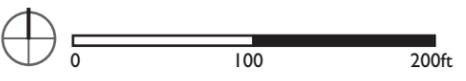
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NOT FOR  
CONSTRUCTION

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drawn: LFN  
checked: LLK  
phase: planning  
date: 6 August 2010



**LEGEND**

- — — — — NAC Study Area Limits
- - - - - Landscape Unit Limits
- (P) Parking Lot
- Potentially Historic Tree
- Existing Tree and Canopy
- Existing Tree or Shrub







**Figure 3-122.** Strong axis and streetscape of Mount Vernon Drive. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-123.** Earthen terracing for Building 19 and associated landscape, roadways and parking areas. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-124.** Building 7 courtyard. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-125.** Terracing for parking lots. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-126.** Open central archway in Building 18-19 connector. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-127.** View of the parking lot at the end of Mount Vernon Drive. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-128.** Darlington Oak by Building 18 with large firs in background. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-129.** Large oak in front of Building 19 and lindens across the street. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-130.** Large oak behind Building 19 and beside Building 19A. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-131.** Boxwoods in front of Building 19 that may have been transplanted from the flagpole area in front of Building 1 in the 1960s. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-132.** Ailanthus near the lower parking lot. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-133.** Crape myrtle and yew in traffic island (planted post-1952). *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-134.** Ornamental vegetation by Building 19 and planted after 1952. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-135.** The green roof behind Building 19. Metal screens to support the growth of vines are located along some of the newly constructed brick walls. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-136.** Access road from Nebraska Avenue. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-137.** Temporarily secured entrance from Nebraska Avenue. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-138.** Service drives, access roads and parking below Building 18. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-139.** New Building 19 parking lot. This parking lot no longer connects to Enigma Way. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-140.** Chain link fence and wooden fence associated with parking access road. The woodland fringe is evident in the background. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-141.** Building 18 (Code and Signal Laboratory), parking and connector. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-142.** Building 19 (Office Building). *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-143.** Building 7 (Dispensary) and associated parking. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-144.** Wooden gazebo by the Building 18-19 connector. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-145.** Building 19B. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-146.** Concrete retaining wall and stairway to Building 19. Source: JMA 2010.



**Figure 3-147.** Stair, metal railing and building sign for Building 19. Source: JMA 2010.



**Figure 3-148.** Metal screening to support the growth of vines on Building 61. Source: JMA 2010.



**Figure 3-149.** Dumpsters and associated enclosure next to Building 19. Source: JMA 2010.



**Figure 3-150.** Stormwater drainage structures. Source: JMA 2010.



**Figure 3-151.** Concrete curb-and-gutter, drain and metal bollards. Source: JMA 2010.



**Figure 3-152.** Flagpole in front of Building 19. Source: JMA 2010.



**Figure 3-153.** Metal and recycled plastic picnic table under the Darlington Oak. Note building identification sign in the background. Source: JMA 2010.



**Figure 3-154.** Parking lot security lighting. Source: JMA 2010.



**Figure 3-155.** Metal stand pipe, purpose unknown. Source: JMA 2010.

## East Unit

Refer to Map 3-8

### Spatial Organization

The East Unit was originally organized around the riparian slope that was extensively graded to create more level surfaces for parking lots in the 1960s (Figure 3-156). The unit is organized around the large parking lot located in the corner of the property and the graded terrace created originally for more parking and which now supports a number of utilitarian structures (Figure 3-157). The property limits and the remaining riparian corridor define the edges of the developable area.

#### *Spatial Organization – Historically Significant Features:*

- Riparian slope

#### *Spatial Organization – Non-historic Features:*

- Maintenance area
- Spaces created by the addition of buildings, structures and circulation features after the second period of significance

### Topographic Modifications

The topography of the East Unit slopes very gradually to the east up to the edge of the graded terracing that was developed to support the utility buildings and the large parking lot that make up the majority of the unit (Figure 3-158 and 3-159). Fill was brought in during post-1952 construction efforts to help level the area for parking. The steep slopes created are visible in aerial photographs. Glover-Archbold Park, located just to the east of the property limits, includes the remaining riparian corridor and Foundry Branch stream.

#### *Topography – Historically Significant Features:*

- None

#### *Topography – Non-historic Features:*

- Earthen terrace created to support Buildings 98 and 101, the picnic shelter and recreation area and related service and parking areas.

### Views and Vistas

Extended views within much of this unit are limited by the existing woodland fringe, a condition that is consistent with both periods of significance (Figure 3-160). Views of communication towers on the adjacent NBC station property are possible from several locations within the unit as well (Figure 3-161).

#### *Views and Vistas – Historically Significant Features:*

- None

#### *Views and Vistas – Non-historic Features:*

- View of communication towers on adjacent property

### Cultural Vegetation

Most of the original vegetation present during the first period of significance was cleared from the East Unit to construct the parking lots and utility buildings. A woodland fringe exists around the south, east and north limits of the unit and is a reminder of the woodlands that once surrounded the property during each of the periods of significance (see Figure 3-160). A few ornamental trees and turf patches are located within traffic islands. Larger turf areas are located to the north (behind) and southwest of Building 101 (Figure 3-162). A line of Norway spruce planted after the period of significance provides a screen between the upper parking lot and the Recreational Unit. (Figure 3-163).

#### *Cultural Vegetation – Historically Significant Features:*

- Woodland fringe

#### *Cultural Vegetation – Non-historic Features:*

- Turf areas
- Weedy successional vegetation
- Ornamental vegetation planted after 1952

### Circulation

A large paved parking area takes up most of the East Unit and is accessed by roads from the

Recreational and Cryptanalysis Units (see Figure 3-157). This parking lot and the associated access roads post-date 1952 and is not considered to be historically significant. The northern half of the unit includes parking areas and large paved asphalt areas that facilitate maintenance, service buildings and parking (Figure 3-159). Short lengths of railroad tie curbing are used to define the edges of the paving in a few areas.

*Circulation - Historically Significant Features:*

- None

*Circulation – Non-historic Features:*

- Large parking lot in the southern half of the Unit and associated access drives
- Railroad tie curbing

## Buildings and Structures

The buildings within the East Unit are primarily functional structures that were built after the second period of significance (Figures 3-164 through 3-167). None of the structures are considered contributing and their location has little impact on the overall appearance of the site because of the relatively remote location of the unit.

*Buildings and Structures – Historically Significant Features:*

- None

*Buildings and Structures – Non-historic Features:*

- Building 49 (Public Works Storage)
- Building 88 (Rear Gatehouse)
- Building 98 (General Warehouse)
- Building 101 (Supply Storage Building)
- Picnic shelter and grill
- Sand storage sheds
- Unnumbered utility buildings/trailers
- Guardhouse 3

## Small-scale Features

No small-scale features within this unit can be identified as historic. Most appear to be associated with post-1952 development, including all site furnishings, safety and accessibility features, lights, bollards, fire hydrants and other utilities.

Features associated with the recreation area and picnic shelter can be found around the volleyball and horseshoe courts (Figures 3-167 through 3-172). Chain link fencing also surrounds most of the East Unit boundary (Figure 3-173). Some of the fences are topped with barbed wire.

Fire safety and utility-related features, as well as traffic control items, are found within the Unit. Steel and concrete bollards control internal vehicular access. Painted steel tube handrails either assist in walking or to prevent falling.

Signage includes street signs and parking or other regulatory signs. Dumpsters within the unit are screened with wooden privacy fences. These features negatively affect the character of the site.

*Small-scale Features – Historically Significant Features:*

- None

*Small-scale Features – Non-historic Features:*

- Lighting
- Chain link fencing
- Plastic-coated metal picnic tables
- Horseshoe pit
- Volleyball court posts
- Trash receptacles (aggregate and plastic)
- Street and regulatory signs
- Metal and concrete bollards
- Metal railings
- Utilities, drainage and fire safety features
- Traffic cones, barrels and plastic Jersey barrier sections
- Dumpsters and associated enclosures

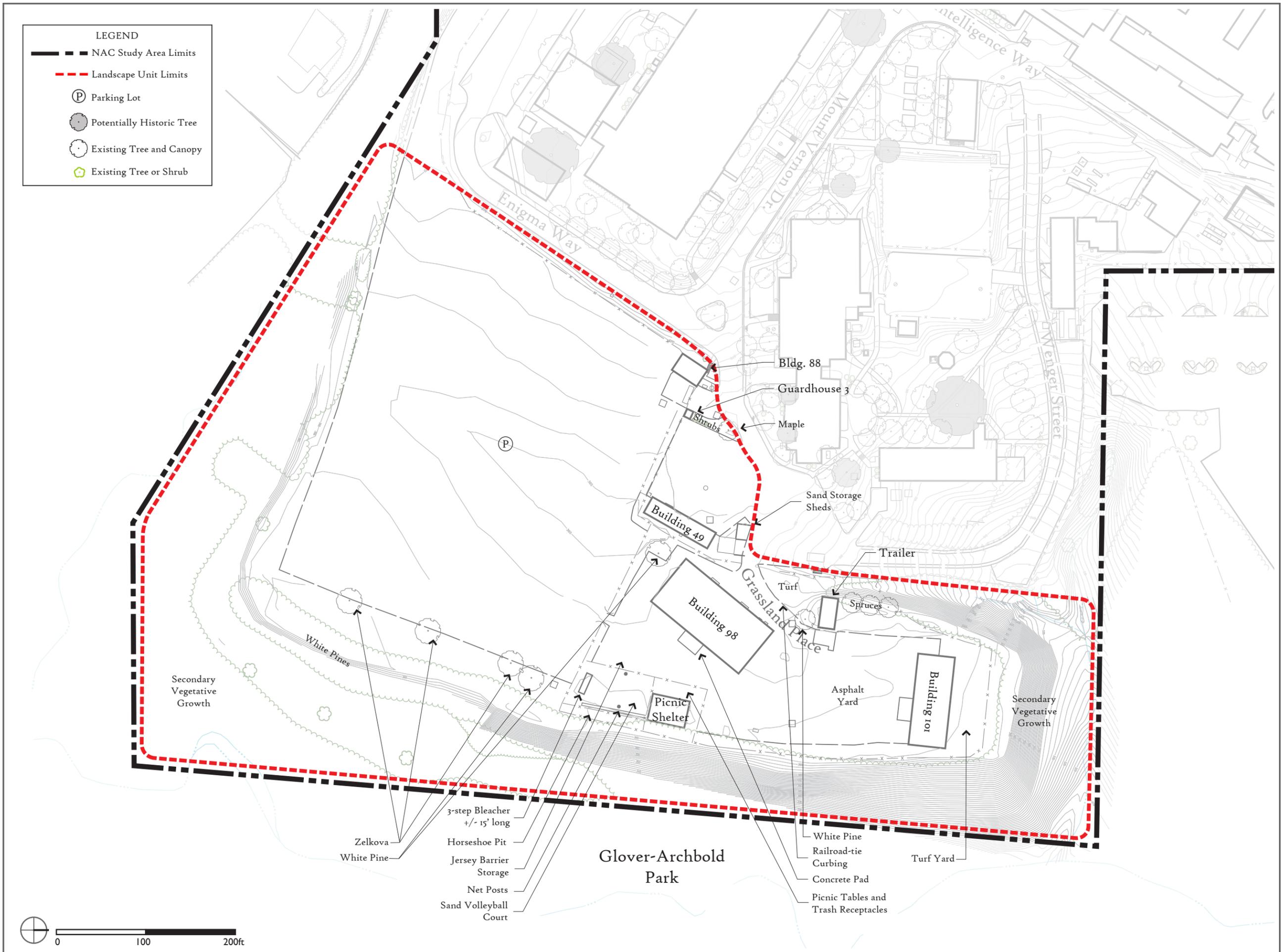
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NOT FOR  
CONSTRUCTION

project: DHSNACPLAN  
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phase: planning  
date: 6 August 2010

**Map 3-8.**  
East Unit  
Existing Conditions  
& Vegetation

**LEGEND**

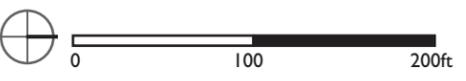
- NAC Study Area Limits
- Landscape Unit Limits
- Parking Lot
- Potentially Historic Tree
- Existing Tree and Canopy
- Existing Tree or Shrub



- 3-step Bleacher +/- 15' long
- Zelkova
- White Pine
- Horseshoe Pit
- Jersey Barrier Storage
- Net Posts
- Sand Volleyball Court

**Glover-Archbold  
Park**

- White Pine
- Railroad-tie Curbing
- Concrete Pad
- Picnic Tables and Trash Receptacles







**Figure 3-156.** Edge of riparian slope defined by a chain link fence. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-157.** Parking lot taking up most of the southern half of the Unit. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-158.** Edge of the graded terrace that supports Buildings 98, 101 and related service and parking areas. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-159.** Parking lot/asphalt yard between buildings 101 and 98. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-160.** Views to adjacent properties to the east are obscured by the woodland fringe. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-161.** View of communication towers on an adjacent property. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-162.** Turf area behind Building 101. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-163.** Spruce trees between the East Unit and Recreational Unit. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-164.** Building 88, Guardhouse 3 and associated structures and small-scale features. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-165.** Building 98. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-166.** Building 101 and associated small-scale features. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-167.** Sand storage sheds. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 3-168.** Picnic shelter and associated features. Source: JMA 2010.



**Figure 3-169.** BBQ pit and tables. Source: JMA 2010.



**Figure 3-170.** Plastic-coated metal picnic tables. Source: JMA 2010.



**Figure 3-171.** Horseshoe pit. Source: JMA 2010.



**Figure 3-172.** Volleyball court. Source: JMA 2010.



**Figure 3-173.** Chain link fence along Unit boundary, topped with barbed wire. Wood squares mark the locations of holes for new fence posts about to be installed. Source: JMA 2010.



# Analysis and Evaluation

## Introduction

The Nebraska Avenue Complex (NAC) has been found to retain sufficient integrity to convey the important associations of the proposed National Register-eligible periods of significance. Most of the historically-significant cultural landscape features existing today survive from the early to mid-twentieth century and thus contribute to the significance of the National Register district as proposed.

This chapter details the analysis and evaluation findings developed from a comparison of historic and existing conditions and is comprised of four sections:

- an evaluation of the significance of the NAC study area in accordance with National Register of Historic Places Criteria;
- a comparative analysis of historic and existing landscape conditions; and
- an integrity assessment.

Together, these sections are intended to convey the historic values and associations of NAC in such a way as to support their protection for future generations.

The evaluation of significance identifies the important historic associations of the property, as well as the ability of existing physical resources to convey these associations. The CLR ties the property's significance to a discrete period of time in which the important contributions were made and a series of historic contexts within which the property's significant associations may be placed.

