

CAPITOL SQUARE LANDSCAPE MASTER PLAN

2014 UPDATE



Commonwealth of Virginia Department of General Services
Capitol Square Preservation Council
H&G Landscape Architects
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View towards western fountain from brick walkway near the Edgar Allan Poe Memorial

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Capitol Square postcard ca. 1910 Image courtesy of the Library of Virginia

INTRODUCTION AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction and Executive Summary

Capitol Square serves a significant dual role as the historic and ceremonial seat of the Commonwealth of Virginia and as a beautiful urban oasis for the City of Richmond. This important landscape must function effectively on multiple levels: as the actual and symbolic capital of Virginia, as a bustling governmental community that is home to the state legislature and the Governor, as a major visitor attraction, and as a recreational open space for those who come to stroll, eat, and sit in this leafy, green getaway in downtown Richmond. Moreover, as one of the first enclosed public spaces in the nation, and as an even rarer designed public park, Capitol Square holds a position of preeminent historic significance in its own right. A detailed statement of the historic importance of Capitol Square is found on page 7 of this document.

As Capitol Square approaches its bicentennial anniversary in 2016-2018, it continues to fulfill its many required functions. The overall impression of the Square is that of a stately and beautiful setting with magnificent shade trees, meandering walkways, lovely fountains, and dramatic topography providing an elegant backdrop to the visually dominating Jefferson-designed Capitol Building. It is highly important to ensure the historic stature and use of Capitol Square while also addressing modern challenges related to parking and vehicular access, security, budget constraints, and with respect to any further additions of memorials and other symbolic elements. Losses to the integrity of the Square affect not only its stature as a natural treasure, but that of the Capitol as well. Accordingly, there is a compelling interest in preserving and enhancing Capitol Square and to accomplish this work for its bicentennial.

In 2004, the Virginia Department of General Services (DGS)

commissioned the original Capitol Square Landscape Master Plan (CSLMP) to establish “intermediate and long range goals for the renovation of plantings, site improvements, and programs for enhancing the visual aspects” of the Square. In 2014, DGS initiated the Update process to produce this current document with the encouragement of, and in a close working partnership with, the Capitol Square Preservation Council (CSPC). While much has been accomplished in the decade since DGS commissioned the original CSLMP, this Update attests to the fact that work remains to ensure the future of Capitol Square as a site of recognized national and international historic importance and civic vitality. This Update delineates the improvements in the Square made in accordance with the recommendations in the 2004 CSLMP and those remaining; it also provides recommendations of how to further enhance the historic vitality of the space, while addressing current and future functional requirements.

The challenge for this Update is the same as it was for the 2004 document: presenting ways to celebrate and respect the historic significance of the site while accommodating current and future functional requirements of Capitol Square. The guiding precepts for this update are, as they were in 2004, to:*

1. *Preserve and enhance the historic integrity of the Square.*
2. *Continue to improve the pedestrian experience and reduce practices, such as parking, that are incompatible with an historic public park.*
3. *Improve the visual openness of the Square and enhance views of the Capitol building and the monuments consistent with Jefferson’s design intent for his masterwork.*

*Items in italics are quoted from the 2004 CSLMP

Many of the 2004 CSLMP recommendations have been implemented since its publication, but there remain initiatives not yet completed and new ones that could be undertaken to advance the goals of retaining and enhancing historic intent, including providing for a strong pedestrian experience and greater visual openness. The area of study for the initial CSLMP included the area within the Capitol Grounds fence; the site area under consideration in this Update includes all of those areas analyzed in the 2004 CSLMP as well as Capitol Street (the zone between the northern Capitol Square fence line and the face of the General Assembly Building (GAB), Old City Hall, and the Patrick Henry Building (PHB)). This area bears an important functional and aesthetic relationship to the Square proper.

The master planning team worked in close collaboration with DGS and CSPC. The planning process drew heavily on the documentation of the historic chronology for landscape and site improvements within the Square that were included in the 2004 document. The process also included a thorough inventory and analysis of current site conditions, including: issues of access, circulation and parking, hardscape materials and details, site furnishings and elements, vegetation, topography, and monuments and memorials.

The result of this effort is this document, which comprises the following:

- A statement of significance and an historic overview of the evolution of the Capitol Square landscape, including a Timeline of significant events in the Square's development;
- An analysis of existing conditions, review of which elements

of the 2004 CSLMP have been implemented, and those that have not, and updated recommendations going forward;

- A presentation of vision and goals and associated specific recommendations for each major area of the site; and,
- Design guidelines that will help direct future design and maintenance decisions.

Major recommendations of this Update are summarized below; these take into consideration implementation of recommendations since the original 2004 CSLMP, those that remain to be implemented, and changes to the space since that plan was first published. Recommendations are organized in two ways: the "Existing Conditions and Recommendations" section of the document addresses physical and functional elements of the site, while in the "Vision and Goals" section, recommendations are organized into an integrated approach for each of the seven (7) site areas. Please see the individual chapters for a more detailed listing and rationale behind the recommendations.

Existing Conditions and Recommendations (see p. 29)

Access, Circulation and Parking (pp. 32-40):

- Prevent vehicles from entering the Square without being authorized by Capitol Police.
- Modify the northeast pedestrian entry to be ADA accessible.

Hardscape Materials (pp. 42-48):

- Establish a standard brick paving material, pattern and detailing.
- Establish a consistent path edge detail.
- Replace discontinuous handrails along new stairs with continuous railings.

Site Elements (pp. 50-61):

- Establish a policy to disallow construction of additional monuments in Capitol Square.
- Develop a program to replace existing lights with LED.
- Add bike racks in convenient but peripheral areas, such as Capitol Street.
- Develop an attractive and discreet full site signage program that integrates wayfinding and educational goals.

Vegetation and Topography (pp. 62-73):

- Selectively remove Southern Magnolias and large areas of understory plantings to enhance views of the Capitol and other landmarks.
- Enhance linear tree plantings along Governor’s Walk and Capitol Street.
- Replant the infiltration basins and rain gardens with plantings that are more in keeping with the Square’s manicured landscape.

Vision and Goals (see diagram p. 75, section begins p. 74)

1. Capitol Building and Capitol Hill (pp. 77-78):

- The recommendations from the 2004 document have mostly been enacted; there should be continued emphasis to minimize the vehicular presence.

2. The Avenue (or “North Drive”) and Monuments (pp. 79-80):

- Complete the replacement of the sidewalk around the Washington Monument to Ninth Street.
- Replace the asphalt paving with either a brown-toned asphalt or with unit pavers in a warm tone.

3. Eastern Dell (pp. 81-82):

- The recommendations from the 2004 document have mostly been enacted; the existing design, which reflects the Godefroy era design, should be protected.

4. Western Dell (pp. 83-84):

- Remove many of the Southern Magnolias and shrub/understory plantings at the site perimeter—as these were not planted in accordance with the original Godefroy or Notman era plans—to move this area closer to its historic intent of visual openness (see p. 17).
- Work with the planning committees for the Women’s Monument and Virginia Indian Monument to maximize the harmonious integration of the new monuments with the historic intent for the Capitol Square landscape.

5. Ninth Street Entrance (pp. 85-86):

- Move the guard station closer to Ninth Street and add gates or other mechanical controls to enhance security and to keep vehicular traffic in the Square to a minimum.

6. Streetscape on Ninth and Bank Streets (pp. 87-88):

- Maintain the Bank Street streetscape as is.
- Continue to work with the City to plant the infiltration basins with species that will provide a neat appearance in keeping with the Square’s manicured landscape.

7. Capitol Street (pp. 89-90):

- Create a unified, pedestrian-oriented space to emphasize the park-like feel of Capitol Square.
- Replace the vehicular paving with the same warm brown asphalt as recommended for the Avenue.

- Replant the infiltration basins with species that will provide a neat appearance in keeping with the Square’s manicured landscape.
- Extend the linear Chinese Elm planting from Old City Hall along the full length of the street, as far as is possible.

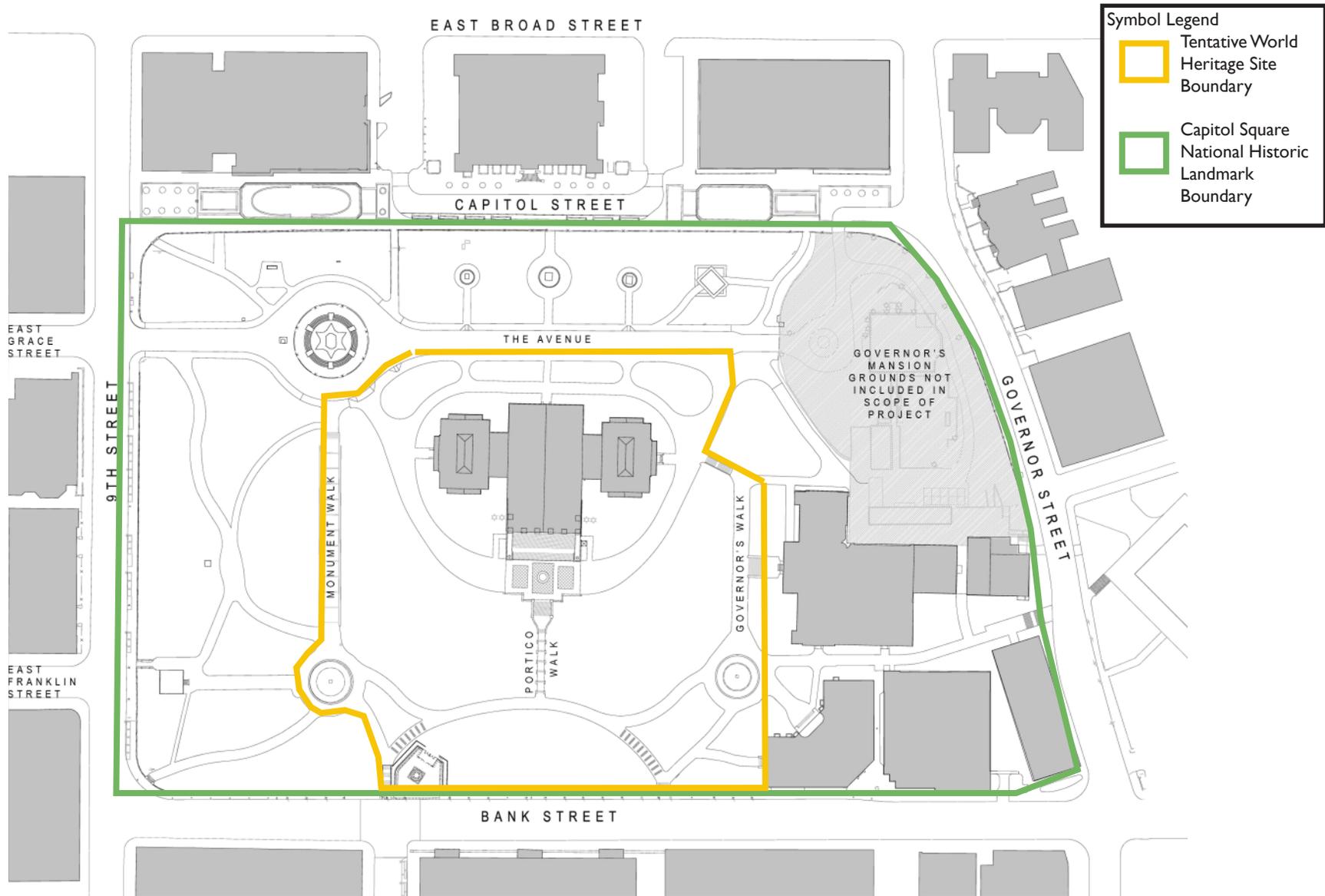
Specific recommended materials and details are presented in the Detail Design Guidelines chapter at the end of the document (pp. 91-111).

The recommendations and guidelines set forth in this Update are intended to ensure that Capitol Square is preserved and enhanced as a place of recognized national historic significance and as a welcoming, pedestrian-oriented landscape characterized by visual openness. The legislative and symbolic heart of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Capitol Square is a public asset worthy of careful consideration, attention and ongoing stewardship, especially now as it approaches its third century. Capitol Square must remain a profound place and an appropriate setting for Jefferson’s “Temple on the Hill,” at once welcoming, captivating and informing those who pass within its gates.



