

A PROPOSAL FOR LOCATING A FLAG AND SCULPTURE ON THE GROUNDS OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

This proposal creates a factual and symbolic entranceway onto the grounds of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, utilizing a lofty flagstaff and a sculptural grouping of three servicemen, as the key design elements of a carefully developed sequence.

A majority of the visitors to the Memorial will approach the Memorial grounds from the west, perhaps after visiting the Lincoln Memorial. At the present, the route from the Lincoln Memorial is somewhat circuitous, therefore the gently curving pedestrian pathways of Constitution Gardens have been slightly altered at the west end of the site to provide a clear route into the Vietnam Veterans Memorial from the West. As a result of this alteration, a new pathway intersection, a new focal point, has been created. All pathways at the west end of the site converge at this place. Here a 50 foot flagpole, holding an oversized American flag aloft, has been located.

Surrounding the flag is a large open air room 70 foot high formed by the branches of three mature Oak trees. A void in this canopy opens directly towards the apex of the Memorial walls. Looking back from this apex, the flag seems to dominate the view west from the open space in front of the walls and is silhouetted against the outline of the Lincoln Memorial.

A bronze plaque has been designed to become the base for this flagpole. On this plaque will be cast the insignia of each of the five Armed Services of the United States. In addition, an inscription will read as follows:

"This flag represents the gift of service to the American people by the Veterans of the Vietnam War. Its presence at this site reaffirms the principles of freedom for which they fought. It flies continuously to honor their pride in having served our Country under difficult circumstances."

This plaza will serve as the formal entrance into the Memorial grounds.

Looking toward the walls (northeast) from the base of the flagpole, four small trees have been relocated from the existing terrain to create a second smaller outdoor room which also looks outward towards the apex of the walls. Here at a short distance Frederick Hart's sculpture of three young servicemen has been placed. These figures seem poised in space and time at the edge of the tree line ready to usher the visitor into the open space before the walls. They stand, frozen in motion with eyes fixed on the apex. Low planting enhances their separate presence while tying them into the overall landscape setting. Looking back from the apex, the ground has been carefully sculpted to reveal them fully to view.

Because the names on the wall have been arranged chronologically by the date each was taken from us, four locator directories will be placed on the site. These will take the form of cast bronze directory weather enclosures, each housing a single book. They will be placed at locations near the base of the flagpole along the pathway system, and are of a scale similar to the other pieces of street furniture which line the paths of Constitution Gardens. Should additional directories be required they may be placed at other locations along the pathway system, perhaps at the east end of the site.

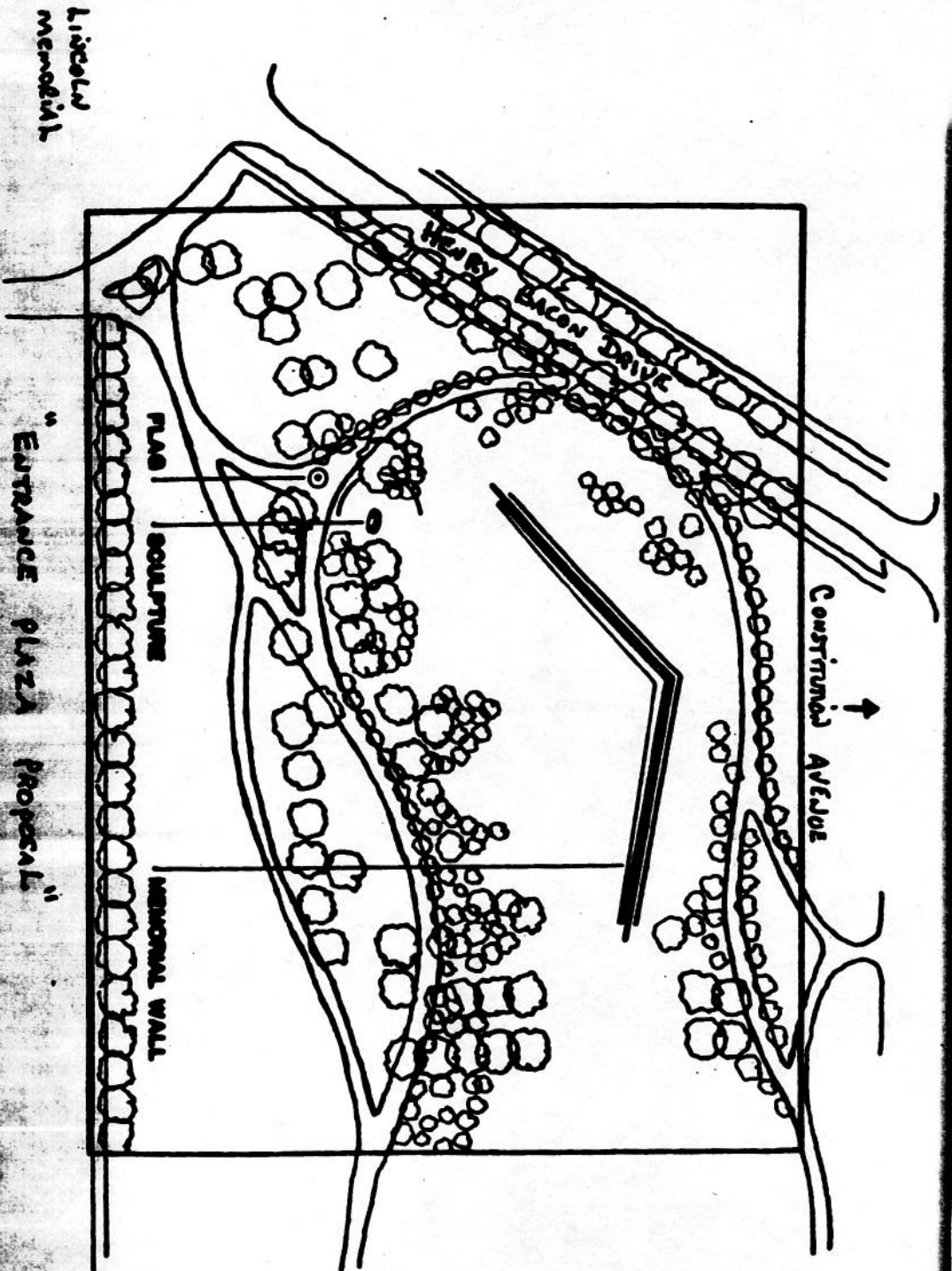
In preparing this location/design proposal, the design team composed of the Cooper-Lecky Partnership, Architects of Record for the Memorial; Frederick Hart, Sculptor; and ED&AW, Inc., Landscape Architects, has attempted to carefully respect the strength and contemplative character of the original prize-winning design by Maya Lin. They have also responded to the strongly expressed desire for the addition of a flag and statue onto the Memorial's site in a prominent and appropriate manner.

The design team believes that the flag has been located here in a manner which befits its powerful symbolic value. Likewise, the close to life-size sculpture is placed in a setting which allows it to communicate its intended human values.

We hope that this proposal will be received by all who wish to honor the Veterans of the Vietnam War, as an appropriate resolution of a difficult design problem.

For the Design Team,

W. Kent Cooper



"Entrance Plaza Proposal"

Liscala
Memorial

NOTE: UNDER THIS PROPOSAL WALKWAYS FROM

CONSTITUTION AVENUE ARE NECESSARY AS ABOVE

TO ACCOMMODATE VISITORS COMING FROM

THE LISCALA MEMORIAL.

WASHINGTON
MOVEMENT