Based on this identification of the property's significance and period during which it is significant, the CLR team prepared a comparative analysis of historic and existing landscape conditions. The goal of the analysis was to provide an understanding of how well the property and its extant resources reflect their character and appearance during the period of significance.

One of the byproducts of the comparative analysis is the identification of resources that survive from a property's period of significance. These are defined as contributing features. The identification of contributing resources helps afford the protection necessary to ensure that the integrity of the site is retained. Non-contributing resources are those features that cannot be tied to the site's significant historic periods or associations. These resources are considered to be less sensitive to change within the context of landscape treatment. Missing features are also identified in this chapter through the comparative analysis. Knowledge of missing features is important to protecting potential archaeological sites and planning for replacement, as indicated.

The final section of the chapter provides an assessment of the property's integrity and summarizes to what degree the property retains its ability to convey its historic associations for the identified period of significance.

## The National Register of Historic Places

### Evaluation of Significance

For a property to be considered eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, it must possess significance for its association with at least one of the following four criteria:

- an event or a series of events that have made a significant contribution to our history;
- the lives of persons significant in our past;
- embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or representing the work of a master, or possessing high artistic values, or representing a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or

- yielding, or likelihood of yielding, information important in prehistory or history.<sup>1</sup>

Properties are also listed for their association with areas of significance, such as Education, Religion, Government, or Agriculture. Listed properties are also considered significant at different levels that recognize the geographic area within which the property has an influence. The levels for evaluation include local, state and national. Finally, properties are determined significant within a specific period of time. Significance is evaluated through the process of identifying the criteria, areas, level and period of significance for a site by placing it within and comparing it against recognized historic contexts.

## Current National Register Status of the Nebraska Avenue Complex

A draft nomination has been prepared to list the Nebraska Avenue Complex on the National Register of Historic Places.<sup>2</sup> The NAC has been found to possess significance under National Register Criterion A (property is associated with events that have made significant contributions to the broad patterns of our history) and Criterion C (property represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction). Two periods of significance have been identified: the first period begins in 1916 with the construction of Building 1 (Main School Building) for the Mount Vernon Seminary and ends in 1942, the date of transfer of the property to the U.S. Navy. The second period of significance begins in 1943 with the initial occupation of the campus by the U.S. Navy and ends in 1952 when Naval cryptology was relocated to another facility.

The NAC is significant under Criterion A at the local level in the area of Education as the first permanent campus designed specifically for the Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls, the first non-sectarian female boarding school in Washington, D.C., whose curriculum was progressive and revolutionary for its time. The complex served as the campus from the completion of its first classroom building in 1916 until 1942, after which it was taken over by the U.S. Navy. Seven buildings and three designed outdoor

spaces date from the site's use as the Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls.

The complex is also significant under Criteria A and C in the area of Military as the U.S. Naval Communications Annex (NCA), the site of the U.S. Naval cryptanalysis of coded German U-boat messages during World War II from early 1943 to May of 1945 when Germany surrendered and continuing until the creation of the National Security Agency and the removal of cryptanalysis from the NCA property in 1952. Ten buildings were erected during the period that the U.S. Naval Communications Annex operated from the site between 1943 and 1952.

The NAC is also significant under Criterion D for its potential to yield information regarding the consumption and disposal patterns of the residents of Mount Vernon Seminary.

## Recommendations for National Register Nomination Amendment

Research and analysis conducted on behalf of this CLR suggests that modifications be made to the draft National Register nomination that would contain more detailed descriptions of the historic landscapes that remain fairly intact within the site from both periods of significance.

Other recommendations include adding:

- four sites to the list of contributing resources to the district: the west Chapel lawn, the demilune lawn, the sports courts and the north Field House lawn;
- Recreation and Culture as historic functions to reflect the site's historic use as a sports facility prior to the construction of the school;
- Architecture, Archeology and Landscape Architecture to the list of Areas of Significance; and
- Theodate Pope Riddle to the list of architects as the original designer of the Mount Vernon Seminary building.<sup>3</sup>

1 Code of Federal Regulations, Title 36, Part 60. "The National Register Criteria for Evaluation."

2 Draft National Register of Historic Places nomination, U.S. Naval Communications Annex, n.d.

3 Sharon Dunlap Smith, "Theodate Pope Riddle: Her Life and Architecture," <http://valinet.com/~smithash/theodate/>

## Comparative Analysis of Historic and Existing Conditions

A primary objective of this CLR is to evaluate the ability of the existing landscape to represent the identified periods of significance. To better understand the relationship between the existing landscape as documented in Chapter Three and the landscape that existed during the periods of significance discussed above and in Chapter 2, this CLR includes a comparative analysis of historic and existing conditions. The basis for this analysis is conveyed through a comparison of period plans and historic and existing conditions photographs and maps. The analysis focuses primarily on extant features, including their period of origin, associations and modifications over time. Missing landscape features are also identified. Features are determined to either:

- have survived from the periods of significance with integrity (contributing);
- have not survived from the periods of significance (missing); or
- post-date the period of significance or have lost historic integrity (non-contributing resources).

The three primary goals for developing this information are to:

- provide an understanding of which landscape features contribute to the period of significance;
- provide the basis for an integrity evaluation; and
- provide insight into the similarities and differences between historic and existing conditions that will contribute to the development of a well-grounded treatment plan for the historic landscape.

Descriptions of the historic landscape are based on aerial and ground-level photographs and maps dating from the early 1920s to the 1970s. Comparison of these images with existing conditions enabled the team to identify which landscape features were remaining from the period of significance and which were not.

The evolution of these landscape features will be described, below, in two sections. The first is the period of the Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls, from 1916 to 1942. The second is the period of use by the U.S. Navy for its cryptanalysis program, from 1943 to 1945 and further expansion of Navy facilities to 1952. The narrative description of each period will be followed by an inventory of the features described, organized into categories of Contributing, Missing and Non-contributing. Features included in the inventory are highlighted in bold within the narrative text, below.

### 1916-1942: Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls

The landscape that became the location for the Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls in 1916 was originally part of the Grassland estate (see Figure 2-4). The house was a rambling two-story structure located atop a hill within the rolling and generally wooded estate. On the property were also located a large barn and other outbuildings typical for a “gentleman’s farm.” **Views to the Grassland farm** were available from the study area until the 1950s when the house and all other buildings and structures were demolished to make way for the construction of a facility for WRC-TV (see Figures 2-11 and 2-44). Today, views into this property negatively affect the historic character of the campus due to the intrusive appearance of parking lots and telecommunications equipment associated with the television station (see Figure 3-16).

The first area to be developed for the benefit of Mount Vernon Seminary was the “Country Playground,” developed in the eastern portion of the newly-acquired tract where Buildings 12-14, 81 and 101 are now located. In 1915, **the “Shelter,”** a rustic building designed in the Adirondack style, was constructed in the approximate location of Building 101 above a **terraced trio of tennis courts** (see Figures 2-7 through 2-9). Neither of these features is extant and the site where they were located was altered in the 1950s by intensive grading to accommodate a parking lot. Today, Building 101, a maintenance facility is in that location.

These facilities overlooked Foundry Branch, a stream off-site to the east. Access to these facilities was along a **gravel service road** that extended from Nebraska Avenue and terminated in a turn-around below the shelter (Figures 4-1 and 4-2). A portion of this road still exists as Wenger Street as it passes

by the sports courts in the Recreational Unit and around Building 81 where it joins with Mount Vernon Drive. There, Wenger Street widens where the service road once ended in a loop. The **western end of the service road** is still discernible in the diagonal orientation of two parking spaces on the northwest corner of Building 7 (see Figure 2-40).

Aerial photographs and written accounts indicated that the Country Playground also included a basketball court, tether- and volleyball facilities (now called the **sports courts**), a **six-hole golf course, a soccer field and a softball diamond**. The sports courts are extant adjacent to Buildings 12-14. The soccer field and baseball diamond were located where Mount Vernon Drive now runs; the location of the golf course is not known. At some point after the construction of the **sports courts, a chain link fence** was installed around each. These courts are still enclosed by chain link fence, which, although the fabric is probably recent, is likely located in the original alignment from the 1920s.

Aerial photographs suggest that the seminary also used land within the Quebec Street right-of-way to expand its recreational program (see Figure 2-31). Building 18 was later constructed in the approximate location of the sports fields in the 1950s and no evidence of the sports fields remain today.

In 1916, the cornerstone for the Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls School Building was laid and within a year, in 1917, the building was finished and the school officially opened. The **Main School Building (Building 1)** was placed in the center of the western section of the original tract, with the front of the building at the level of the front lawn and Loughboro Road and its symmetrical wings cascading down the slope to the east (see Figures 2-10 and 2-17). The terraced effect of the landscape setting of Building 1 is only discernable today in the remnant terrace in the western end of the **Building 1 courtyard** and in the **courtyard between Buildings 1 and 17**.

Building 1, **semi-circular drive** and **demilune lawn** were arranged on an axis perpendicular to the street (see Figures 2-11 and 2-19). While the **axial relationship** is less easily discernable, these features remain in their original locations (Figures 4-3 and 4-4).

Views within the NAC have changed considerably since the first period of significance. Once offering

vistas towards Washington D.C. to the east and the hills of Virginia to the west, the spatial arrangements and open landscape spaces that framed these historic views and vistas have been obscured by the numerous buildings, parking lots and mature vegetation that was installed by the U.S. Navy and cover almost the entire site.

Views to Grassland and **views to Washington D.C.** were available from the school building (see Figure 2-16). **Framed views were also available from the interior colonnade** of Building 1 into the courtyard, but these were lost when the colonnade was enclosed in the mid-twentieth century. The **view from the central front walkway of the school into the courtyard** through the building were blocked in later interior renovations of the building (Figures 4-5 and 4-6).

The Adelia Hensley Memorial Gate was the ceremonial entrance into the school site and framed a **view from Nebraska Avenue to the central pavilion of Building 1** and its Colonial Revival cupola (Figures 4-3 and 4-4). This view was partially obscured upon the construction of the Guardhouse (Building 11) and related security fencing and gates.

The short views and vistas offered within the Recreational Unit are limited by the density of trees and structures within the Unit. Historically, views through the woodlands along Wenger Street were possible, revealing glimpses of the tennis courts and The Shelter beyond (see Figures 4-1 and 4-2). Views from the same vantage points today include hazardous waste management structures and parking lots. The experience of walking along Wenger Street surrounded by towering tulip poplars, however, remains along a small portion of the eastern end of Wenger Street. Additionally, views across the lawn associated with Buildings 12, 14 and the sports courts are significant features of the landscape.

The school generated its own electricity from the **Powerhouse (Building 15)**, which was also constructed in 1916 (see Figure 2-17). A **gravel pathway** extended from the circular turn-around at the northeast corner of the school building to the powerhouse. Building 15 is extant today, but the gravel pathway is missing.

The sloping terrain of the school property was terraced to support the building and to create flat open areas for outdoor activities. These **earthen**

**terraces** can be seen in various aerial photographs from the 1920s and 1930s that show them being used for formal and informal garden spaces (see Figure 2-17). Of particular note is the cascading lawn that was contained within the courtyard of Building 1, composed of two earthen terraces, on which numerous ceremonial school events, including graduation, were held (see Figures 2-15 and 2-16). Another series of terraces supported small gardens as well as open lawns (see Figures 2-17 and 2-18). The only terraces remaining from this period are visible in the west end of the **remnant courtyard** within Building 1, within the courtyard created between Buildings 1 and 17 and supporting the sports courts adjacent to Buildings 12-14 (Figures 4-9 through 4-12). The terrace on the south side of Building 1 was supported adjacent to the building by a brick retaining wall that allowed access to a basement door and windows. A **remnant** of this wall is extant on the site today.

The Adelia Hensley Memorial Gate was built of the same brick as Building 1 and in a wide curve with square piers at the ends capped with white sandstone globes. A bronze marker set into the gate was inscribed, "Erected by students of Mount Vernon Seminary 1923-1924."<sup>4</sup> Close-ups of historic photographs of the gate show what appears to be **Pfitzer junipers** (*Juniperus chinensis*) that were planted in front of the curved walls (see Figures 4-7 and 4-8). Evergreens planted in front of the gate since the 1930s have obscured its structure and its design is no longer easily discernable.

The **north side of the Hensley Gate** is extant today, but it appears that the **south side of the Hensley Gate** was either relocated or reconstructed about 20 feet to the south (see Figures 4-7 and 4-8). It is not known when this wall was moved, but the entrance was reconfigured from one lane to two lanes with a median between them in prior to 1948, when that configuration appears in a construction location plan (see Figure 2-39). It may be that the south side remained for at least 10 years, but was relocated when the steel and brick pier fence was installed sometime in the 1960s.

On the north end of the semi-circular drive, another brick and stone gateway, the **Chapel gateway**, was constructed around the same time as the Hensley Gate with the same materials, but in a different configuration (see Figures 2-29 and 3-55). Here, on each side of the drive, a relatively short brick wall

is framed by two brick piers, each capped in the same manner with white sandstone globes. This gateway is extant on the site in its original location and configuration. Aluminum letters reading "The Navy Chapel" were added to the gate, perhaps in the 1950s when the Chapel was fenced off. Security has been supplemented by the addition of iron fencing along the tops of the brick walls.

That axial relationship of Building 1 to Nebraska Avenue was strengthened in the 1930s by the installation of the **flagstone-paved axial walkway** from the drive to Nebraska Avenue, framed by a **pedestrian gateway**, a brick pier and wall composition that used what appears to be the same type of brick and stone finials as that used for the Hensley Gate, except that the walls were curved convexly towards the central flagstone walk rather than the concave configuration of the Hensley Gate (see Figure 2-35). Today, the axis is maintained by the alignment of the central flagpole walkway, but the connection beyond to Nebraska Avenue has been obscured by later additions (see Figures 4-3 and 4-4). It should also be noted that the original flagstone material has been replaced with concrete.

As mentioned above, the semi-circular drive was constructed to provide a ceremonial vehicular entrance to the school. It can be imagined that it likely presented a very appealing setting to parents as they dropped off their daughters at the school entrance (Figures 4-13 and 4-14). The drive was originally paved in gravel and lined with gutters made from cobbles, appropriate for a country school.

The gravel service road mentioned above provided access to the back of Building 1, to another supporting building further east, extended to the east end of the campus, ending in a **circle drive** just below the area where the Shelter and tennis courts were located (see Figures 2-31, 4-1 and 4-2). It, too, was paved in gravel and edged with cobble-lined gutters. The east end of the road has maintained its original alignment, but the road is now paved in asphalt and the gutters are concrete.

Footpaths provided informal access to and from the recreational core of the campus. One in particular, the **diagonal path to the Field House**, has persisted in its original location and alignment throughout the history of the site and is extant in place today (Figures 4-15 and 4-16).