Capitol Square Image courtesy of the Library of Virginia

HISTORIC CONTEXT



Symbol Legend

- Tentative World Heritage Site Boundary
- Capitol Square National Historic Landmark Boundary

HISTORIC CONTEXT - NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK AND TENTATIVE WORLD HERITAGE SITE BOUNDARIES



Historic Context: Statement of Significance

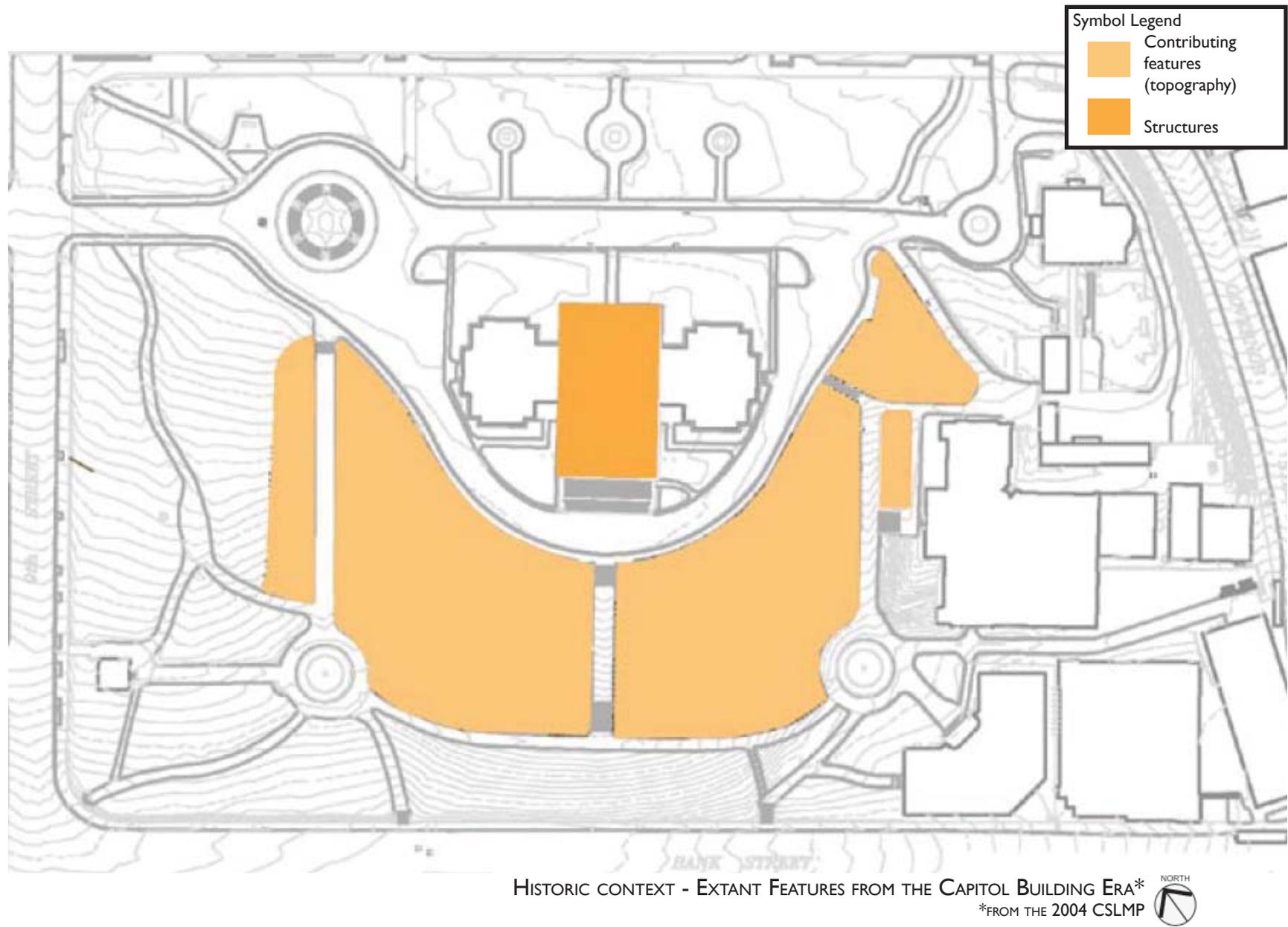
Once simply a bare and sheer ledge framed by dramatic ravines, Capitol Square today serves an important dual role as an attractive ceremonial setting for the seat of government of the Commonwealth of Virginia and as a welcoming and dignified urban oasis in the City of Richmond. At the center of this designed urban park sits Jefferson’s masterwork—the Capitol Building—a noble and restrained symbol of representative democracy. The iconic Classical temple embodied Jefferson’s ideas and ideals, his hopes for a new nation, and set the model for public architecture.

The transcendent importance of Jefferson’s temple is well accepted. Less understood is the fact that Capitol Square is a significant historic designed cultural landscape in its own right. The Square must be treated with sensitivity appropriate to its status as a rare and nationally significant landscape resource. In spite of change and erosion of historic integrity through past practices, the Square retains some important features (notably, its original 1818 cast- and wrought-iron fence) and the ability to convey an understanding of its two important nineteenth-century landscape plans—both drawn by the hands of distinguished designers—the Godefroy Plan (1816-1817) and the Notman plan (1850-1860). With the installation of its fence in 1818 following completion of the Godefroy Plan, the “Publick Square” became one of the nation’s very earliest enclosed public spaces. Notman’s overlay plan respected and built upon aspects of the neo-Classical framework provide by Godefroy, and created a much-loved park in the then-new to America picturesque style. Historically important, Notman’s overlay is one of the earliest uses of this popular style in the nation in a major urban park project, predating other parks designed in the style by years. Moreover, the new park was so

pleasing to citizens and visitors to the Capital City that it stimulated the City to buy similar spaces to create an urban park system and to establish an urban reforestation initiative. Thus the park at Capitol Square is linked integrally to the development and planning of Richmond.

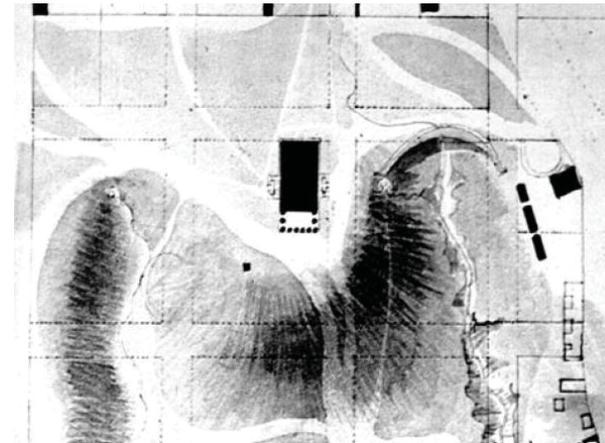
Over the last sixty years, a focus on the built environment has resulted in an official system of identifying and recognizing the most valuable and transcendent cultural and historic sites and landscapes in the states and the nation. It is important to note that both the Capitol and all of Capitol Square are honored at the highest level of state and national designations: the Virginia Landmarks Register, the National Register of Historic Places and as a National Historic Landmark. The National Historic Landmark designation is reserved (to paraphrase) for places of “surpassing interest to the American people” and that are “essential to understanding American history.” Moreover, in 2008 the Capitol and the portion of the Capitol Square landscape shown in the diagram opposite were officially included in the Tentative World Heritage Site list. Such places must have high integrity and hold outstanding and universal natural or cultural value.

The development of one of the country’s oldest enclosed landscapes and earliest designed public parks is outlined in the rest of this section. In addition, a timeline of the important events contributing to the Capitol Square landscape is provided at the end of this chapter.



Historic Context:
 Capitol Building Era *

Virginia’s Capitol building was completed in the 1790’s atop Shockoe Hill, following a 1779 decision to relocate the seat of state government from Williamsburg to Richmond. Nevertheless, it was not until 1816 that steps were taken to begin enclosing and improving the Square surrounding the Capitol—at that time delineated as “Publick Square.” Then, in 1816, with the passage of “An Act concerning the public property in the City of Richmond,” authorizing the hiring of a person or persons for “regulating the surface of the public square” and for “enclosing, planting, and improving the same,” the General Assembly opened the door for improvements to the landscape around the Capitol. In response to this act, the French émigré architect Maximillian Godefroy was commissioned to “prepare plans for repairs to the Capitol building and improvements to...” the public square.

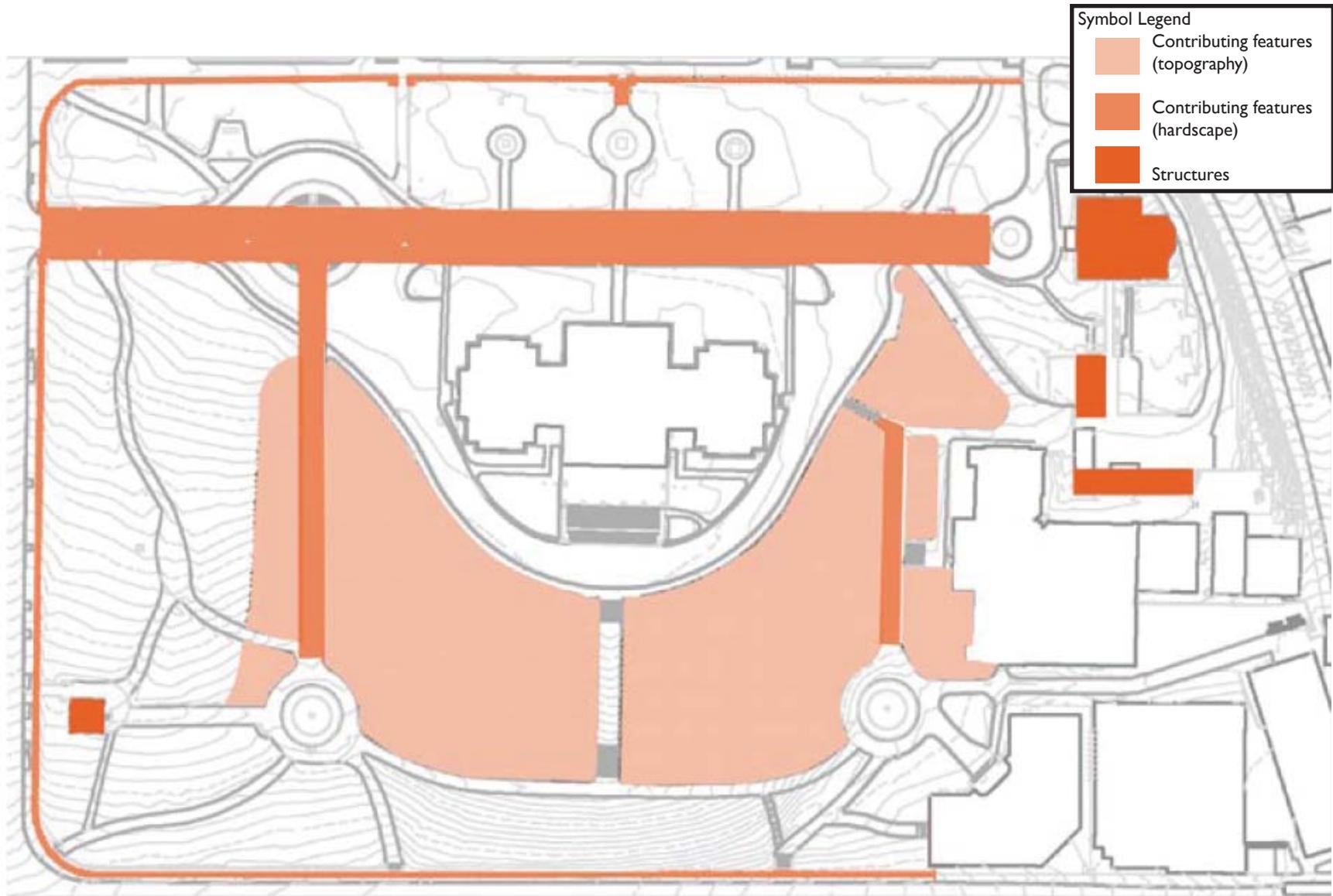


Henry Latrobe plan rendering ca. 1797



Henry Latrobe rendering ca. 1797
 Image courtesy of the Maryland Historical Society

*Section text adapted from the 2004 CSLMP



HISTORIC CONTEXT - EXTANT FEATURES FROM THE GODEFROY ERA*
*FROM THE 2004 CSLMP



Historic Context:

Godefroy Era *

The Godefroy Plan, as developed and implemented between 1816 and 1817, was intended to improve the setting of the Capitol as well as provide an appropriate site for a Virginia monument to George Washington. With those goals in mind, Godefroy developed a plan of elegant walks framed by large trees, stairs, and water features. The major features of the Godefroy Plan included: a 50-foot terrace on the summit of the hill surrounding the Capitol on its north, east and west sides as well as a 100-foot terrace on the south side; a grand “Avenue” along the axis of Grace Street; two long avenues lined with shade trees in the ravines on either side of the site; a proposed location for the Washington Monument on the lower south terrace; and entrances to include a carriage entry on Capitol Street, five pedestrian gates on Bank Street, and one at the intersection of Ninth and Grace Streets.

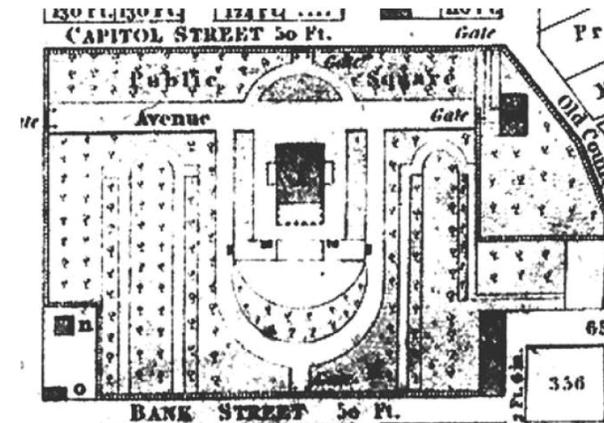
As described by the late T. Tyler Potterfield, Jr, the plan as it appears to have been envisioned by Godefroy, would have established a fitting setting for the Virginia Capitol while preserving the site’s most distinctive features, including the Capitol Hill promontory and the two spring-fed dells.

Although all aspects of the plan were not implemented, it appears that many of its key elements were put in place between 1816 and 1820. The Avenue behind the Capitol is a significant feature of the Godefroy plan that remains intact today.

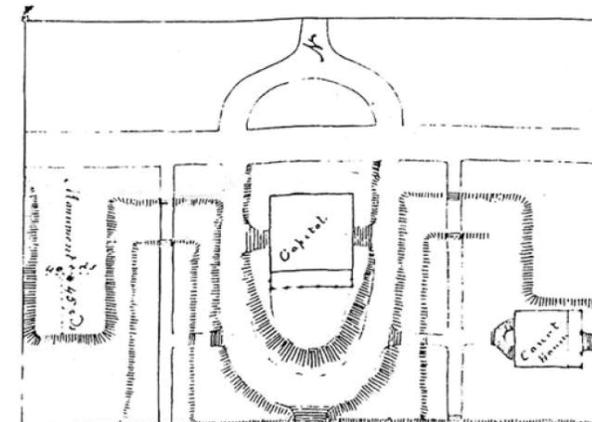
During the 1817-1826 period, a number of other changes to the Capitol Square landscape occurred, including the design and milestone event of the installation of a wrought iron fence to enclose all four sides of the Square (1817-1818); the construction of the

*Section text adapted from the 2004 CSLMP

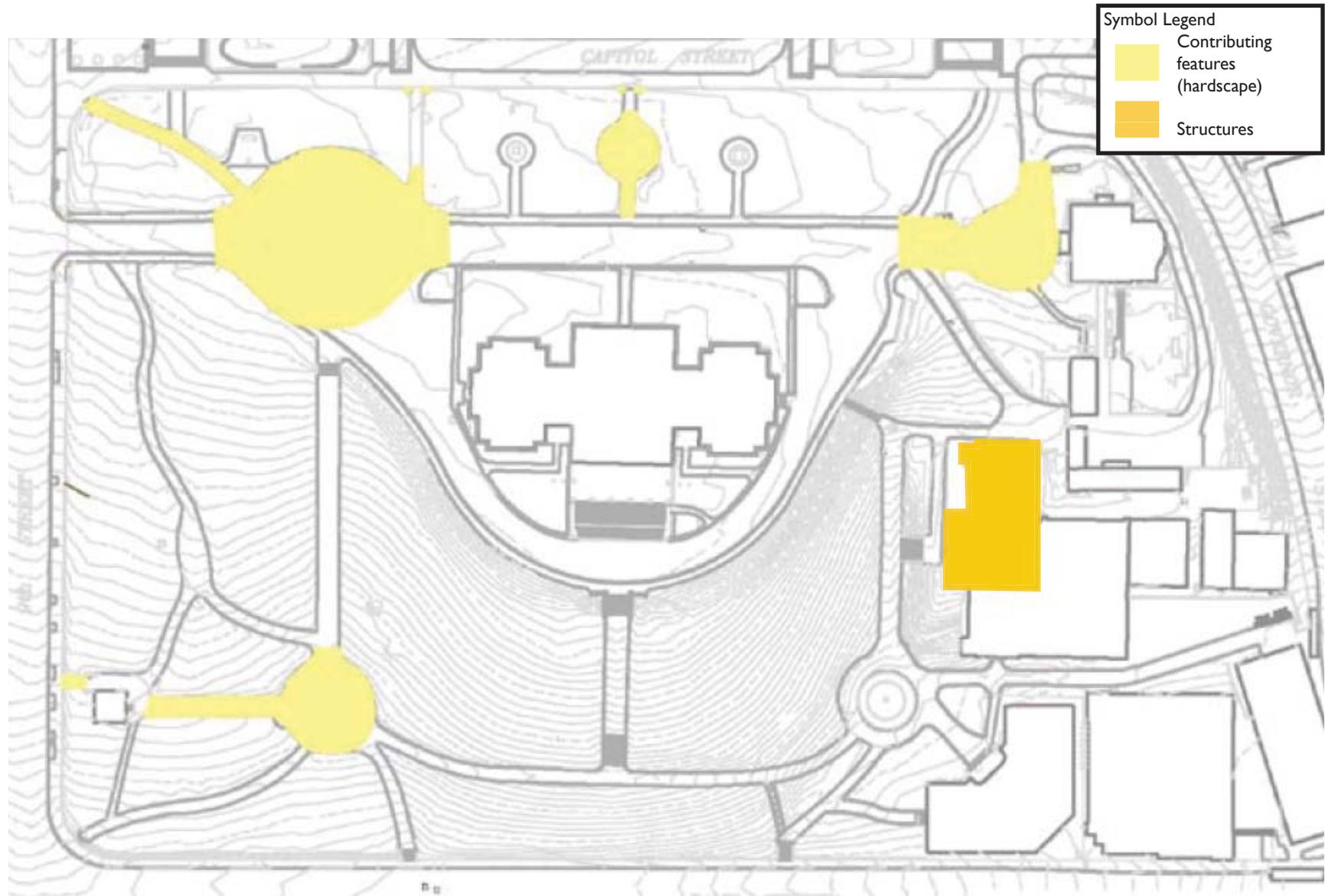
Bell Tower (1824), and the planting of several shipments of both exotic and native plants in the Square (1825-1826).



Rendering of the Square, ca. 1835
Image courtesy of the Library of Virginia



Rendering of the Square, ca. 1849



HISTORIC CONTEXT - EXTANT FEATURES FROM THE NOTMAN ERA*
*FROM THE 2004 CSLMP



Historic Context:

Notman Era *

During the period from 1830-1849, Capitol Square fell into disrepair. A movement was begun in 1843 to begin improvements to the site through the use of slave convicts as the primary source of labor. In 1849, the General Assembly initiated a design competition for the Virginia Washington Monument, a feature that had been envisioned earlier by Godefroy. The selected design, by Thomas Crawford, was constructed in 1850, with significant negative impact on the Godefroy-era landscape. Thus, in the same year, the Scottish-born Philadelphia architect and landscape gardener, John Notman, was commissioned to create a new plan for Capitol Square. Although it took a decade to complete, the Notman Plan represents the first major urban park plan executed in the 'Picturesque' mode in the United States. It predates A.J. Downing's design for the Mall in Washington D.C. by nearly two years and Fairmount Park in Philadelphia and Central Park in New York by nearly a decade.

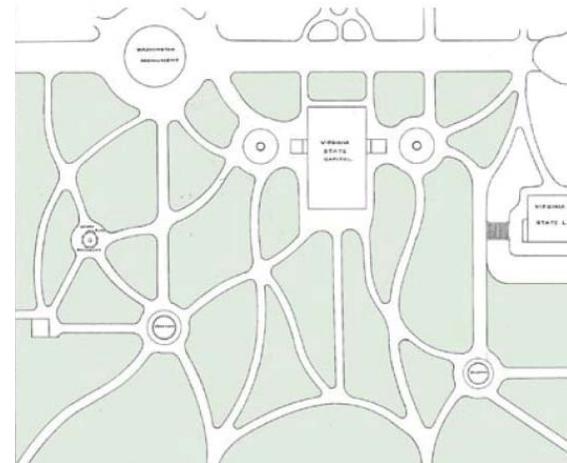
Many of the key elements of the Notman Plan were eventually implemented, including:

- Retention of Godefroy's "Avenue" and the two walks within the dells;
- Installation of focal point fountains at the bottom of each dell;
- Creation of a network of curving paths throughout the site; and,
- The detailed planting of trees and shrubs, including the introduction of both evergreen and flowering trees.

Implementation of the Notman Plan proceeded until 1853, when Governor Joseph Johnson suspended work based on his aesthetic

*Section text adapted from the 2004 CSLMP

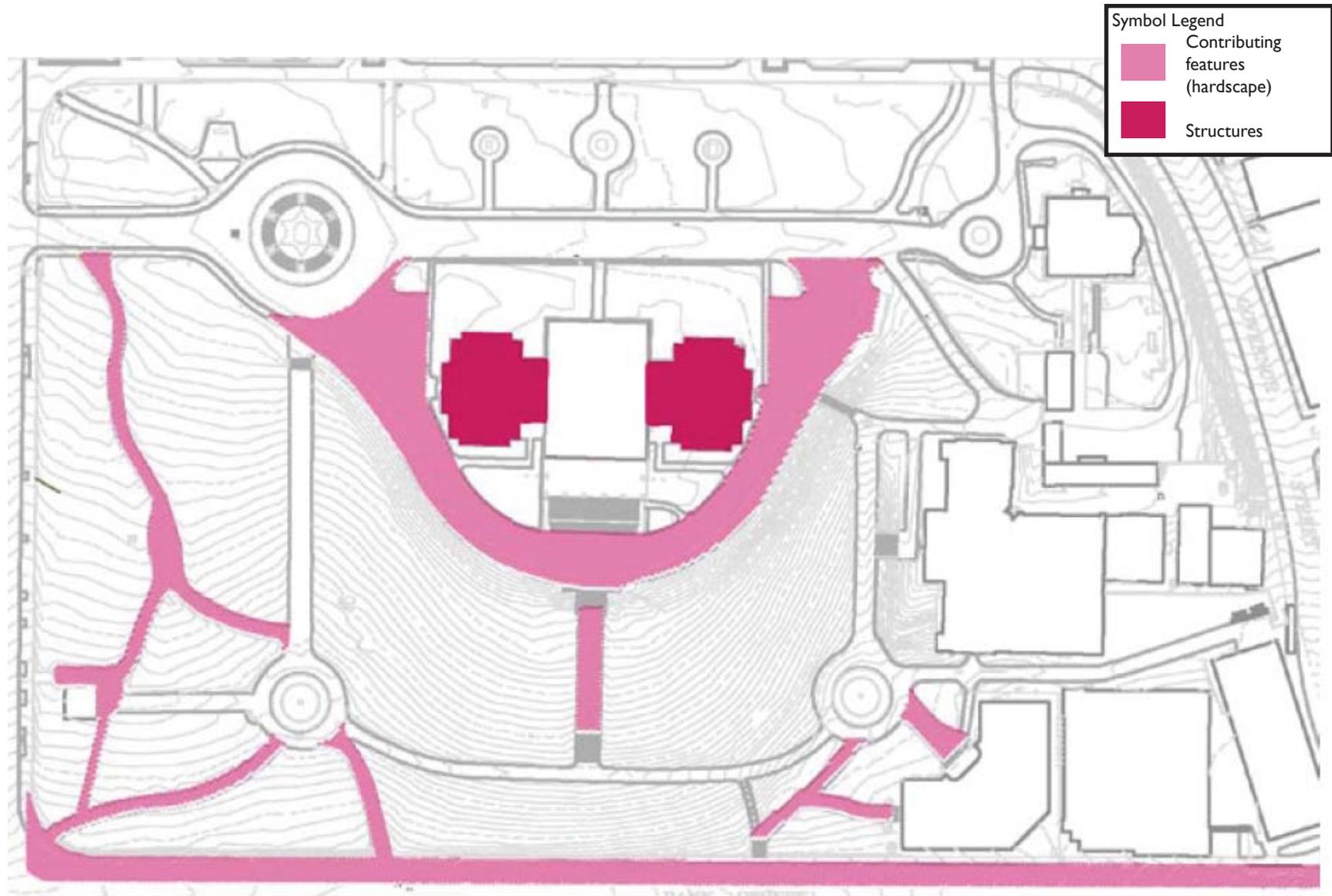
objections to the design. Work on the plan did not resume until 1858, and finally achieved completion in 1860. The results were a park so popular as a gathering and recreational place with citizens and visitors alike that the City of Richmond acquired similar spaces throughout the City for a system of parks and established an early urban reforestation program. Fortunately, when the areas south and west of Capitol Square were destroyed by Confederate troops five years later, Capitol Square survived and remained relatively intact for the duration of the war. This status quo was maintained for nearly 40 years, with the Square remaining virtually unchanged but for the addition of several significant statues and the construction of the Virginia State Library in the east side of the Square (later, the Finance Building, currently the Oliver Hill Building).



Fontain Jones survey ca. 1900



Capitol Building at the end of the 19th Century
Image courtesy of the Valentine Museum



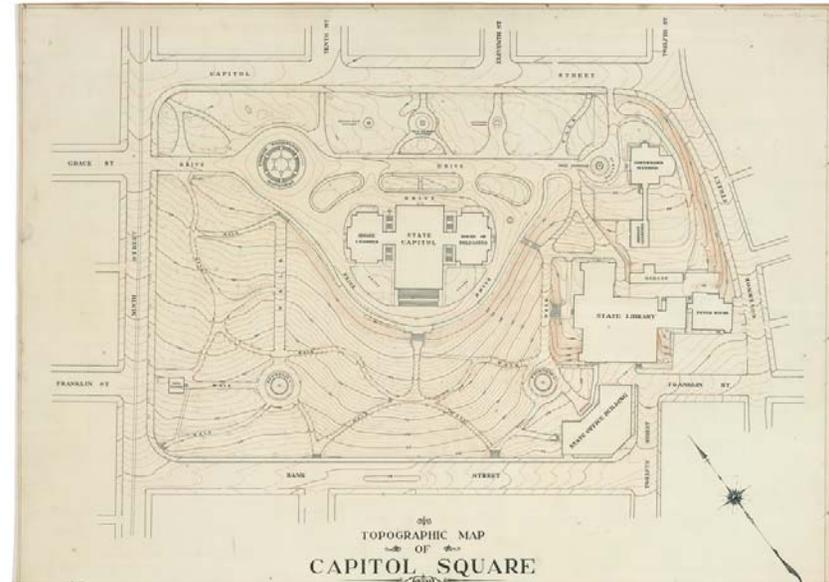
HISTORIC CONTEXT - EXTANT FEATURES FROM THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY*
*FROM THE 2004 CSLMP



Historic Context:
Early 20th Century *

In 1904, with the beginning of the expansion of the Capitol building, an era of changes to the landscape was again initiated. Concurrent with the completion of the Capitol enlargement was the establishment, in 1906, of a “Plan for the Improvement of the Capitol Grounds” by landscape gardener George W. Browne. While much of the Browne plan appears not to have been implemented, the most significant landscape change was the installation of a drive around the Capitol and new walks north of the “Avenue.”

Significant landscape changes did not occur again until the early 1920’s with the 15-foot widening of Bank Street and the resulting impacts on Capitol Square. These included the elimination of a row of mature trees and the relocation of both the fence and entrance gates along the Bank Street side of the Square. This action resulted in the need for steps to access the Square, as well as the construction of a retaining wall along Bank Street. The additional major change from this period was the construction of the State Office Building (now, the Washington Building) in the southeast corner of the Square.