4 National Register nomination.

The Building 1 service road was constructed in a **barbell configuration** with a circular gravel area at the end of each wing of the building with a straight, rectangular gravel area connecting the two (see Figure 2-17). The north end of the barbell provided both a turn-around area and an entrance court to Building 2 when it was constructed in 1940. Due to extensive changes to the site in this area, this configuration is no longer in evidence today.

Ten years after Somer's acquisition of the property, aerial photographs depicted it as fairly open, perhaps former pasture, with a scattering of **Eastern red cedar** (*Juniperus virginiana*) (see Figures 2-11 and 2-31). Around the school, tall evergreen trees, perhaps also cedar or possibly arborvitae, were planted as part of the ornamental landscape. These trees punctuated both entrances and the corners of the building. The edges of the property were heavily wooded with deciduous forest growing in association with nearby drainageways. Remnants of the woodland edge remain at the eastern end of the site. Of note is the **allée** of trees on the north end of the campus that marked the location of the entrance drive to Grassland (see Figure 2-11). Even after the Grassland entrance was relocated to the north, portions of the allée persisted well into the 1950s and beyond. There are two large **littleleaf lindens** (*Tilia cordata*) on either side of Building 5 that survive as a remnant of that allée (see Figure 3-35).

Other **ornamental plantings** were installed at both front corners of Building 1 in curvaceous foundation planting beds and maintained as a foundation planting along the front of the school building (Figures 4-17 and 4-18). Although there are no shrubs surviving from this period, the planting pattern has been retained and exists in place today.

A **hemlock hedge** (*Tsuga sp.*) was installed around 1917 along the west property line fronting Nebraska Avenue and extending along in front of Gatesly (Building 8) (see Figure 2-13). A few remnant hemlocks survive in front of Building 8, but none were identified within the study area.

A **terraced rose garden** was installed by Elizabeth Somers on the south side of the Main School Building. On its upper level was a birdbath or sundial encircled by a low boxwood hedge (see Figure 2-22). This garden was demolished for the construction of Building 17. Other plantings are evident in photographs from the early 1920s and in 1942 in the area of Building 20 (see Figures 2-17

and 2-19). These plantings and the earthen terraces on that side were lost to construction in the 1940s. In addition to these, a thick strip of evergreen and deciduous trees was maintained between the school building and the powerhouse, presumably to provide screening. None of these trees remain within the site today.

Of particular note is the **shade tree** growing alongside the service road around whose trunk a wooden bench was constructed sometime prior to 1924 (see Figures 2-20 and 2-34). This **white-painted bench** was a favored location for quiet study and meetings with friends. The bench and tree were removed during the second period of significance.

The landscape continued to change with the construction of the **Chapel (Building 6)** in 1924 within what had been an open lawn to the north of the main school building and the construction in 1929 of the **Field House (Building 14)** and the **Gymnasium (Building 12)** adjacent to the sports courts (see Figures 2-29 and 2-30). Historic aerials from this time also show a small building to the north of the powerhouse that is likely the **greenhouse (Building 16)**, which was listed in the National Register nomination, but was demolished in 2000 (see Figure 2-29). A 1942 aerial photograph also shows the location of other structures built between the powerhouse and the sports courts, but they are also non-extant.

With the construction of the Chapel, a straight **bluestone walkway** was installed from the semi-circular drive to the chapel porch (Figure 4-21 and 4-22). The configuration of this walkway remains although the flagstone has been replaced with concrete and its overall width narrowed from five to four feet. An aerial photograph taken sometime in the 1960s suggests that the walkway was taken up during the time that the Chapel was fenced out of the complex, then later replaced when the fence was removed (see Figure 4-19). An informal flagstone patio has been installed to the west of the chapel and this material may be the same that was removed from the chapel walkway.

With the construction of the Field House came the installation of a **rectangular flagstone terrace** outside of its north doors, overlooking the **Field House lawn** (Figures 4-23 and 4-24). The flagstone terrace was reconfigured in the 1980s to a semi-circular form and the material replaced with concrete pavers. From this terrace leads a concrete path that appears to be the other end of

the diagonal walkway. This pathway still exists in the same location but has been paved in concrete. Also leading from the terrace is a **narrow path of single flags** laid in turf that leads to the building's west side, which is no longer extant.

By the 1930s, the planted vegetation installed in the early years of the seminary had begun to mature. Plantings installed with the construction of the central walk, birdbath garden and pedestrian entrance composition emphasized the axial relationship of the school building with the street (see Figure 4-3). Evergreens, likely **yews** (*Taxus baccata*), were used to outline the flagstone path and vertical evergreens, likely either Eastern red cedar, hemlock or **arborvitae** (*Thuja sp.*), repeated the verticals of the piers of the Hensley Gate. Similar evergreens ornamented the central door into the Main School Building courtyard (Figures 4-25 and 4-26). The hemlock hedge along the west boundary was kept pruned to the height of the gate piers. Throughout the property, deciduous and evergreen trees had filled out and contributed to the comfortable character of the site. At some point in the late 1930s, **deciduous street trees** were planted along Nebraska Avenue (see Figure 2-31).

When construction was completed on the gymnasium, a **garden** was created on its western end (see Figures 4-15 and 4-16). An earthen terrace planted with shrubs enclosed its western side and several trees and shrubs were planted within the garden. **Gymnasium garden paths** included an axial path led to the central door of the gym and another path led at a right angle to connect to the linear path that paralleled the southern side of the sports courts. Another hedge (**sports court hedge**) followed that linear path. There is an Eastern red cedar at the southwest corner of the sports courts that may be the sole survivor of that planting from the 1930s. Other photographs of the campus from the late 1930s shows **English ivy** (*Hedera helix*) ornamenting the walls of Building 1 and a boxwood hedge growing at the top of the lower terrace wall (see Figures 4-9 and 4-10).

Another photograph shows the **garden trellises** that supported flowering vines on the eastern ends of wings of the school building (Figures 4-27 and 4-28). The trellises were made of wood lathe and painted white. Similar trellises with vines were attached to the northern side of the Field House (see Figures 4-23 and 4-24). Other small-scale features included a number of small metal and wood **garden benches** that were removed by the Navy in the 1940s and

the **school flagpole**, which was located between the semi-circular drive and the service drive just west of Building 1 (see Figure 2-13 and 2-21).

As late as 1940, features continued to be added to the landscape. In 1940, the **Class and Recreation Building (Building 2)** was constructed at the northeastern corner of Building 1. An aerial photograph of the campus from this period also shows a small **formal four-square garden** directly to the north of Building 2 (see Figure 2-30). The garden is no longer extant.

### 1943-1952: U.S. Naval Communications Annex

The U.S. Navy chose the former Seminary campus for its location at one of the highest points in the capital city, with clear lines of sight to the Pentagon, Fort Meade and other military installations. The campus was remote from high-rise buildings, which could interfere with radio transmissions and contained a group of existing buildings that could be quickly converted for military use, as well as sufficient land area for expansion.<sup>5</sup>

By December 1942, the U.S. Navy took possession of the campus. Almost immediately, the Navy erected a double six-foot high chain link security fence around the entire site (see Figure 2-37). During the following three years, the property changed drastically in its spatial configuration, from an open, landscaped campus with a rural feel to a densely built facility, not unlike many suburban office parks. Building interiors, with the exception of the Chapel, were gutted and retrofitted to accommodate offices and other uses and trees and gardens were removed for the erection of **Quonset huts** to house temporary facilities. A **flagpole** was installed in place of the sundial at the center of the flagstone walk and is still in place today (Figure 4-29 and 4-30).

Upon acquiring the property, the U.S. Navy also quickly set about designing and eventually constructing additional buildings to replace the Quonset huts and house the laboratories and support offices for their cryptanalysis activities. **Building 3**, located to the east of Building 1 and

5 Douglas C. McVarish, Donna J. Seifert and Richard Meyer, An Intensive Level Architectural Survey and Phase IA Archeological Survey of the Naval Security Station, Washington, D.C. Prepared for TAMS Consultant, Inc. and the Department of the Navy by John Milner Associates, Inc., West Chester, Pennsylvania, 1994. p 21.

connected to it via passageways, was erected in 1943 to house additional offices (Figures 4-31 and 4-32). During the same year, the U.S. Navy also erected **Building 4** for use as a laboratory to house the bombe machines; **Building 7** for use as a dispensary; **Building 11** to serve as a gatehouse; **Building 13**, which connected Buildings 12 and 14, to be used as a mess hall; and **Building 5**, an addition to the laboratory building (Building 4).<sup>6</sup> Another **building**, **rectangular** in shape with a perpendicular addition, was located just to the southeast of Building 3, as it appears in an aerial photograph from 1952 but is non-extant today. A note on one photograph indicates that it was used as a barracks and identified as Building 10.

In 1944, the U.S. Navy erected **Building 17** to house additional offices and **Building 18** to house a code and signal laboratory. A **second-story connector** between Buildings 17 and 3 had both vehicular- and pedestrian-scaled openings that allowed access into the service court there (Figures 4-33 through 4-36). Additional construction took place at the NAC during the final period of World War II. **Building 43** was constructed in 1944 to connect Buildings 1 and 17 and was the last building erected on the property prior to the end of World War II in May 1945. Around the same time, the Navy officially acquired the Quebec Street right-of-way from the District of Columbia and, so, by the end of the war had enlarged its property to 38.6 acres.

After the war ended, construction continued at the NAC to accommodate the increase in personnel brought on by the relocation of the Registered Publications System to the NAC. **Building 19** was constructed for this purpose in 1946 and provided additional office space (Figures 4-37 and 4-38). It was designed in the Georgian Revival style to match Building 18. In the same year, a two-story **arched passageway** was constructed to connect Buildings 18 and 19. The arches are well-proportioned and dramatic but today only frame views of service yards and parking lots.

In addition to these buildings in order to accommodate increased capacity of the site, it was necessary to upgrade the existing circulation system, which had functioned well for the school, but could not accommodate new requirements for secured access, efficient circulation and adequate employee parking.

It is likely that one of the first projects was a secured entrance at the Hensley Gate. Building 11, the current guard house, was constructed in 1943 to the side of the north half of the Hensley Gate (see Figures 4-7 and 4-8). An aerial photograph from 1945-46 shows that by that time, the front entrance area had been widened to become an **entry court**, presumably to accommodate turn-arounds in front of the guard house and also to eventually provide parking for Building 17, constructed shortly after (see Figure 2-40). From there extended **Mount Vernon Drive**, the major organizing element of the new circulation system. The strong **axial character** of the drive and the **streetscape space** that was formed between Buildings 17 and 18 are still strongly expressed today.

Off of Mount Vernon Drive extend other internal drives developed prior to 1946, including **Enigma Way**, which passes through the arches between Buildings 18 and 19 and **Intelligence Way**, which extends to the northeast behind Building 3 and terminates in a **service court** between Buildings 4 and 20. The space of the service court is extant and the few changes that have been made include the size and configuration of utilities and the installation of ramps (Figures 4-39 through 4-42).

Other drives extend off Mount Vernon Drive to the southeast of Buildings 17 and 19 and provide access to parking lots behind Buildings 18 and 19. An **unsecured vehicular entrance** also led from Nebraska Avenue to a service area in the interior courtyard of Building 17 and also to another parking lot to the southeast (see Figure 2-46).

The western end of the Mount Vernon Seminary service drive was removed to accommodate the new entrance court and Building 17, but a remnant remains in the form of two diagonally-oriented parking spaces in adjacent to Building 7. Its eastern reach was retained and is extant today in its original alignment with the exception of its central island at the **circular turnaround**, which was eventually paved over. In addition to vehicular circulation, pedestrian circulation was provided throughout the site via **concrete sidewalks** along Mount Vernon Drive. Similar walkways led to various building access points. Of particular note is the concrete sidewalk installed through the center of the demilune lawn at Building 1 (Figures 4-43 and 4-44). Historic photographs indicate that this may have been installed prior to 1945.

<sup>6</sup> DRAFT National Register nomination.

To accommodate this construction, designers continued the use of earthen terracing to make the sloping land useful. A few retaining walls were also used to make topographic transitions, including the retaining wall that can still be found in the courtyard between buildings 1, 17 and 43 and the retaining wall between the sports courts. Although the only earthen terraces known to have survived from the first period of significance are the one below the lower sports court, close to Building 12, other terraces, particularly the **earthen terrace for Building 19**, are also historic.

The U.S. Navy retained much of the vegetation that survived from the Mount Vernon period, including many of the Eastern red cedar and other evergreens that punctuated the landscape at both entrances to the semi-circular drive and within the Field House lawn.

For many years, past 1952, the plantings in front of Building 1 and inside its courtyard were also retained. It is not known when a new planting campaign commenced, but it could have been as late as 1990, when Building 100 was constructed in the Building 1 courtyard. There are several trees within the current landscape that may have survived from the 1943-1952 period, including a **large oak** at the north corner of Building 18 and one at its south corner, **two large oaks** at the rear of Building 19 and three **Norway Spruce** in front of Building 18. There are spruce by Building 17 and an Eastern red cedar at the southwest corner of the sports courts that may be remnants from the Mount Vernon period. Most of the remaining vegetation appears to have been from more recent planting campaigns.

The campus contains many small-scale features, including flagpoles, signs, security lighting, fencing, gates, access ramps and stairs, handrails, picnic tables and utility features, but it is unlikely that very many date to the period of significance.