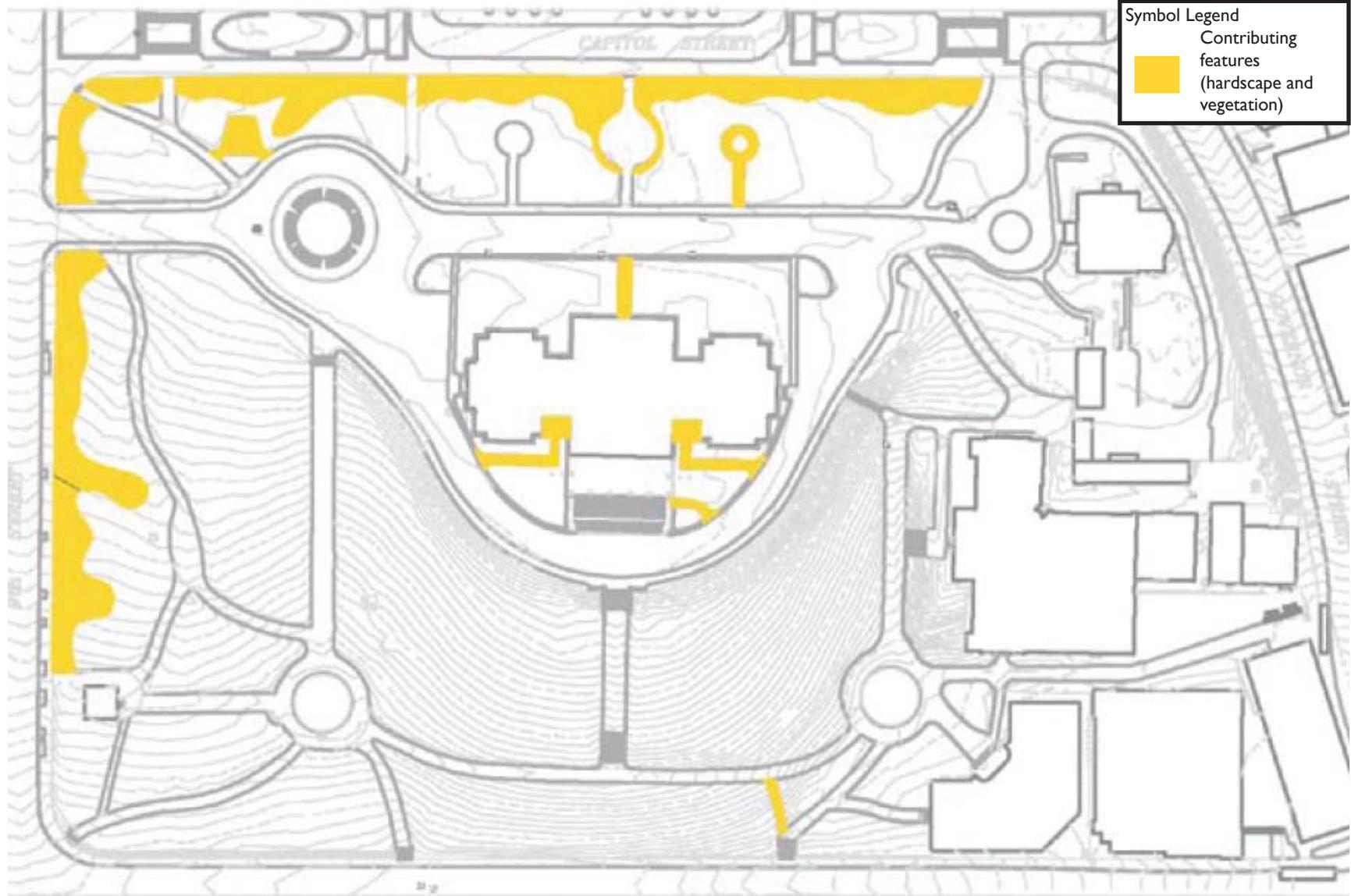


*Topographic survey, ca. 1935
Image courtesy of the Library of Virginia*



Capitol building after expansion, ca. 1907

*Section text adapted from the 2004 CSLMP



HISTORIC CONTEXT - EXTANT FEATURES FROM THE LATE 20TH CENTURY*
*FROM THE 2004 CSLMP



Historic Context:

Late 20th Century *

The landscape, once again, remained substantially intact for another 27 years. In 1949, however, the walks dating from the Notman Plan were reconfigured, rerouted and, at times, eliminated, with new brick walkways installed. Much of the 1949 configuration remains today. In addition, in 1950, significant planting along the perimeter fence created the dense, planted border condition currently in place. The 1950's also saw the death of many of the site's Elm trees – an important change to the landscape character of the Square – as well as the consolidation of the oval islands behind the Capitol as a large lawn.

In the mid-1950's, the landscape architect Charles Gillette proposed plans for a new reflecting pool, brick walkways, new lighting, and irrigation of the Square. His plans, however, were never implemented. A decade later, Meade Palmer designed several new pathways leading to the Capitol as well as perimeter planting changes to the site as a whole. As illustrated in the images shown, additions to the landscape during the latter half of the Twentieth Century were fairly limited in both scope and extent.

As noted in the 2004 landscape Master Plan, the late T. Tyler Potterfield, Jr., summarized the landscape changes of the most recent century as follows: **

The twentieth century failed to chart a coherent course for Capitol Square. Overall this period can be seen as an erosion of significant and attractive nineteenth century features of the Square. There was no counterpart to the Godefroy or Notman plans to shape the Square

in this period. Instead many small plans and improvements encroached upon these earlier designs. As the Square enters its third full century let us hope that the forthcoming master plan can guide the preservation and improvement in a suitably far-reaching manner.²

The current landscape of Capitol Square reflects the multiple layers of its history.

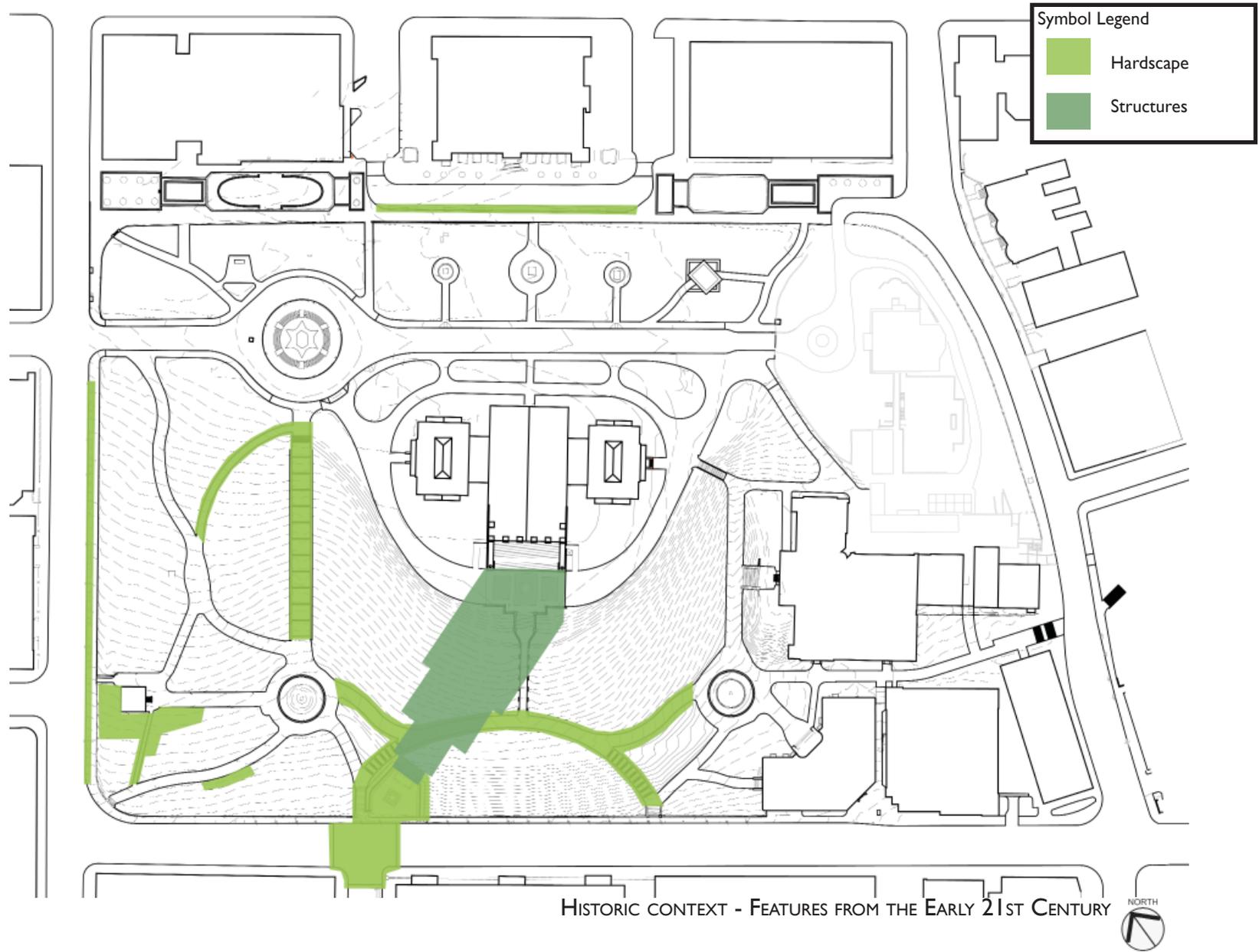
(Footnotes)

¹ This summary is based on the “Development of Capitol Square” timeline by James Wootton, and “Capitol Square Historic Landscapes Report” by T. Tyler Potterfield, Jr.

² “Capitol Square Historic Landscape Report. Part 4: The Diminishment of Capitol Square 1895-1960.” April 20, 2003.

*Section text adapted from the 2004 CSLMP

**Items in italics are quoted from the 2004 CSLMP



Historic Context:

Early 21st Century

Since the turn of the century, significant changes have been made to Capitol Square. In addition to several upgrades made in response to the recommendations of the 2004 CSLMP (detailed in the appropriate sections of this document) three broad areas of the site have changed:

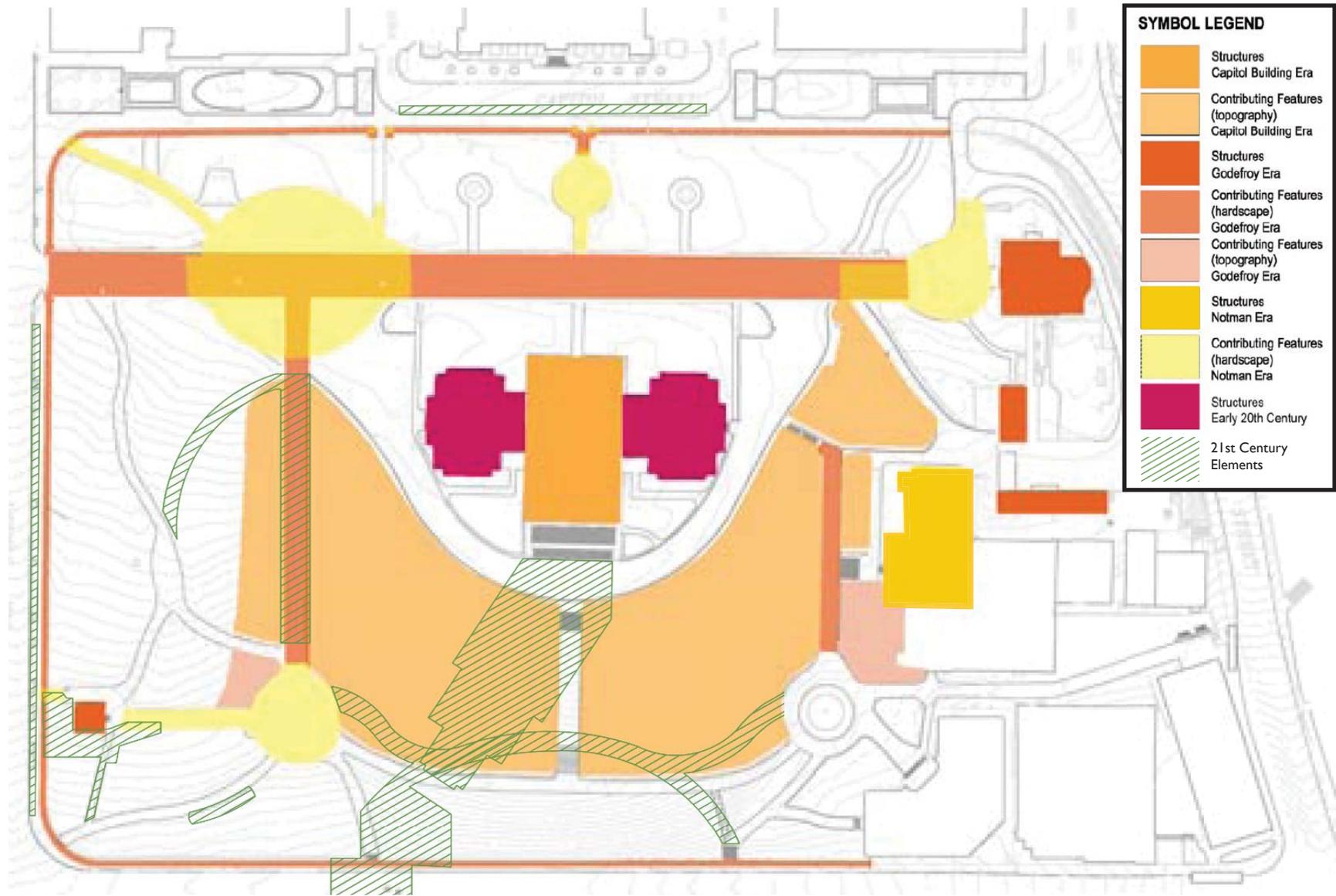
1. In 2003-2007, a subterranean Visitor Center was constructed under the Square. The Visitor Center entry opens onto Bank Street; it is marked by a small plaza and flanking walls that draw the visitor into the building. A staircase to the left of the entry plaza lead visitors up to the level of the Square.
2. In 2009-2012 as part of the “Greening the Virginia Capitol” initiative, several low-impact stormwater infrastructure elements were installed. These elements include permeable paving of new site paths, rain gardens at the Bell Tower, and infiltration basins on the sidewalks of Ninth Street and Capitol Street.
3. In 2008, the Civil Rights Monument was installed on a site at the eastern end of the Avenue, in line with other previously built monuments. Two additional monuments are planned to be installed in the Western Dell. These two are outlined and addressed in more detail later. (See pp. 50-51)



View of the Civil Rights Monument



View of the Visitor Center



SYMBOL LEGEND	
	Structures Capitol Building Era
	Contributing Features (topography) Capitol Building Era
	Structures Godefroy Era
	Contributing Features (hardscape) Godefroy Era
	Contributing Features (topography) Godefroy Era
	Structures Nolman Era
	Contributing Features (hardscape) Nolman Era
	Structures Early 20th Century
	21st Century Elements

HISTORIC CONTEXT - EXTANT FEATURES FROM HISTORIC ERAS*

*ADAPTED FROM THE 2004 CSLMP



Historic Context:

Extant Features *

The adjacent diagram illustrates the extant historic elements of Capitol Square. These are the existing features that remain from each of the historic periods of development. Structures, paving and landscape elements are identified according to the historic period in which they were constructed.