## Inventory of Contributing & Non-Contributing Landscape Resources

*Refer Maps 4-1 and 4-2*

### Contributing Resources – Mount Vernon Seminary

#### Spatial Organization

- Sports courts
- Demilune lawn (Building 1)
- Rectangular lawn (Building 6) Axial and symmetrical organization (Building 1)
- Orientation to Nebraska Avenue (Building 1)
- Building 1 courtyard
- Buildings 12-14 lawn

#### Topographic Modifications

- Earthen terrace within Building 1 courtyard
- Earthen terraces supporting sports courts

#### Views and Vistas

- View from Nebraska Avenue to Building 1 façade
- View to Nebraska Avenue from Building 1

#### Circulation

- Semi-circular drive (Somers Court)
- Sidewalks leading to Building 1 from drive
- Eastern end of service road (Wenger Street)
- Diagonal path from service road to Field House
- Axial walkway to Building 1
- Axial walkway to Chapel
- Flagstone patio to the side of Building 14

- Nebraska Avenue end of Mount Vernon Seminary service road

### Cultural Vegetation

- Eastern red cedar throughout site
- Woodland edge
- Pattern of ornamental shrubs, front of Building 1
- Littleleaf lindens by Building 5, remnant from Grassland allée
- Shrubs (currently yew) along axial path to Building 1.
- Evergreens at entrance along Nebraska Avenue
- Deciduous street trees along Nebraska Avenue

### Buildings and Structures

- School Building (Building 1)
- Powerhouse (Building 15)
- North side of the Hensley Gate
- Chapel Gate
- Chapel (Building 6)
- Gymnasium (Building 12)
- Field House (Building 14)
- Pedestrian gateway
- Class and Recreation Building (Building 2)
- Chain link fence around sports courts
- Retaining walls supporting the sports courts
- Retaining wall south of Building 1 (a small portion remains)

### Small-scale Features

- None

## Missing Features – Mount Vernon Seminary

### Spatial Organization

- Terraced trio of tennis courts
- Six-hole golf course
- Soccer field
- Baseball diamond
- Formal and informal terraced gardens
- Formal four-square garden

### Topographic Modifications

- Earthen terraces to the north and south of Building 1
- Earthen terrace within the lawn adjacent to Buildings 12-14
- East terrace in Building 1 courtyard

### Views and Vistas

- Views to Grassland farm
- View from the central front walkway of the school into the courtyard
- Axial view to and from Building 1 and Nebraska Avenue
- Views to Washington D.C. and Virginia
- View to Building 1 through Hensley Gate
- Framed views, Building 1 colonnade

### Circulation

- Gravel service road
- Circle turnaround at end of service road
- Flagstone path material
- Gymnasium garden paths
- Barbell configuration of service drive
- Gravel pathway to Building 15
- Rectangular flagstone terrace by Building 14

- Narrow path of single flagstones leading from Building 14 terrace

### Cultural Vegetation

- Terraced bird bath garden
- Terraced rose garden
- Plantings in vicinity of Building 20
- Trees screening barn
- Ornamental plants adjacent to the south side of Building 1
- Hemlock hedge along Nebraska Avenue (a small portion remains offsite in front of Building 8)
- Allée leading to Grassland
- Terraced rose garden
- Pines and deciduous trees in demilune
- Shade tree (with white-painted bench) southwest of Building 15
- Gymnasium garden
- Sport court hedge
- Pfitzer junipers
- English ivy on Building 1
- Boxwood hedges

### Buildings and Structures

- The Shelter
- Terraced trio of tennis courts
- Greenhouse (Building 16)
- Barns
- Brick and stone pedestrian entrance gate on Nebraska Avenue
- Quonset huts

### Small-scale Features

- White-painted bench around shade tree
- Garden trellises on Building 1

- Garden trellises at Field House
- Garden benches
- School flagpole (located southwest of Building 1)

## Contributing Resources – U.S. Naval Communications Annex

### Spatial Organization

- Entry Court at Nebraska Avenue
- Strong axis of Mount Vernon Drive
- Streetscape of Mount Vernon Drive

### Topographic Modifications

- Earthen terracing for Building 19

### Views and Vistas

- Framed vistas through arched passageway

### Circulation

- Mount Vernon Drive
- Service drives
- Parking lots
- Enigma Way
- Intelligence Way
- Service courts
- Unsecured vehicular entrance
- Concrete sidewalks along Mount Vernon Drive and to building entrances
- Concrete sidewalk across demilune lawn

### Cultural Vegetation

- Large oaks
- Norway Spruce

### Buildings and Structures

- Building 3
- Building 4

- Building 5
- Building 13
- Second-story connectors (between Buildings 1 & 3 and 3 & 17)
- Building 19
- Arched passageway (between Buildings 18 and 19)
- Building 43

#### Small-scale Features

- U.S. Navy flagpole in front of Building 1
- U.S. Navy flagpole in front of Building 19

### Missing Features – U.S. Naval Communications Annex

#### Spatial Organization

- None

#### Topographic Modifications

- None

#### Views and Vistas

- Views through arched passageway

#### Circulation

- Vehicular connection from parking lot behind Building 19 to Enigma Avenue

#### Cultural Vegetation

- Unknown

#### Buildings and Structures

- Quonset huts
- Rectangular building (pre-1952) behind Building 3
- Building 22 (Marine Classroom)

#### Small-scale Features

- Unknown

### Non-Contributing Features – Both Periods

#### Spatial Organization

- Spaces created by the addition of buildings, structures and circulation features after 1952
- Maintenance area in location of the Shelter

#### Views and Vistas

- Views to communications equipment off-site to the northeast

#### Topographic Modifications

- Earthen terrace created to support Buildings 101 and 98, the picnic shelter and related parking and service area

#### Vegetation

- Weedy vegetative growth
- Ornamental vegetation planted after 1945

#### Circulation

- Lower level parking lot (Building 60) and associated drives
- Vehicular entrance from Massachusetts Avenue
- Parking lot on east end of site
- Stairs from lower parking areas

#### Buildings and Structures

- Building 7
- Building 11
- Building 17
- Building 18
- Building 49
- Building 60
- Building 61
- Building 88

- Building 98
- Building 101
- Guardhouses 1-4
- Unnumbered maintenance buildings in East Unit
- Picnic Shelter in East Unit
- Picnic Shelter in Sporting Unit
- Wooden gazebos throughout the NAC

### Small-scale Features

- Variety of wayfinding, street and regulatory signage installed after 1953
- Trash receptacles
- Picnic tables
- Fire safety features
- Traffic control structures such as bollards and Jersey barriers
- Utility-related features such as HVAC systems

## Integrity Assessment

### Introduction

National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation states that

integrity is the ability of a property to convey its significance... Historic properties either retain integrity (that is convey their significance) or they do not. Within the concept of integrity, the National Register criteria recognize seven aspects or qualities that, in various combinations, define integrity.

To retain historic integrity a property will always possess several and usually most, of the aspects. The retention of specific aspects of integrity is paramount for a property to convey significance. Determining *which* of these aspects are most

important to a particular property requires knowing why, where and when the property is significant.<sup>7</sup>

Assessment of integrity is based on an evaluation of the existence and condition of physical features dating from a property's period of significance, taking into consideration the degree to which the individual qualities of integrity are present. The seven aspects of integrity included in the National Register criteria are location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. As noted in Bulletin 15:

**Location** is the place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred; **design** is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure and style of a property; **setting** is the physical environment of a historic property; **materials** are the physical elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period of time and in a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic property; **workmanship** is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory; **feeling** is a property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time; and **association** is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property.<sup>8</sup>

### Integrity Assessment

Based upon the comparative analysis of historic and existing conditions presented above, the Naval Communications Annex retains sufficient integrity to convey the important associations of its proposed National Register-eligible period of significance to the visitor. Most of the contributing cultural landscape features extant today survive from the early to mid-twentieth century and thus contribute to the significance of the district. The strong connections between the siting of buildings and structures and the natural character of the site, the historic use of the property as a campus, retention of historic circulation features and the

<sup>7</sup> National Park Service, National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation (Washington: U.S. Department of the Interior, 1990, rev. 1997), 44.

<sup>8</sup> National Register Bulletin 15, 44–45.

continued reference to Georgian Revival used for the Mount Vernon Seminary in many of the Navy buildings, continue to be expressed in the surviving fabric of the campus.

The campus generally retains integrity of **location** as the original site of both the Mount Vernon Seminary for Girls and the U.S. Naval Communications Annex, along with their associated developments that were present during the period of significance.

The campus also possesses integrity of **feeling** and **association** for the mid-20th century due to the presence of many features that relate to the U.S. Navy building campaign from 1943 to 1952. Integrity of feeling and association remaining from the Mount Vernon period has been eroded by subsequent developments, but is still moderately strong within the front lawn space created by Building 1 and Building 6 and respected in the set back design of Buildings 4, 17 and 43. The retention of the Field House lawn space north of Buildings 12-14 is also important in the communication of feeling and association.

The campus possesses only moderate integrity of **setting**. Residential subdivisions and other developments to the west affect views in that direction. However, of most concern is the presence of the WRC-TV station facilities to the immediate east of Building 20. In the 1950s, the Grassland estate was demolished for their construction and subsequent additions of outbuildings, antennae and satellite dishes have negatively affected the historic character of the campus along the shared boundary.

The campus possesses integrity of **design, workmanship and materials**, but this integrity is in jeopardy due to the many changes that have occurred to historic building and material fabric, as well as insensitive site work, such as the construction of numerous additional parking areas since the mid-40s. While many historic building and site features survive and continue to retain their original fabric, there are also many elements that have been demolished or replaced. Repair and maintenance that does not replace historic materials in kind also diminishes integrity of workmanship and materials.

While the site was found to possess sufficient integrity with regard to the seven aspects of integrity for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, the degree to which the areas of the site continue to

convey their significant historic associations varies based on the degree of site development in those areas post-dating the period of significance. To convey the varying degrees of integrity within the site and thus the sensitivity to change of different areas of the campus, the CLR team prepared a map illustrating three levels of integrity: high, moderate and low (Figure 4-10. Integrity Analysis).

The areas identified as having a high degree of integrity retain many historic resources and have experienced few contemporary interventions. These include the front section of the campus along Nebraska Avenue, the historic Field House green area and the areas around Buildings 7, 17, 18, 19 and their associated parking.

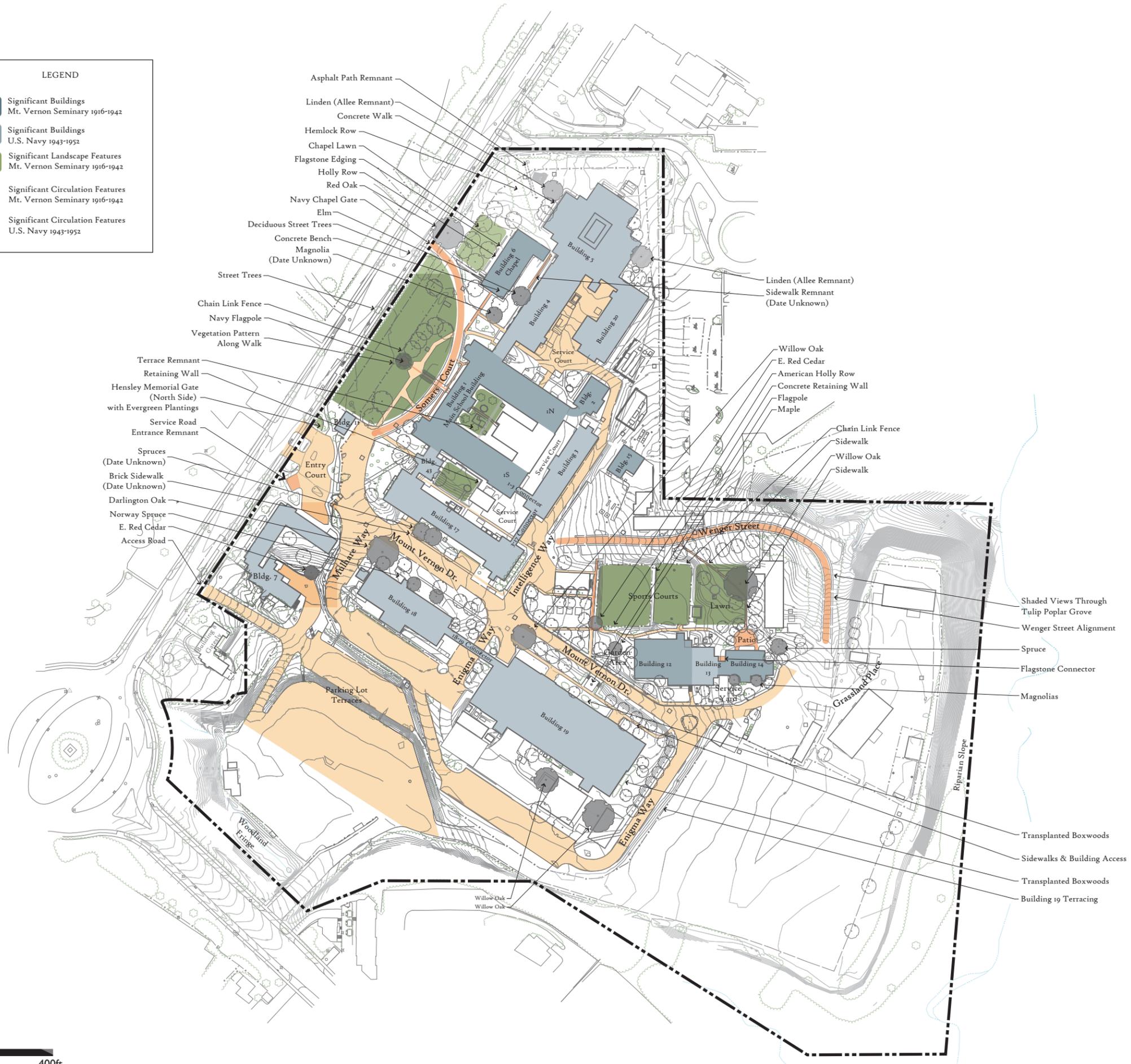
Areas with moderate integrity have lost some of the historic resources that characterized the area during the period of significance and may also include contemporary additions that interfere with visitor understanding of the historic landscape. These areas include Buildings 1, 2, 4, 5 and 43 and associated landscapes, which have been altered due to changes inside the service courts.

Areas with low integrity have been substantially changed since the period of significance to accommodate non-historic uses. These areas include the part of the campus between Building 5 and the WRC-TV property and following that boundary south and then to the east. Also of low integrity is the maintenance area and large parking lot on the east side of the site, as well as the parking lot and entrance off Massachusetts Avenue.

The purpose of the Master Plan is to develop recommendations which will preserve and enhance the historic character of the NAC as it is modified to accommodate changing uses and occupant needs.

**LEGEND**

- Significant Buildings  
Mt. Vernon Seminary 1916-1942
- Significant Buildings  
U.S. Navy 1943-1952
- Significant Landscape Features  
Mt. Vernon Seminary 1916-1942
- Significant Circulation Features  
Mt. Vernon Seminary 1916-1942
- Significant Circulation Features  
U.S. Navy 1943-1952



FOR PLANNING  
PURPOSES ONLY  
  
NOT FOR  
CONSTRUCTION

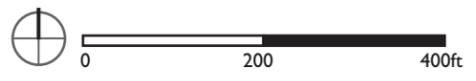
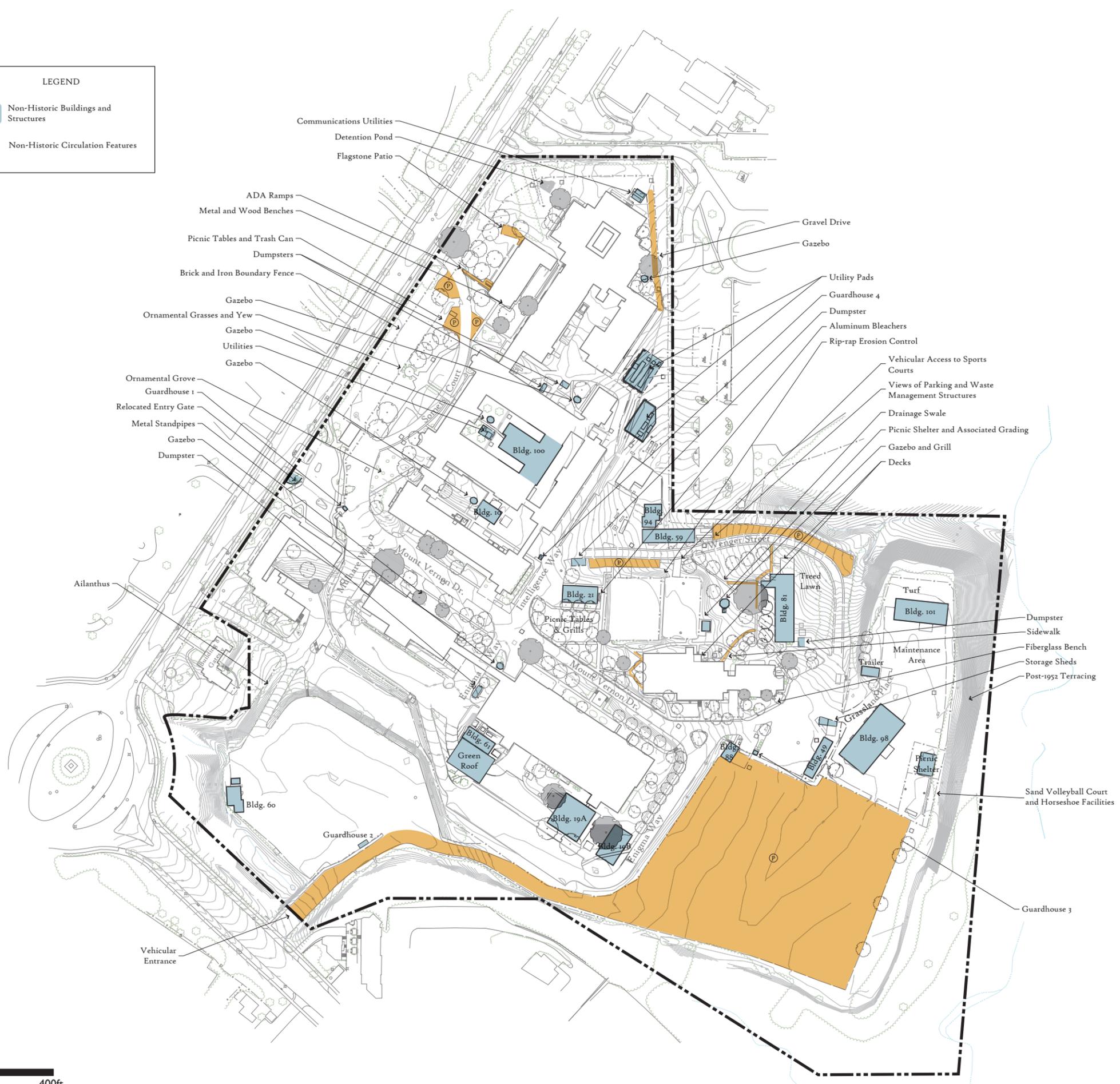
project:	DHSNACPLAN
drawn:	LFN
checked:	LLK
phase:	planning
date:	6 August 2010

**Map 4-1.**  
Historically  
Significant  
Features



**LEGEND**

- Non-Historic Buildings and Structures
- Non-Historic Circulation Features



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project:	DHSNACPLAN
drawn:	LFN
checked:	LLK
phase:	planning
date:	6 August 2010

**Map 4-2.**  
Non-historically Significant Features

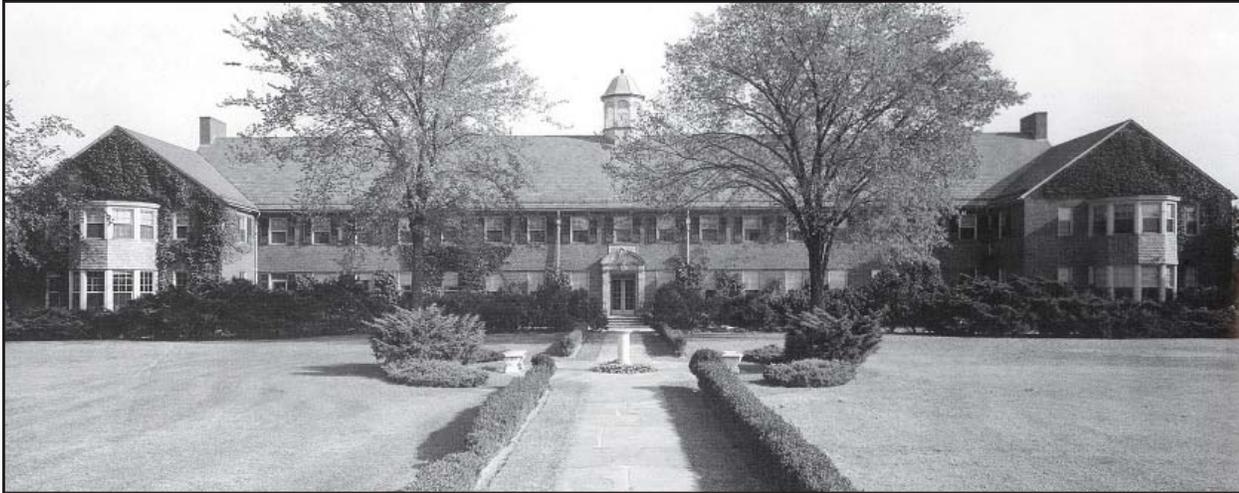




**Figure 4-1.** The return walk from “The Shelter” along Wenger Street. *Source: Mount Vernon Seminary and College Archives, Special Collections Research Center, The Gelman Library, The George Washington University.*



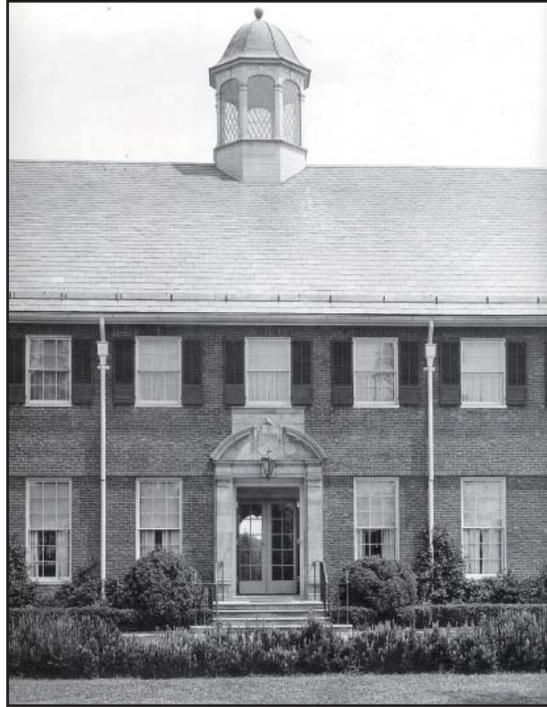
**Figure 4-2.** Wenger Steet ca. 2010. *Source: JMA 2010.*



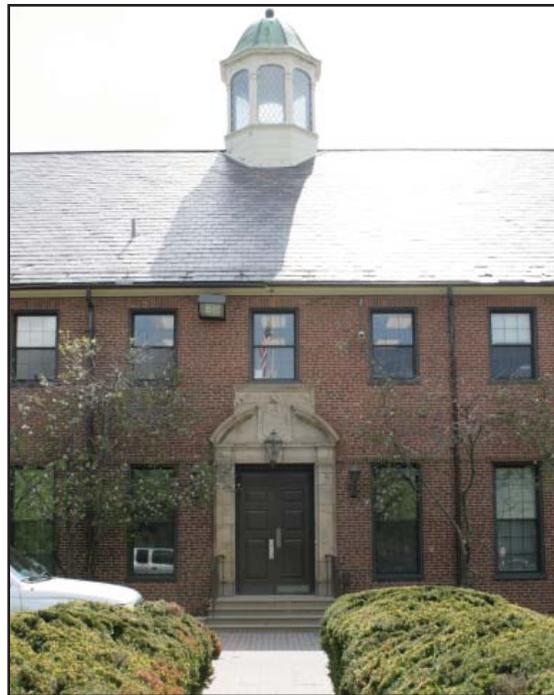
**Figure 4-3.** Axial view from Nebraska Avenue down the linear walk to the front door of Building 1, ca. 1929. *Source: Dear Daughters.*



**Figure 4-4.** Similar view, showing that the asymmetry of the placement of the brick fence column, the placement of the security light and flagpole on axis with the central door, the overgrown shrubs, trees planted adjacent to the central door and cars parked along the semi-circular drive are all intrusive elements that de-emphasize the importance of the main building entrance and its axial relationship to Nebraska Avenue. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 4-5.** Axial view from the demilune lawn into and through Building 1 to the courtyard. *Source: Dear Daughters.*



**Figure 4-6.** Similar view. Note that overgrown shrubs, trees planted next to the door and the car parked to the left tend to downplay the importance of the main building entrance. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 4-7.** Entrance with view of Buildings 1 and 6 ca. 1930s. Source: <http://www.navycthistory.com/nsslockert01.html>.



**Figure 4-8.** Entrance with view of Buildings 1 and 11 ca. 2010. Source: JMA 2010.



**Figure 4-9.** Mount Vernon Students posed on lower terrace within the courtyard of the Main School Building (Building 1). *Source: Mount Vernon Seminary and College Archives, Special Collections Research Center, The Gelman Library, The George Washington University.*



**Figure 4-10.** View of terrace remnants from approximately the same location, showing Building 100 to the right. *Source: JMA 2010.*

**Figure 4-11.** Photograph of Elizabeth Somer's rose garden on the south side of Building 1, early 1920s. Note exterior stairs to the right. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 4-12.** Similar view showing the removal of the earthen terraces. The exterior stairs have been removed and the door made into a window. Portions of the retaining wall that created a light well are extant in the landscape today. *Source: JMA 2010.*





**Figure 4-13.** Building 1 and the curved entry drive ca. 1917-18. *Source: Mount Vernon Seminary and College Archives, Special Collections Research Center, The Gelman Library, The George Washington University.*



**Figure 4-14.** Building 1 and the curved entry drive ca. 2010. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 4-15.** View of the Recreation Unit in 1942, prior to additions by the U.S. Navy. Notable features include the diagonal walkway leading from the service road and turning towards the Field House dining terrace, the circle drive terminus of the service road, the earthen terracing supporting the sports courts and located between the Field House and the Gymnasium and the garden on the west end of the Gymnasium. *Source: Nebraska Avenue Complex Public Works Archives.*



**Figure 4-16.** Similar view of the Recreation Unit, showing the diagonal walk, the trace of the circle drive terminus and the earthen terracing still discernible in the landscape. Note that many trees are extant from 1942, including the grove of tulip poplar at the upper right, the Eastern red cedar at the southwest corner of the tennis courts and the row of hollies along the south side of the tennis courts. *Source: Bing 2010.*



**Figure 4-17.** Building 1. Note that while shrubbery obscures the south side of the building, its bay window is visible.  
*Source: Nebraska Avenue Complex Public Works Archives.*



**Figure 4-18.** Similar view, but in this case, the view of the bay window is obscured by the canopy of a small tree.  
*Source: JMA 2010.*





**Figure 4-21.** The Chapel ca. 1925. Note the broad central bluestone flagstone walkway. *Source: Mount Vernon Seminary and College Archives, Special Collections Research Center, The Gelman Library, The George Washington University.*



**Figure 4-22.** Similar view showing that the flagstone walkway was replaced with concrete and narrowed by approximately one foot. *Source: JMA 2010.*

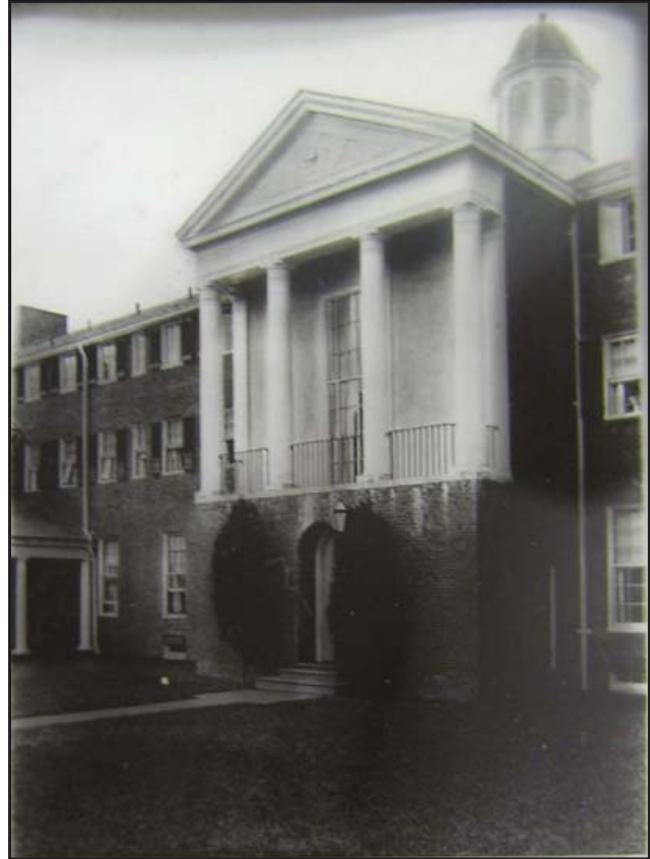


**Figure 4-23.** Building 14 and patio ca. 1942. *Source: Nebraska Avenue Complex Public Works Archives.*



**Figure 4-24.** Building 14 and patio ca. 2010. *Source: JMA 2010.*

**Figure 4-25.** Rear of Building 1, ca 1920s. Note the two vertical evergreens that mark the central door. *Source: Mount Vernon Seminary and College Archives, Special Collections Research Center, The Gelman Library, The George Washington University.*



**Figure 4-26.** Similar view, showing a number of changes, including the construction of the brick utility house and the wooden gazebo. The vertical evergreen trees are no longer extant at the entrance. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 4-27.** East end of the north wing of the Main School Building (Building 1). The white wooden trellises supported flowering vines in the spring, summer and fall. *Source: Mount Vernon Seminary and College Archives, Special Collections Research Center, The Gelman Library, The George Washington University.*