*Section text adapted from the 2004 CSLMP

Timeline

1779 *The Virginia General Assembly passes “An Act for the Removal of the Seat of Government” to relocate the Capitol from Williamsburg to Richmond. The legislation calls for acquisition of six squares of property to accommodate a Capitol, a hall of justice, executive boards and offices, a market, and an executive mansion.*

1780 *The General Assembly moves to Richmond and meets at present-day 14th and Cary streets. Governor Thomas Jefferson takes up residence in the Turpin tenement, a block north of the present Executive Mansion. The Assembly passes “An Act for locating the Publick Squares, to enlarge the Town of Richmond, and for other purposes.” The act authorizes the Directors of Public Buildings to lay off streets squares and lots, and it names Jefferson among the Directors.*

1782 *The General Assembly passes an act allowing the three branches of government to be placed in one building and eliminating the need for separate buildings and squares for each.*



1782 Map Detail

1784 *“An act directing the sale of the public lands or other property in or near the city of Richmond” authorizes the sale of lands to raise funds for the construction of the Capitol and affirms the location of government buildings on Shockoe Hill.*



1784 Latrobe rendering
Image courtesy of the Maryland Historical Society

1785 *To prevent the General Assembly’s removal of the Capitol back to Williamsburg, the Directors of Public Buildings begin foundation construction on a new Capitol. Work is taking place on the site of Gunn’s “yellow” house, following Jefferson’s recommendation. Jefferson forwards plans and a model for the Capitol.*

1786-1800 *Construction of the Capitol takes place. The General Assembly begins meeting in the unfinished building in 1788. The Square surrounding the Capitol remains unenclosed and unimproved. The first documented use of the singular term “Publick Square” appears in a 1798 act of the General Assembly for construction of a reservoir.*



1786-1800 Latrobe rendering
Image courtesy of the Maryland Historical Society

*Items in italics are quoted from the 2004 CSLMP

1809 The “Publick Square” is shown on the map of Richmond published by City Surveyor Richard Young. This is the first delineation of Capitol Square and of Bank and Capitol streets.

1813
The Executive Mansion is constructed.



1813 Executive Mansion
Image courtesy of the Library of Virginia

1816 The General Assembly passes “An Act concerning the public property in the City of Richmond” for “regulating the surface of the public Square” and for “enclosing, planting and improving the same.” French emigré Maximillian Godefroy is commissioned to prepare plans for repairs to the Capitol building and improvements to Capitol Square.

1817 The Godefroy plan is implemented as the Square is regraded and planted. Paul Alexis Sabbaton presents plans and a “pattern” for a cast and wrought iron fence to enclose all four sides of the Square. The Virginia Executive Council contracts with Sabbaton for his Design #1. Sabbaton returns to New York and casts 3000 linear feet of fence.

1818 The Sabbaton fence arrives in Richmond and is installed. Work on the Godefroy plan continues.

1824 The present Bell Tower is constructed.



1824 Bell Tower
Image courtesy of the Library of Virginia

1825 The City of Richmond undertakes additional work to the Square. Two shipments of exotic trees shipped from the Linnaean Botanic Garden in Flushing, New York, are received in Richmond in the spring and fall.

1826 Superintendent of the Square George Nevens gathers native trees for planting and ships them to Richmond via the James River and Kanawha Canal.

1830-1849 Capitol Square falls into disrepair. “Public Square” is replaced with the designation of “Capitol Square” on maps and in written descriptions. In 1843 the Virginia General Assembly authorizes the use of slave convicts for labor in improving Capitol Square.

*Items in italics are quoted from the 2004 CSLMP

1849 *The General Assembly holds a design competition for the Virginia Washington Monument, and the monument commissioners select Thomas Crawford's entry.*

1850 *Crews of skilled stonemasons, laborers, and slaves construct the monument. Work on the monument disrupts the Godefroy-era landscaping improvements.*

Scottish-born John Notman is commissioned to redesign the Square. After touring the grounds and reviewing the Godefroy plan, Notman prepares a plan and report. Notman's design is the first major urban park plan executed in the "Picturesque" mode in the United States. It predates A. J. Downing's design for the Mall in Washington, D. C., by nearly two years and Fairmount Park in Philadelphia and Central Park in New York by nearly a decade.



1850 Washington Equestrian

1851 *Work commences on the western side of the Square, with relocating existing trees, planting new trees, installing walks, leveling the surface of the Square, and installing new entrances the Square. The City or Richmond begins one of the first municipal park systems in the country, with Capitol Square as its centerpiece.*

1852 *The City installs the fountain and fountain perimeter fence on the western side of the Square. New entrances are added to the Square with stone piers and iron turnstiles.*



1852 Fountain

1853 *Governor Johnston suspends work on the Square because of his objections to the Notman plan. Despite protests by the City of Richmond and the local press, the project is stalled for the better part of the decade.*

1858 *Governor Wise initiates work on the eastern side of the Square to complete the Notman plan. Crawford's Washington statue is installed.*

**Items in italics are quoted from the 2004 CSLMP*

1860 The eastern side of the Square is completed. The Ladies Clay Association installs the Henry Clay monument and pavilion between the Bell Tower and Washington Monument.



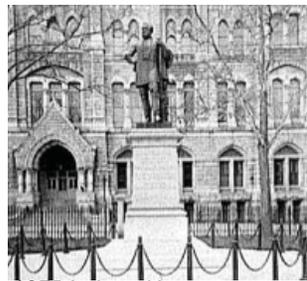
1860 Henry Clay monument

1865 The area south and west of the Square is destroyed in the evacuation of Richmond by Confederate troops. Capitol Square survives the calamity, and Northern photographers capture important early images of the Square.



1865 Image of Capitol during the Civil War
Image courtesy of the Library of Virginia

1875 A statue of General Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson is installed directly behind the Capitol.



1875 Jackson Monument

1890-1899 The gates and turnstiles are removed from the Square.

1895 The Virginia State Library (now the Oliver Hill Building) is completed on the east side of the Square.



1885 Image of the State Library
Image courtesy of the Library of Virginia

1904 The statue of Dr. Hunter Holmes McGuire is installed east of the Jackson statue. As the expansion of the Capitol begins, landscaping features in the immediate vicinity of the building are destroyed.



1904 McGuire Monument

*Items in italics are quoted from the 2004 CSLMP

1906 The statue of Governor “Extra Billy” Smith is installed west of the Jackson Monument. The Commonwealth completes expansion of the Capitol. Landscape gardener George W. Browne completes a plan for the Capitol Square to include walks around the statues on the north side of the Square, a drive around the Capitol Building, and heavy plantings throughout the Square.



1912 Image of the Capitol
Image courtesy of the Library of Virginia



Image of Smith Monument

1907 Partial implementation of the Browne plan takes place, with construction of the drive around the Capitol, new walks north of the Avenue, and electric lights.

1920 Bank Street is widened fifteen feet on the north side, resulting in the original gate posts being moved back and reworked.

1922 The Commonwealth constructs the State Office Building (now the Washington Building) at the southeast corner of the Square.

1929 The Virginia Zero mile marker is installed near the Washington Monument.

1932 The Henry Clay Monument is relocated into the Capitol. The pavilion, in disrepair, is demolished.

1940 The second State Library Building (now the Patrick Henry Building) is completed at Governor and Capitol streets north of the Square.

1949 The walks are reconfigured to more or less their current configuration. Many of the Notman Walks are removed and some 15,000 new bricks installed.

1950 The General Assembly allocates \$10,000 for planting on the Square, and extensive perimeter planting is installed.

1950-1959 Dutch elm disease kills many of the elms on the Square. A brick wall replaces the cast iron fence in front of the Executive Mansion. The oval islands behind the Capitol building are consolidated into a single large lawn.

**Items in italics are quoted from the 2004 CSLMP*

1958 *The statue of Edgar Allan Poe is installed north of the Bell Tower.*



Poe Monument

1972 *The statue of Senator Harry F. Byrd, Sr. is installed near the Washington Monument*



Byrd Monument

2004 Landscape master plan written by Rhoadside & Harwell.

2003-2007

3rd major renovation to the Capitol was undertaken. Updates included:

“replacing mechanical, plumbing...[HVAC, electrical] and storm water systems..., restoring architectural and historic features, renovating and replacing...exterior surfaces, constructing an extension for a Visitor Center underground on the South side of the Capitol” (Capitol Square Preservation Council website).



Visitor Center

2008 The Virginia Civil Rights Memorial was unveiled on the Avenue west of the Governor’s Mansion.



Civil Rights Monument

*Items in italics are quoted from the 2004 CSLMP

2009

General Assembly approved House Joint Resolution 680, requesting the creation of a commission to recommend an appropriate monument in Capitol Square to commemorate the life, achievements, and legacy of American Indians in the Commonwealth.



*Model of proposed Virginia Indian Monument
Image courtesy of the Commonwealth of Virginia's Department of General Services*

2010

Senate Joint Resolution no. 11 is passed establishing a commemorative commission to honor the contributions of the women of Virginia with a monument on the grounds of Capitol Square.



*Model of proposed Women's Monument
Image courtesy of the Commonwealth of Virginia's Department of General Services*

2011-2012

"Greening the Virginia Capitol" elements were implemented. These included pervious pavers on Monument Walk, a new pervious paver walkway connecting Monument walk to the Bell Tower, infiltration basins in the sidewalks along Ninth Street and Capitol Street, and biofiltration planting beds surrounding the Bell Tower.



Biofiltration Basin on Capitol Street



Permeable paver walkway in Western Dell

2014

Update to the Capitol Square Landscape Master Plan by H&G Landscape Architects. Construction of the Public Safety Memorial begins.



*Rendering of proposed Public Safety Memorial
Image courtesy of Glave & Holmes Architecture*



EXISTING CONDITIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Capitol Square Landscape Master Plan



View of Jackson Monument from Capitol Street



View of Monument Walk from The Avenue



View of Capitol Building from Southeast Entrance to the Square



View of Governor's Mansion from The Avenue

Existing Conditions:

General Overview

Following the recommendations made in the 2004 CSLMP, the vast majority of vehicular traffic and parking has been removed from the Square. This was a great improvement to the pedestrian experience of the space, and has moved the site closer to the realization of one of the important precepts of the Master Plan. Further improvement to the character of the various site components will be recommended in this document. With the fast-approaching bicentennial anniversary of Capitol Square in 2016-2018, the need to implement these recommendations is urgent.

Site furnishings—including benches, trash cans, and light poles—are more consistent than they were prior to the 2004 CSLMP. Improvements are still required to bring order to the multiplicity of site signs, and to create guidelines for future monuments and memorials. Additionally, some of the plantings associated with stormwater measures that were installed as part of the “Greening the Virginia Capitol” initiative could be better integrated into the traditional, well-manicured landscape of the Square (pp. 72, 112), preserving and enhancing the historic integrity of the site as well as its aesthetic beauty and functional requirements should be the drivers in the preparation of the guidelines for future signage on Capitol Square.