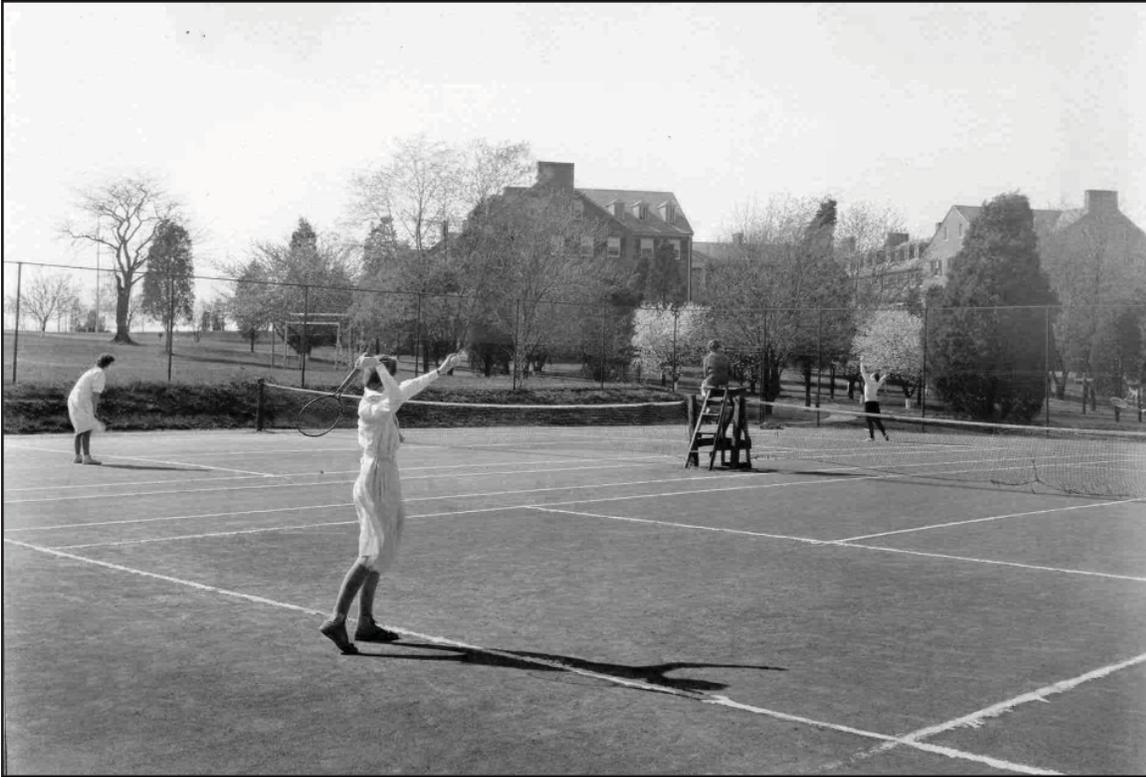
**Figure 4-28.** Similar view showing that the south stairs were removed to accommodate additions to the building, the colonnade opening filled in and the delicate railings replaced with steel pipe. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 4-29.** The Chapel, Building 1 and the front walk. *Source: Nebraska Avenue Complex Public Works Archives.*



**Figure 4-30.** The Chapel, Building 1 and the front walk. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 4-31.** View of tennis courts and Building 1. *Source: Mount Vernon Seminary and College Archives, Special Collections Research Center, The Gelman Library, The George Washington University.*



**Figure 4-32.** View of converted tennis courts and Building 3 which blocks the view of Building 1 ca. 2010. *Source: JMA 2010.*



Figure 4-33. View of Building 1 south corner. Source: Nebraska Avenue Complex Public Works Archives.



Figure 4-34. View of Building 1 south corner ca. 2010. Source: JMA 2010.



**Figure 4-35.** End of colonnade and Building 1. *Source: Mount Vernon Seminary and College Archives, Special Collections Research Center, The Gelman Library, The George Washington University.*



**Figure 4-36.** End of Building 1 ca. 2010. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 4-37.** Building 19 ca. 1946. *Source: Nebraska Avenue Complex Public Works Archives.*



**Figure 4-38.** Building 19 ca. 2010. *Source: JMA 2010.*



**Figure 4-39.** Space between Buildings 4 and 20. *Source: Nebraska Avenue Complex Public Works Archives.*



**Figure 4-40.** Space between Buildings 4 and 20 ca. 2010. *Source: JMA 2010.*



Figure 4-41. View of Building 2 ca. 1942. Source: Nebraska Avenue Complex Public Works Archives.



Figure 4-42. View of Building 2 ca. 2010. Source: JMA 2010.



**Figure 4-43.** The Chapel and sidewalk in the 1960s. *Source: Nebraska Avenue Complex Public Works Archives.*



**Figure 4-44.** The Chapel and sidewalk. *Source: JMA 2010.*

# Recommended Treatment

## Introduction

As documented in the preceding chapters, the NAC has been determined to retain sufficient integrity to convey the important associations of its proposed period of significance to its users. Most of the contributing historic landscape features documented survive from the early to mid-twentieth century and thus contribute to the significance of the district. The strong connections between the siting of buildings and structures and the natural character of the site, the continuing use of the property as a campus, along with other historic qualities, continue to be expressed in its surviving fabric.

This treatment plan has been prepared to assist the GSA and the DHS in the stewardship of historic landscape resources within the Naval Communications Annex (NAC), while accommodating needed changes to the site. With respect to significant historic landscape resources, this means preserving historical integrity and thus, the contributing characteristics of these features. The guidelines and recommendations discussed below were developed with this in mind and were based on the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes*.<sup>1</sup>

## Treatment Plan Organization

The treatment plan is organized into three sections:

- **Recommended Treatment Approach.** This section presents the four treatment alternatives recognized by the Secretary of the Interior for historic properties and identifies a recommended treatment approach for the NAC landscape;

- **General Management and Design Guidelines for Treatment.** This section identifies general management and design guidelines that apply to the campus as a whole, regardless of any alternatives-based treatment choices made in the future; and
- **Treatment Plan Recommendations by Character Area.** This section provides specific treatment recommendations for each of the character areas identified for the campus.

## Recommended Treatment Approach

To address the issues and concerns associated with protecting the significant landscape resources within the NAC, this report recommends a treatment approach for the site that is consistent with federal guidelines for historic properties.

The Secretary of the Interior currently recognizes four treatment alternatives as appropriate for the management of historic landscapes: preservation, rehabilitation, restoration and reconstruction. The Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for Historic Properties* notes: "collectively, the four treatments form the philosophical basis for responsible preservation practice and enable long-term preservation of a landscape's historic features, qualities and materials."<sup>2</sup>

Following are the definitions of the four treatment alternatives for cultural landscapes:

- **Preservation:** the act or process of applying measures necessary to sustain the existing form, integrity and material of a historic property. Preservation includes stabilization work, where necessary, as well as ongoing preservation maintenance and repair of historic materials and features.

<sup>1</sup> Charles A. Birnbaum and Christine Capella Peters, *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes* (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, 1996).

<sup>2</sup> Robert R. Page, Cathy A. Gilbert and Susan A. Dolan, *A Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports: Contents, Process and Techniques* (Washington: National Park Service, 1998), 82.

- **Rehabilitation:** the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations and additions while preserving those portions or features which convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values.
- **Restoration:** the act or process of accurately depicting the form, features and character of a property as it appeared at a particular period of time by removing features from other periods in its history and reconstructing missing features from the restoration period.
- **Reconstruction:** the act or process of depicting, by means of new construction, the form, features and detailing of a non-surviving site, landscape, building, structure, or object for the purpose of replicating its appearance at a specific period of time and in its historic location.

Historic landscapes are rarely static environments and management of historic properties often involves complicated choices and the accommodation of new uses, practices and contextual influences. The GSA is considering a wide range of management issues regarding the NAC, not the least of which is the accommodation of expanded programs and staffing. In order to integrate the contemporary landscape features necessary to support use of the campus with historic landscape fabric, the recommended treatment approach is **rehabilitation**.

The Secretary of the Interior provides a set of ten guidelines for applying a rehabilitation treatment to historic properties as follows:

### Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation

- A property will be used as it was historically or be given a new use that requires minimal change to its distinctive materials, features, spaces and spatial relationships.
- The historic character of a property will be retained and preserved. The removal of historic materials or the alteration of the features and spaces that characterize a property will be avoided.
- Each property will be recognized as a physical record of its time, place and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or elements from other historic properties, will not be undertaken.
- Changes to a property that have acquired historic significance in their own right will be retained and preserved.
- Distinctive materials, features, finishes and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a historic property will be preserved.
- Deteriorated historic features shall be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature will match the old in design, color, texture and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features will be substantiated by documentary and physical evidence.
- Chemical or physical treatments, if appropriate, will be undertaken using the gentlest means possible. Treatments that cause damage to historic materials will not be used.
- Archaeological resources will be protected and preserved in place. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures will be undertaken.
- New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction will not destroy historic materials, features and spatial relationships that characterize the property.
- The new work shall be differentiated from the old and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion and massing to protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment.
- New additions and adjacent or related new construction will be undertaken in such a manner that, if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.

## Treatment Considerations

The underlying assumption for the recommended treatment approach at the NAC is that the landscape will be managed to provide and maintain official and recreational facilities, while protecting important natural, historic, cultural and archaeological resources. This section describes the issues that have influenced the development of the more specific management guidelines and treatments that follow.

### Landform and Topography

Building 1 (Main School Building) stands on the crest of a gentle knoll along the western edge of the site. Selection of this site for the placement of Building 1 was clearly influenced by the configuration of the property's landform and to take advantage of the height of the knoll for potential views.

Historically, the sloping site was terraced to provide flat area for the development of educational programs in the Mount Vernon Seminary era and U.S. Navy facility needs during the second period of significance. Future treatment should ensure protection of the integrity of these designed landforms and the general sloping topography at the NAC.

### Vegetation

Most of the existing vegetation within the NAC, with the possible exception of the larger shade trees and some of the boxwood, appears to post-date the period of significance. Vegetation that is known to impede historic patterns of spatial organization should be considered for judicious and careful removal. Unless there is a compelling reason to remove landscape features, however, vegetation not in conflict with historic patterns should remain until more is known about the property during the periods of significance.

### Circulation

Traces of circulation systems depicted in historic aerials and ground level photographs still survive in the landscape today. They include portions of the former seminary service drive, now known as Wenger Street, as well as the entire length of Mount Vernon Drive. A short trace of the service drive entrance along Nebraska Avenue exists in the form of a parking space next to Building 7.

Additionally, several sidewalks from both periods of significance remain in use on the property. One of the challenges at the NAC will be to retain extant historic circulation features while limiting intrusions caused by contemporary additions.

### Landscape Structures

Historic landscape structures within the NAC include the north side of the Hensley Memorial Gate, the Chapel Gate, a remnant retaining wall adjacent to Building 1 and structures related to the sports courts at the heart of the campus. Future plans should ensure the protection and adaptive reuse of the features in order to protect the integrity of the NAC campus.

## General Management and Design Guidelines for Treatment

The general management and design guidelines for treatment that follow pertain to the campus as a whole and should be used when planning for landscape change. They are intended to support all landscape treatments proposed herein and should be considered in conjunction with any project or treatment alternative that is undertaken within the campus. These guidelines relate to a philosophy of cultural landscape treatment based on federal historic preservation guidelines such as the National Park Service's Director's Order No. 28: Cultural Resource Management Guidelines and the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes*.

### Spatial Organization

- Retain open spaces identified as extant from the periods of significance by avoiding the placement of buildings, structures, or trees within them if not historically documented.

### Topographic Modifications

- Minimize soil disturbance and grading.
- Preserve existing landforms and natural drainage patterns to the greatest extent possible.

## Views and Vistas

- Reestablish historic views and vistas where possible
- Regarding adjacent lands and visual quality:
  - Develop and maintain communication with adjacent property owners. Work with neighbors and community groups to develop a program of monitoring unauthorized access and destruction of resources.
  - Educate adjacent property owners regarding historic cultural and natural resources located on their lands. Work with these owners to develop programs for the protection of resources on their lands.
  - Develop visual buffers along property lines abutting the surrounding neighborhoods.

## Circulation

- Minimize the visual impacts of vehicles and non historically significant vehicular access systems, including drives and parking.
- Encourage pedestrian circulation throughout the study area as an alternative to vehicular access.
- Minimize the visual impacts of non historically significant pedestrian access systems.
- Interpret all other historic road alignments traces as part of the overall interpretive plan for NAC.

## Cultural Vegetation

- Consider evaluating the Master Plan for its potential impact on historic plant material within the campus. For more detail, refer Treatment Plan Recommendations by Character Area.
- Remove, if necessary, existing trees using a method that minimizes the potential impacts on known and potential archaeological resources. Avoid removal of root masses

(also known as stump grinding) by cutting the tree flush with the ground. Undertake tree removal from areas with known or potential archaeological resources under the guidance of an archaeologist.

- Retain, where appropriate, existing woodlands; allow successional areas to mature and establish new buffers along appropriate sections of the property boundary when protection of viewsheds is required. Visual buffers should consist of mixed species woodland with understory plants. Promote varied plant composition and consider locally native woodland species for screen and buffer plantings.
- Remove invasive alien species identified during woodland monitoring activities using National Resource Monitoring Partnership (NRMP) best practices to facilitate their removal. Do not uproot invasive plants if doing so will disturb cultural resources.

## Landscape Structures

- Consider the removal of non-historically significant structures that are intrusive to the historic landscape.
- Avoid conjectural reconstruction of historic landscape structures.

## Small-scale Features

- Erect the minimal number of signs possible for identification, direction, interpretation and regulation needs.

## Archeological Resources

- Conduct archaeological investigation prior to any ground-disturbing activities to determine the presence or absence of sites.
- Protect and preserve archaeological resources in place. If such resources must be disturbed, undertake mitigation measures such as bury in place, recovery, curation and documentation.

## New Design and Construction

- Avoid adding new features or altering existing features in ways that adversely affect the landscape's historic character. Introduce features to facilitate access in ways that minimize any adverse impacts. If possible, design new features to be as unobtrusive as possible into historic landscape spaces while allowing for accessibility and safety.
- Undertake sufficient study and recordation of landscape features requiring modification, repair or replacement before work is performed to protect historic value.
- Retain and maintain, whenever possible, historic materials, features, finishes, construction techniques, spaces and spatial relationships.
- Avoid landscape changes that create a false sense of historical development, including the addition of conjectural, "typical" or representative features.
- Repair, rather than replace, deteriorated historic features whenever possible. Repair of deteriorated features should be based on archaeological, documentary or physical evidence. Replacement of historic features, if necessary, should also be based on archaeological, documentary or physical evidence; the new feature should match the old in design, color, texture and, where possible, materials.
- Avoid the use of chemical or physical treatments that cause damage to cultural resources and natural systems. Undertake the surface cleaning of structures using the gentlest means possible.
- Design and site, if possible, new additions or alterations to the landscape in ways that do not destroy historic materials, features and spatial relationships that characterize the cultural landscape. Design new additions and alterations to be a product of their time and compatible with the historic resources in materials, size, scale and proportion and massing. Differentiate new work from the existing historic resources.
- Design and site new additions and alterations to the landscape in such a way

that, if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the cultural landscape would be unimpaired.

## Role of Preservation Specialists

- Undertake all treatment projects under the direction of appropriate specialists, including cultural and historical landscape architects, historical architects, historians, archaeologists, natural resource management specialists and qualified technicians and artisans.

## Documentation

- Document through drawings, photographs and notes all changes and treatments. Maintain records of treatments and preserve documentation according to professional archival standards.

## Treatment Plan Recommendations by Unit

*Refer to Maps 5-1, 5-2, 5-3 and 5-4 Treatment Plan Recommendations by Unit*

### Mount Vernon Unit

#### Spatial Organization

- Retain the axial and symmetrical organization of the area to the west side of Building 1 as one of the few remaining spaces retained from the Mount Vernon Seminary period.
- Respect the spatial integrity of the demilune lawn by restricting any vertical additions or additional walkways within the space. Consider relocating the central security light.
- Retain the open rectangular lawn west of Building 6 as one of the few remaining spaces retained from the Mount Vernon Seminary period.
- If Building 100 is removed, restore the Building 1 courtyard including the terraced lawn, evergreen plantings and axial walk.

- Re-open the colonnade to restore the relationship between inside and outside.
- Retain the entry court area on Nebraska Avenue

### Topographic Modifications

- If Building 100 is removed, restore the earthen terracing within the Building 1 courtyard.
- Restore the earthen terracing within the courtyard between Building 1 and Building 17.

### Views and Vistas

- Restore the axial view of Building 1 from Nebraska Avenue by renovating that portion of the boundary fence, moving brick piers to the location of the original pedestrian gateway and removing street trees and the security light.
- Plant trees along eastern boundary to screen views to WRC-TV facilities.

### Circulation

- Preserve entrance court configuration at Nebraska Avenue.
- Remove small parking bays from the semi-circular drive to restore it to its original alignment.
- Restore the axial walkway from Building 1 to its original width and original bluestone material.
- Restore the axial walkway to Building 6 to its original width and original bluestone material. Use the flagstones that were moved to the western side of the building in the 1960s.
- Replace concrete gutters along the semicircular drive with a cobble in mortar-type solution that replicates their historic condition.
- Replace loose cobble pavement edgings with solution of cobbles set in a firm mortar bed or other material that is permanent.

### Cultural Vegetation

- Preserve all the Eastern red cedars throughout site that are over six-inch caliper as they may be historic.
- Preserve the pattern of ornamental shrubs in front of Building 1, including the shrub planting along either side of the axial path to Building 1.
- Preserve the two littleleaf lindens remaining from the Grassland allée.
- Preserve the large oak to the west of the Chapel.
- Retain deciduous street trees along Nebraska Avenue.
- Preserve row of hemlocks west of Building 5 and replace missing specimens.
- Remove all river birch as they negatively affect the historic character of the unit.
- Replace evergreen planting in front of the Hensley Gate, replicating the original plantings.
- Replace other vegetation that was present during the historic period as indicated by further research.

### Landscape Structures

- Remove dumpsters and screen fences within the service yard at Building 4 to re-open the view to the west side of Building 2.
- Remove wooden gazebos in all locations as intrusive features. Replace, if desired, with shelters designed to complement the Colonial Revival historic character of this unit.
- Redesign accessible ramps in a style that is more compatible with historic buildings.
- Redesign new stairways in a style that is more compatible with historic buildings.
- Replace handrails with a design that is more compatible with historic character.
- With removal of Building 100, restore stairways at the end of Building 1 wings.

- Replace green chain link with black chain link for better transparency.

### Small-scale Features

- Develop a site furnishings plan that would provide a single design for all benches, picnic tables and trash cans throughout the NAC. Choose a design palette that complements the historic character of the unit.
- Consider restoring the wooden trellises that were on the ends of the Building 1 wings and replant with climbing vines.
- Consolidate utility units in as few groupings as possible.
- Paint bollards within historic viewsheds black to de-emphasize them.

## Recreational Unit

### Spatial Organization

- Remove both picnic shelters from within the Field House lawn.
- Retain Field House lawn as an open space.
- Reduce clutter within the Field House lawn by relocating small-scale features to its perimeter or other location.

### Topographic Modifications

- Preserve the earthen terracing that supports the sports courts. Use soil erosion fabric and pegged sod instead of rip-rap, which negatively affects the historic character of this unit.
- Restore the earthen terrace below the sports courts that was disrupted by the picnic shelter construction.
- Restore the earthen terracing in front of the gymnasium to create that space.

### Views and Vistas

- Eliminate parking along Wenger Street (the Mount Vernon Seminary service road and access to the Shelter) in order to preserve the historic view to the east.

### Circulation

- Restore the axial walkway and central entrance to the gymnasium on its west end.
- Preserve the eastern end of the Mount Vernon Seminary service road (Wenger Street).
- Preserve the diagonal path to Field House.
- Restore the Field House patio to its original rectangular shape using bluestone flagstone.
- Restore the central island within the circular turn-around adjacent to the Field House.
- Remove the curved walkway that leads to Building 13, replace with a route that does not pass through the Field House lawn
- Remove parking from in front of and within the sports courts
- Replace concrete gutters along Wenger Street with a cobble in mortar-type solution that replicates their historic condition.

### Cultural Vegetation

- Replace Eastern red cedar that was historically located within the Field House lawn.
- Retain and enhance the woodland edge on the perimeter of the property.
- Preserve the Eastern red cedar specimen at the western corner of the sports courts and hollies along the southern edge of the courts.
- Restore the landscaped space at the western end of the Gymnasium.
- Plant trees along the western end of the service road remnant as they were located during the Mount Vernon period.
- Plant trees along the diagonal path to Building 14.
- Plant screening shrubs and trees to block view of trash compacting operation on the east side of Building 59. This will also

help to screen the parking lot and utilities associated with WRC-TV.

- Remove rip-rap that is threatening the integrity of the sports courts earthen terraces. Replace the soil, add an erosion control fabric and plant with turf.
- When developing new plantings, consider using plant materials that evoke the historic periods of the campus, such as yew, boxwood, roses, English ivy, Pfitzer juniper, hemlock, white pine, Eastern red cedar and arborvitae. Avoid using plants such as azalea and barberry.

### Landscape Structures

- Retain the chain link fence around sports courts.
- Remove, if possible, later additions to Buildings 12-14 and restore landscape.
- Replace wooden deck and stairway at end of Building 81 with materials more compatible with the historic character of the site.
- Remove the picnic shelter, wooden gazebo and brick grill from the center of the Field House lawn.
- Remove dumpster and pad just north of Building 21 and revegetate.

### Small-scale Features

- Restore the wooden trellis on the north side of the Field House.
- Consolidate utility units in as few groupings as possible.
- Develop site furnishings plan that would provide a single design for all benches, picnic tables and trash cans throughout the site.
- Paint all bollards black to de-emphasize them.

## Cryptanalysis Unit

### Spatial Organization

- Remove, if possible, Buildings 19-A and 19-B to restore the spatial organization of the area around Building 19.

### Topographic Modifications

- Preserve earthen terracing used to develop parking areas.
- Maintain the earthen terracing at the end of Building 19.

### Views and Vistas

- Restore the arched openings in Building 18 and 19 connector.

### Circulation

- Restore circulation pattern at the rear of Building 19 to its original configuration.

### Cultural Vegetation

- Preserve large oaks and Norfolk Island pine.
- Preserve boxwood on southeastern end of Building 19, as it was likely installed on the campus during the historic period and moved later to this location.
- Retain and enhance the woodland edge.
- When developing new plantings, consider using plant materials that evoke the historic periods of the campus, such as yew, boxwood, roses, English ivy, Pfitzer juniper, hemlock, white pine, Eastern red cedar and arborvitae. Avoid using plants such as azalea, barberry and burning bush.
- Preserve Eastern red cedar at eastern edge of Building 7 courtyard.

### Buildings and Structures

- Remove infill from the archways of the connector between Buildings 18 and 19.
- Remove wooden gazebo.

### Small-scale Features

- Develop site furnishings plan that would provide a single design for all benches,

picnic tables and trash cans throughout the site.

- Paint all bollards black to de-emphasize them.

## East Unit

### Spatial Organization

- Consider moving maintenance facilities, including Buildings 101 and 98, to another location and relocating the picnic/BBQ/volleyball complex to the approximate location of Building 101, where the Shelter and tennis courts were historically located.

### Topographic Modifications

- Consider softening the slope in this area to a more natural angle of repose, to restore the historic condition and reduce erosion into the creek.

### Views and Vistas

- None

### Circulation

- Replace concrete gutters with a cobble in mortar-type solution that replicates their historic condition.

### Cultural Vegetation

- Retain and enhance the woodland edge.

### Landscape Structures

- Relocate Buildings 101 and 98.

### Small-scale Features

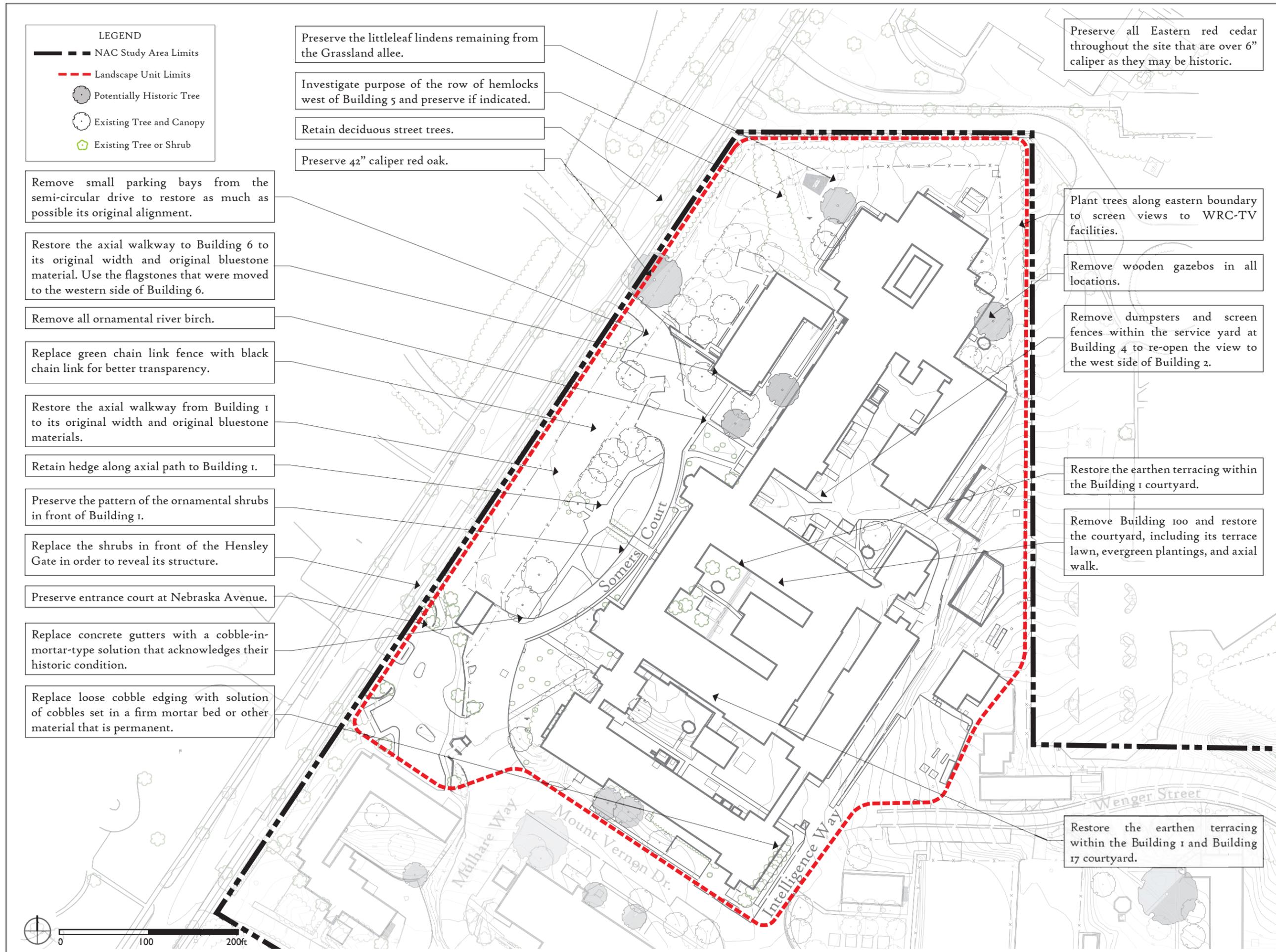
- None



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project: DHSNACPLAN  
drawn: LFN  
checked: LLK  
phase: planning  
date: 6 August 2010

Map 5-1.  
**Mount Vernon  
Unit**  
Treatment Plan  
Recommendations



**LEGEND**

- — — NAC Study Area Limits
- - - Landscape Unit Limits
- Potentially Historic Tree
- Existing Tree and Canopy
- ⊕ Existing Tree or Shrub

Preserve the littleleaf lindens remaining from the Grassland alley.

Investigate purpose of the row of hemlocks west of Building 5 and preserve if indicated.

Retain deciduous street trees.

Preserve 42" caliper red oak.

Remove small parking bays from the semi-circular drive to restore as much as possible its original alignment.

Restore the axial walkway to Building 6 to its original width and original bluestone material. Use the flagstones that were moved to the western side of Building 6.

Remove all ornamental river birch.

Replace green chain link fence with black chain link for better transparency.

Restore the axial walkway from Building 1 to its original width and original bluestone materials.

Retain hedge along axial path to Building 1.

Preserve the pattern of the ornamental shrubs in front of Building 1.

Replace the shrubs in front of the Hensley Gate in order to reveal its structure.

Preserve entrance court at Nebraska Avenue.

Replace concrete gutters with a cobble-in-mortar-type solution that acknowledges their historic condition.

Replace loose cobble edging with solution of cobbles set in a firm mortar bed or other material that is permanent.

Preserve all Eastern red cedar throughout the site that are over 6" caliper as they may be historic.

Plant trees along eastern boundary to screen views to WRC-TV facilities.

Remove wooden gazebos in all locations.

Remove dumpsters and screen fences within the service yard at Building 4 to re-open the view to the west side of Building 2.