The 2004 CSLMP noted the generally positive qualities of Capitol Square as a public space:*

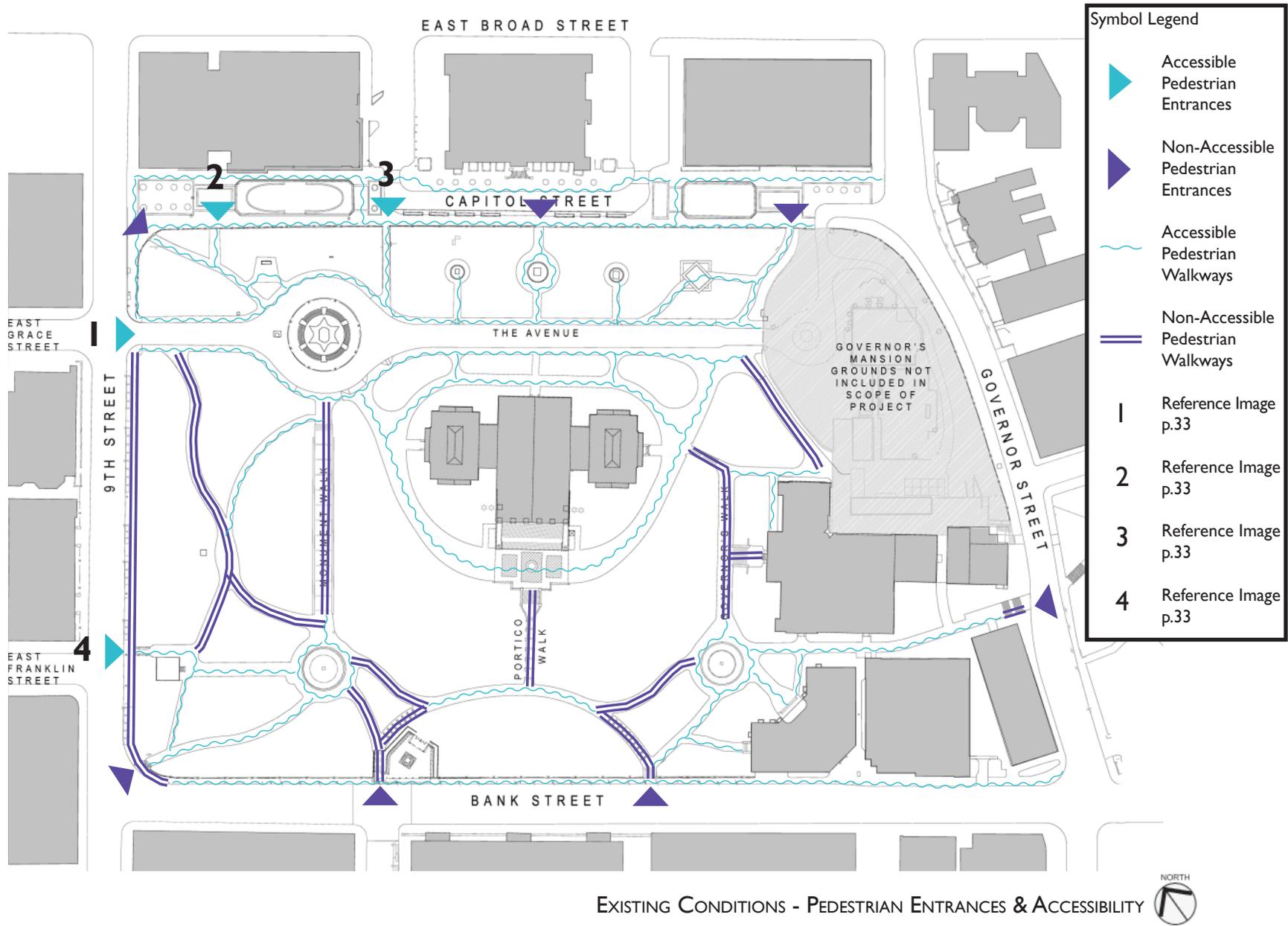
Capitol Square is an attractive, well maintained state icon and public amenity. To a first time visitor, there is nothing to suggest that the Square is in need of renova-

tion or improvement. The lawns are well manicured, the stately trees appear to be in good health and brick paths sweep through shady groves past lush flowering shrub beds. The historic structures and monuments are elegant symbols of a strong, enduring government.

The document went on to note some of the less successful elements of the Square: the prominence of vehicular uses, “coarse, utilitarian” pavements, and inconsistency of construction details and furnishings.

With time spent in the Square, however, a pattern of needed improvements emerges. The landscape of Capitol Square has great appeal as a pedestrian space, but often the pedestrian uses are secondary to the vehicular. The rich, historic architecture is often fronted by coarse, utilitarian pavements. Small details in the treatment of curbs, steps and furnishings appear inconsistent and out of context. A careful analysis of these components that together make up Capitol Square is necessary in order to understand where there is a need for change.

*Items in italics are quoted from the 2004 CSLMP



Access, Circulation, & Parking: Pedestrian Entrances & Accessibility

The 2004 CSLMP stated that Capitol Square was uninviting given the walls, fencing, and vegetation that separated people visually as well as physically from the Square. Although the entry to the underground Visitor Center has been added since the time of the earlier document, the access points to the Square itself remain unchanged from their description in the earlier document:*

The three gates along Bank Street sit high above the sidewalk with stone steps that create a forboding ascent up to the Square. On Ninth Street at the Bell Tower, there is one of only three ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant pedestrian access points...Other pedestrian entry gates [are] located at the northwest and northeast corners of the site with single steps leading up to the Square. All of the pedestrian gates are fitted with chains that are drawn closed after dark to deter night time use.

The one and only vehicular access [to the square] is on Ninth [Street] at the intersection of Grace Street. Currently there is no method to prevent unauthorized vehicles from entering the site. The existing Capitol Police check point stands at the base of the Washington Monument, approximately 160' inside the fence.

In addition to making welcoming entrances difficult to achieve, the site's topography creates a challenge to accessible pathways within the Square.

With the potential of East Grace Street opening to two-way traffic (i.e. cars would be able to travel eastward on the street and head directly into the Square's Ninth Street entrance), there may be greater pressure on that entrance physically and operationally to control any vehicles that attempt to enter the site.



Image 1: Accessible entrance at Ninth street



Image 2: Accessible entrance in front of the General Assembly Building

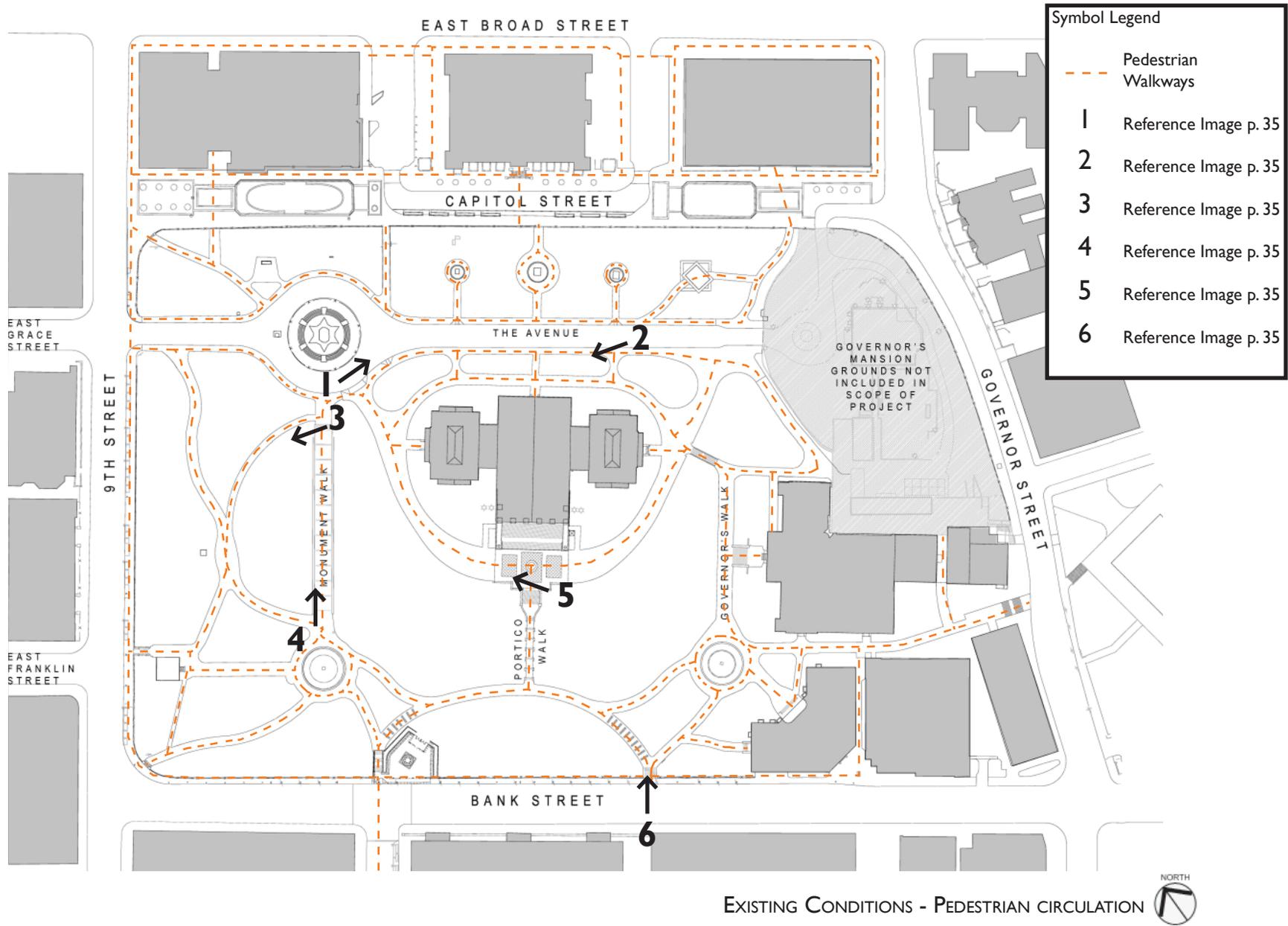


Image 3: Accessible entrance between General Assembly Building and Old City Hall



Image 4: Accessible entrance at the Bell Tower

*Items in italics are quoted from the 2004 CSLMP



Access, Circulation, & Parking:

Pedestrian Circulation

Since the publication of the 2004 CSLMP, a number of recommended improvements to pedestrian pathways have been implemented to improve the physical condition of the Square, complement visitor and daily experience and use, and reinforce the Square’s historic design. The sidewalks along the Avenue have been widened and repaved in an exposed-aggregate concrete. Governor’s Walk has been renovated; the brick paving and drainage are aesthetically and functionally improved. The terraced steps at Monument Walk have been rebuilt using permeable paving, and the Portico steps have been reconstructed. In addition a new curved path has been installed using permeable pavers—addressing the mandate for sustainability that had not yet been developed at the time of the 2004 CSLMP. Finally and perhaps most importantly, the removal of cars from the wide paved loop around the Capitol has opened the path to greater pedestrian enjoyment of the site.

One condition noted in the 2004 CSLMP remains unchanged:*

A narrow stepped walkway that leads from the south-east entry gate incorporates step and edging details and materials that are noticeably inconsistent with others on site.



Image 1: Widened Avenue walk



Image 2: Monument Walk aggregate walk



Image 3: New curved permeable paver walk



Image 4: Renovated Monument Walk with permeable pavers

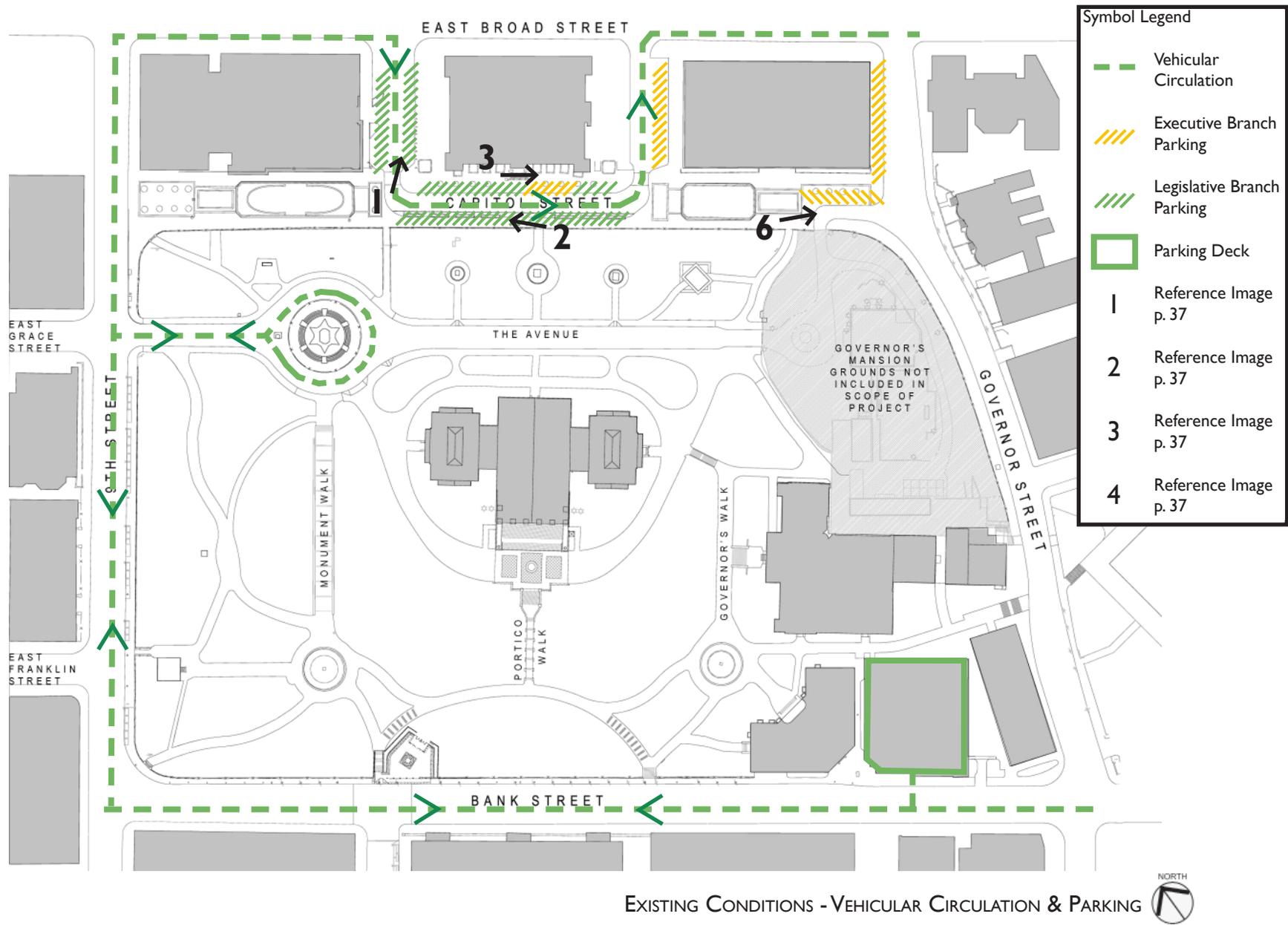


Image 5: Pedestrian only loop around the Capitol building



Image 6: Southeast Visitor’s Entrance

*Items in italics are quoted from the 2004 CSLMP



EXISTING CONDITIONS - VEHICULAR CIRCULATION & PARKING



Access, Circulation, & Parking:

Vehicular Circulation & Parking

Possibly the most significant advance in the design and use of Capitol Square since the 2004 CSLMP has been the elimination of parking and most vehicular traffic from the Avenue and the loop path around the Capitol building. This change has greatly improved the pedestrian experience of the Square and has made the site more suitable to meet its historic and modern purpose as a park. It represents the greatest progress toward one of the 2004 CSLMP's guiding principles to *“Reduce the impact of vehicles on the Square and improve the pedestrian experience.”**

Continued vigilance is needed due to ongoing pressures to re-introduce parking to Capitol Square, which would prove detrimental to the historic stature and public use of both the Capitol and landscape.