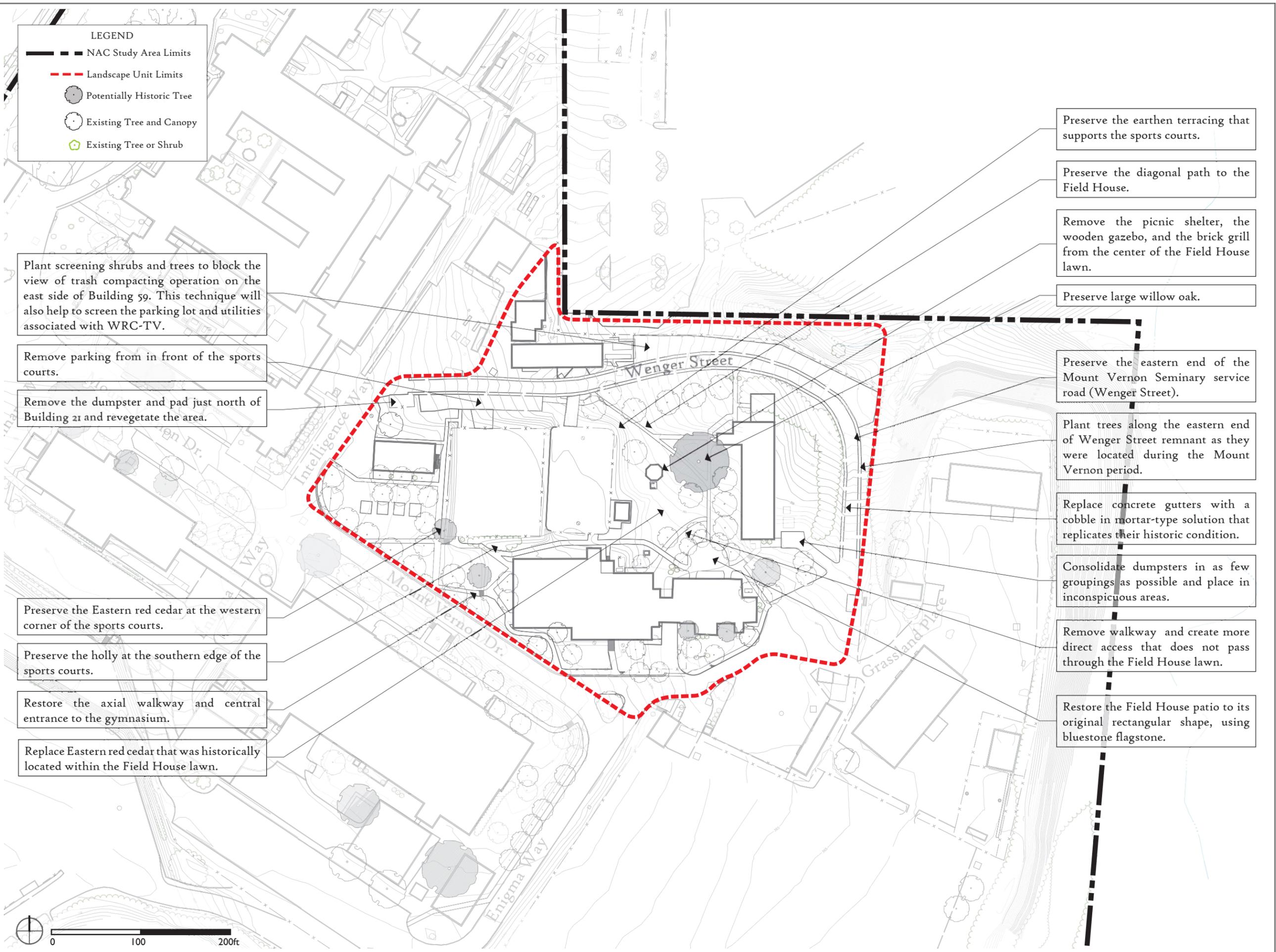
Restore the earthen terracing within the Building 1 courtyard.

Remove Building 100 and restore the courtyard, including its terrace lawn, evergreen plantings, and axial walk.

Restore the earthen terracing within the Building 1 and Building 17 courtyard.







**LEGEND**

- NAC Study Area Limits
- - - Landscape Unit Limits
- Potentially Historic Tree
- Existing Tree and Canopy
- ⊕ Existing Tree or Shrub

Plant screening shrubs and trees to block the view of trash compacting operation on the east side of Building 59. This technique will also help to screen the parking lot and utilities associated with WRC-TV.

Remove parking from in front of the sports courts.

Remove the dumpster and pad just north of Building 21 and revegetate the area.

Preserve the Eastern red cedar at the western corner of the sports courts.

Preserve the holly at the southern edge of the sports courts.

Restore the axial walkway and central entrance to the gymnasium.

Replace Eastern red cedar that was historically located within the Field House lawn.

Preserve the earthen terracing that supports the sports courts.

Preserve the diagonal path to the Field House.

Remove the picnic shelter, the wooden gazebo, and the brick grill from the center of the Field House lawn.

Preserve large willow oak.

Preserve the eastern end of the Mount Vernon Seminary service road (Wenger Street).

Plant trees along the eastern end of Wenger Street remnant as they were located during the Mount Vernon period.

Replace concrete gutters with a cobble in mortar-type solution that replicates their historic condition.

Consolidate dumpsters in as few groupings as possible and place in inconspicuous areas.

Remove walkway and create more direct access that does not pass through the Field House lawn.

Restore the Field House patio to its original rectangular shape, using bluestone flagstone.

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drawn:	LFN
checked:	LLK
phase:	planning
date:	6 August 2010



**LEGEND**

-  NAC Study Area Limits
-  Landscape Unit Limits
-  Potentially Historic Tree
-  Existing Tree and Canopy
-  Existing Tree or Shrub

Preserve Eastern red cedar at eastern edge of Building 7 courtyard.

Restore the arched openings in the Building 18-19 connector.

Consolidate dumpsters in as few groupings as possible and place in inconspicuous areas.

Preserve earthen terracing used to develop parking areas.

Maintain the earthen terrace at the end of Building 19.

Retain and enhance the woodland edge.

Preserve large oaks and Noway Spruce.

Remove wooden gazebo.

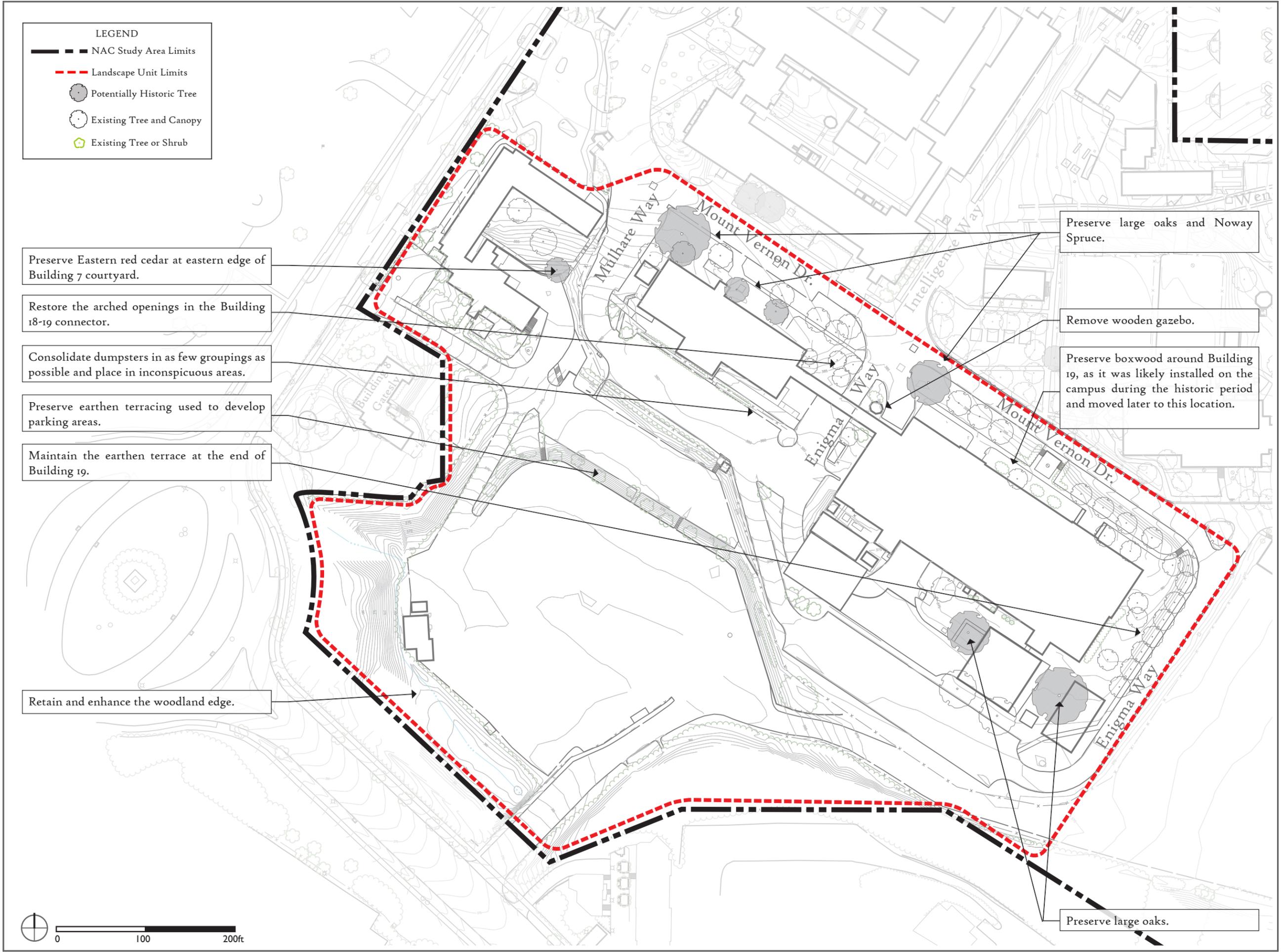
Preserve boxwood around Building 19, as it was likely installed on the campus during the historic period and moved later to this location.

Preserve large oaks.

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checked: LLK  
phase: planning  
date: 6 August 2010

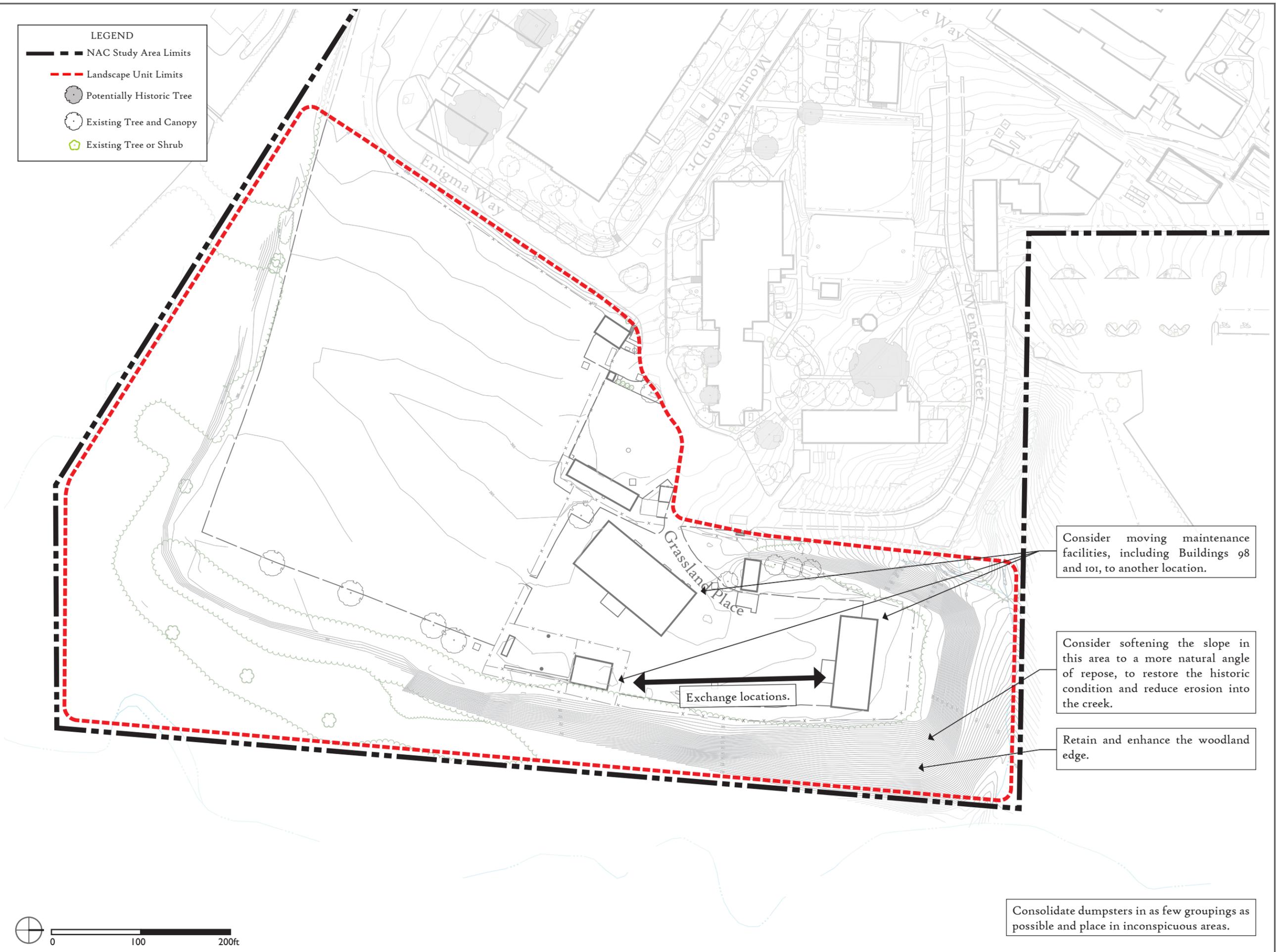
**Map 5-3.**  
**Cryptanalysis  
Unit**  
Treatment Plan  
Recommendations





**LEGEND**

- NAC Study Area Limits
- - - Landscape Unit Limits
- Potentially Historic Tree
- Existing Tree and Canopy
- ⊕ Existing Tree or Shrub



Consider moving maintenance facilities, including Buildings 98 and 101, to another location.

Consider softening the slope in this area to a more natural angle of repose, to restore the historic condition and reduce erosion into the creek.

Retain and enhance the woodland edge.

Exchange locations.

Consolidate dumpsters in as few groupings as possible and place in inconspicuous areas.

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drawn: LFN  
checked: LLK  
phase: planning  
date: 6 August 2010

**Map 5-4.**  
**East Unit**  
Treatment Plan  
Recommendations



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