Vehicular circulation as well as parking will remain around Old City Hall for the near future because of functional necessities. (See p. 89 for recommendations for the development of Capitol Street).

The loop road around the Capitol will continue to be used for service access and for processions during inauguration events. These special uses do not conflict with the overall goals for the integrity of the Square.



Image 1: Parking around Old City Hall



Image 2: Bus loop at Old City Hall

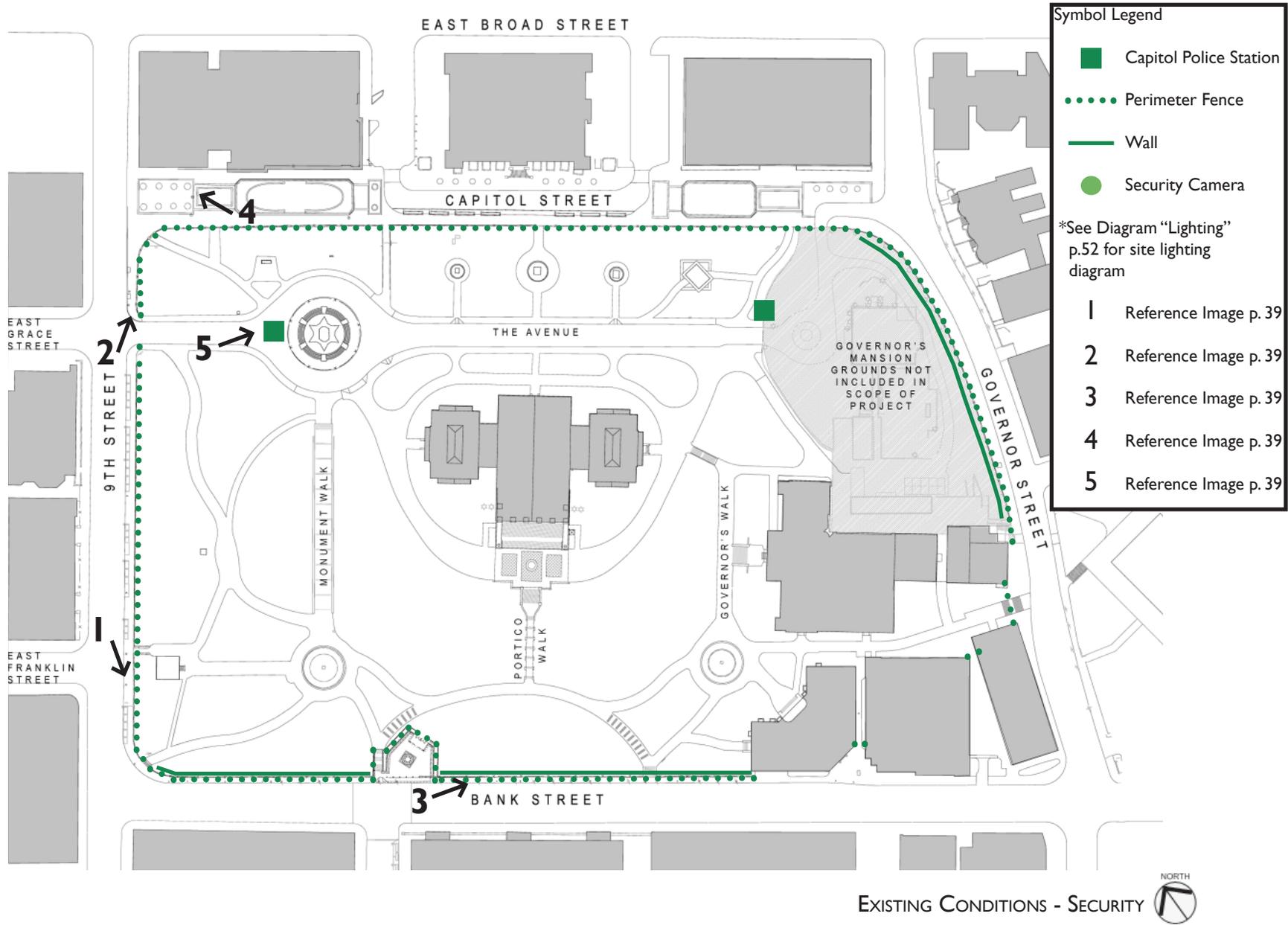


Image 3: Parking on sidewalks around Old City Hall



Image 4: Parking along Capitol Street

*Items in italics are quoted from the 2004 CSLMP



EXISTING CONDITIONS - SECURITY

Access, Circulation, & Parking: Security

In addition to the first line of security measures at the Square—the perimeter fence and wall—other components of the security system include a Capitol Police checkpoint located in a guard building at the Ninth Street vehicular entrance and gated entrances from the surrounding streets. The Capitol Police patrol the site during the day; they ride bicycles and provide a friendly and reassuring presence. Finally, there are also security cameras around the Capitol building and the site.

As mentioned previously (p. 33), if East Grace Street opens to two-way traffic, there will potentially be more pressure on the security infrastructure at the Square’s Ninth Street entrance to more clearly deter cars from entering the site. This document recommends the relocation of the guard house closer to Ninth Street and the installation of vehicular-control measures to address this potential concern.



Image 1: Perimeter Fence



Image 2: Ninth Street gate and chain



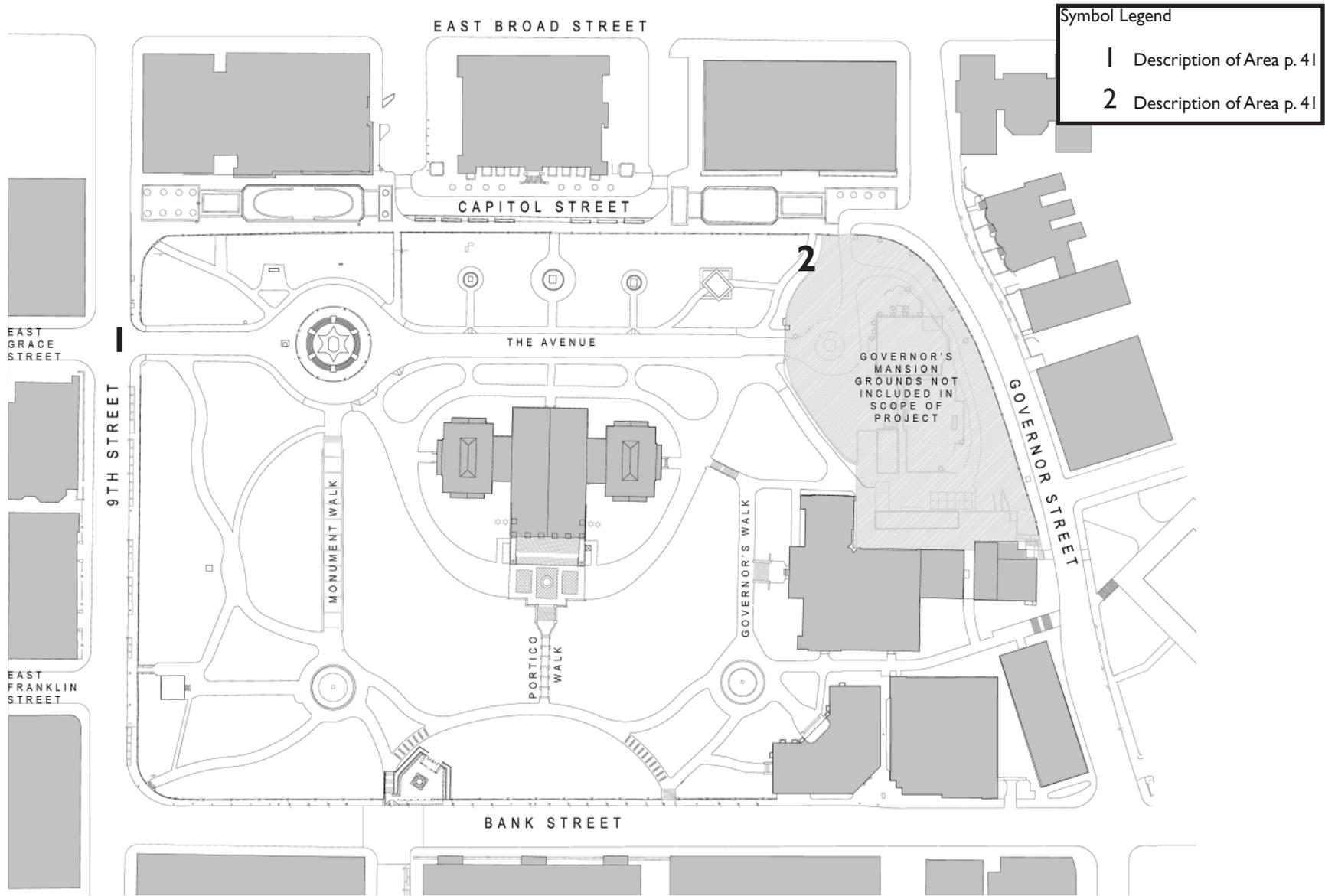
Image 3: Perimeter Wall



Image 4: Capitol Police patrols



Image 5: Checkpoint



EXISTING CONDITIONS - ACCESS, CIRCULATION & PARKING: RECOMMENDATIONS



Access, Circulation & Parking:

Recommendations

Implemented 2004 CSLMP recommendations:*

- *Increase the width and quality of sidewalks on The Avenue.*
- *Simplify the paths immediately around the Capitol.*
- *Replace portions of the existing paths, and add new paths, to restore elements of the Notman Era path system [Note: the permeable paver path generally follows the alignment of the Notman Era path].*
- *Alter vehicular circulation on the Square to eliminate the roadway south of the Capitol building.*
- *Minimize or eliminate parking on the Square. Develop alternate off-site parking locations.*
- *Eliminate all parking on lawn areas.*
- *Eliminate the need and ability to park on top of the curb.*
- *Eliminate conditions that permit stacked parking in front of the entrance.*
- *Retain the alignment, but change the grades along the steps of Monument Walk and Portico Walk.*
- *Replace the brick steps that lead from the southeast gate with new steps that are consistent with other site details and historic alignments.*
- *Provide improved event space for parades and ceremonial gatherings at the South Portico.*
- *Improve the quality and effectiveness of gate closures that complement the fence design.*

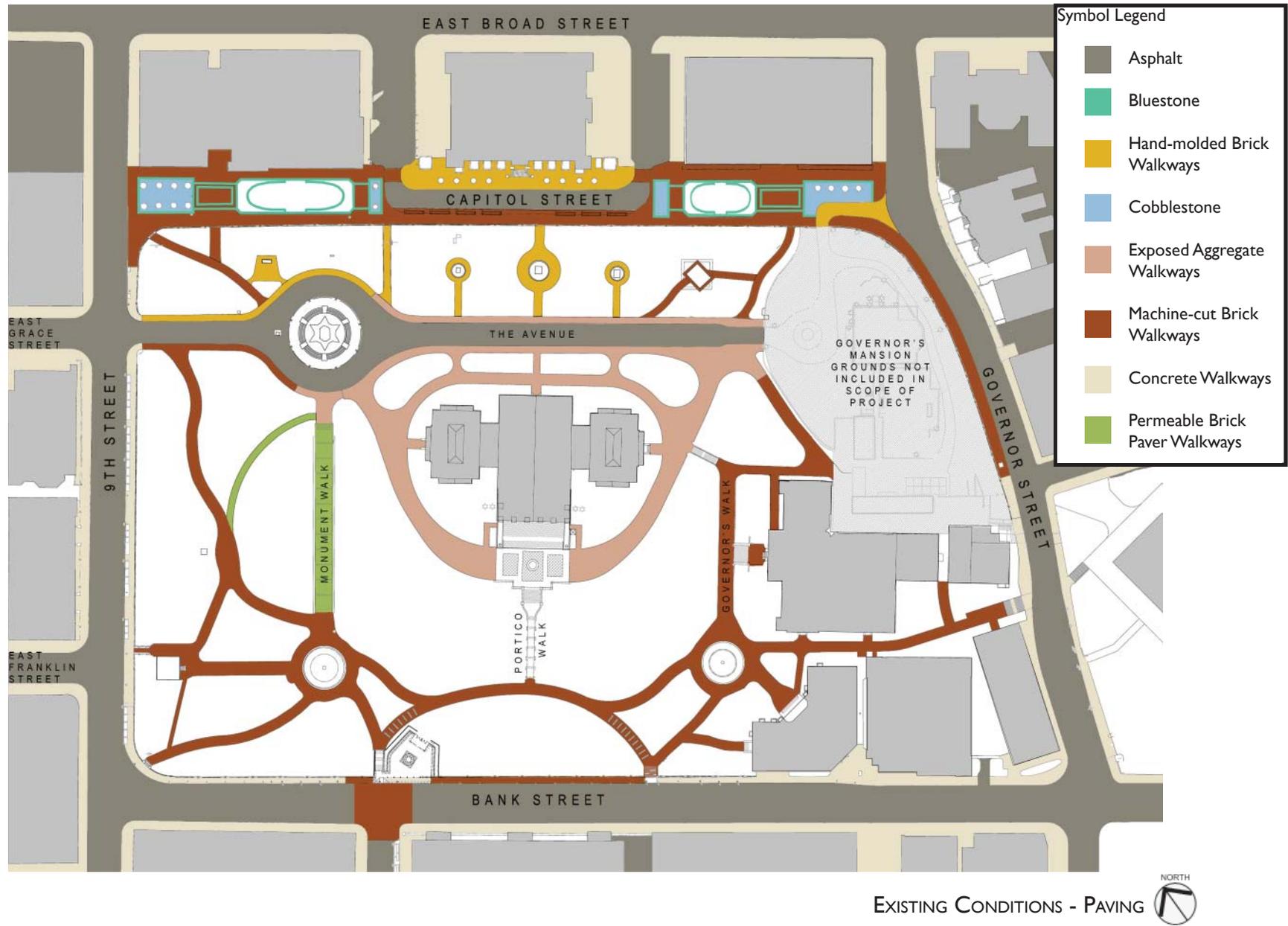
Priority recommendations from the 2004 CSLMP remaining to be implemented: * (see corresponding numbers on map at left)

1. *Prevent vehicles from entering the Square before being authorized by Capitol Police.*
2. *Create additional ADA compliant access. Modify NW and NE entry points to accommodate ADA compliance. [Note: We recommend only modifying the NE entry point which will provide conveniently accessible access to the Governor's Mansion from Capitol Street].*

Additional recommendations not included in the 2004 CSLMP:

- None.

*Items in italics are quoted from the 2004 CSLMP



Hardscape Materials

Paving

Following the recommendations in the 2004 CSLMP, asphalt was removed from the loop road around the Capitol and was replaced with an exposed-aggregate concrete. The same concrete was used to replace and widen the sidewalks along the Avenue. Asphalt remains on the Avenue itself.

At the same time, a small, elaborately patterned limestone plaza was built at the base of the Portico stair. The plaza outside the new Visitor Center entry on Bank Street, which was developed after the 2004 CSLMP was published, is a similarly patterned limestone.

Brick remains the predominant paving material. As described in the 2004 CSLMP:*

This material consists of so many varieties and designs that it creates a sense of discordance rather than cohesiveness. At least six types of brick can be found on site, each with a different color, texture, pattern and setting.

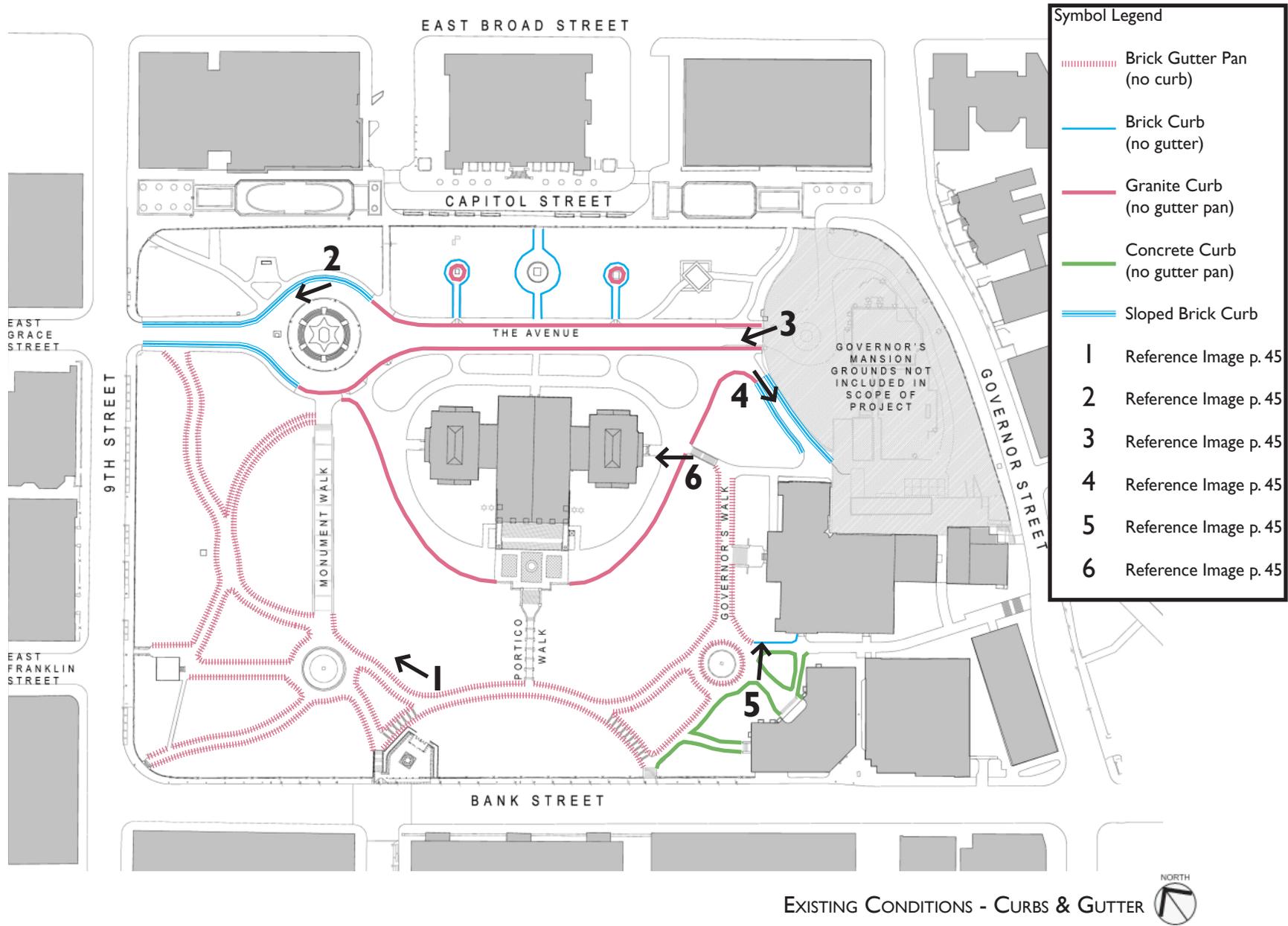
The earliest record of brick installed on the Square is from the 1930's, with about half of the brick remaining on site from this period. It is a red clay brick installed in an orthogonal herringbone pattern with a single soldier course edge. This brick originally had grouted joints but the grout has since disappeared and weeds are now growing in the interstitial spaces. Much of this brick is damaged and will eventually require repointing or replacement. Its dark red color contrasts sharply with the light, neutral colors of the Capitol exterior.

About one third of the brick on site is modern...This consists of a contemporary unit clay paver, set in a diagonal herringbone pattern with sand swept joints. The pavers themselves are loosely set on a sand bed over a concrete base. The typical edge is one or more soldier courses set at an angle to form a shallow gutter. This is held in place with a steel edge that is staked in place. In many locations, the angled bricks are coming loose from the steel edge and pose a maintenance problem and a potential tripping hazard.

Since 2004, much of the older, hand-molded clay brick has been replaced by a machine-cut brick in a range of different color palettes, some of which correspond better to the historic material than others (see p. 93 for recommended standard brick). This material is appreciated by the maintenance staff for its greater durability and because it was installed with an 8"-deep concrete base so it accommodates vehicular traffic, but it unfortunately has added yet another variant to the brick types already on site. In 2012 as part of the "Greening the Virginia Capitol" initiative, Monument Walk was repaved with permeable pavers using the machine-cut brick and a new curved permeable pathway was added.

Capitol Street is a mix of asphalt (the bus loop around Old City Hall) and brick pavers on the walking surfaces. Panels of cobblestone surround bosques of trees as part of the Darden Garden and elsewhere (see diagram left).

*Items in italics are quoted from the 2004 CSLMP



EXISTING CONDITIONS - CURBS & GUTTER



Hardscape Materials

Curbs & Gutter

The variety of curb and gutter configurations noted in the 2004 CSLMP remain. As that document notes, “Bricks have been set on edge, on end, and at angles to form curbs and gutters along many of the walkways and drives.”* There are also concrete and granite curbs as well as brick gutters and concrete gutters. There is no clear rationale for which detail is used where. The angled-brick curb detail appears to have been damaged in many places. The brick gutters that line the pathways have problem areas created by settlement.

Following the recommendation of the 2004 CSLMP, the concrete spatter course at the base of the Capitol has been replaced with an updated, poured concrete.



Image 1: Brick gutter



Image 2: Sloped brick curb



Image 3: Mountable granite curb



Image 4: Granite curb abutting sloped brick curb

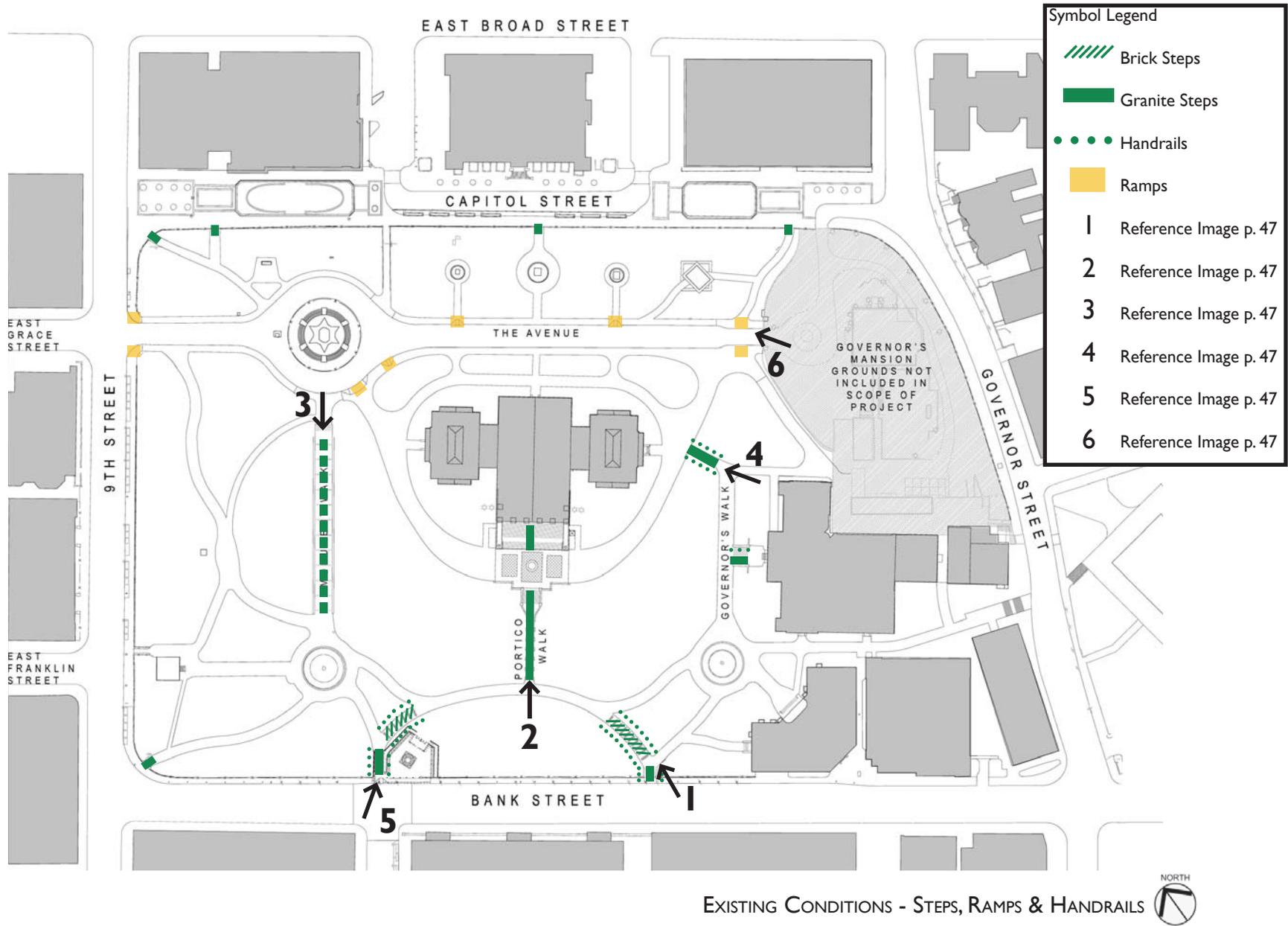


Image 5: Brick curb



Image 6: Concrete band around Capitol building

*Items in italics are quoted from the 2004 CSLMP



Hardscape Materials

Steps, Ramps & Handrails

As noted in the 2004 CSLMP, the stone steps at the Capitol Square entries to the south, east, and west are in good condition. The stairs at the northeast entry could be removed and replaced with sloping paths to make it accessible (see recommendation, p. 40).

The Portico Walk's stone steps remain in good condition; the brick ramp and steps leading up to them have been replaced and are now in good condition. The new Monument Walk incorporates granite steps along with permeable paving. The new stairs from Bank Street up to the Square on either side of the Visitor Center's entry are also granite, with green-painted metal handrails and fencing to match the other handrails on site.

The handrails along the steps at the southeast entry point from Bank Street are discontinuous and out of keeping with the simplicity of other site elements in this major view corridor for the Capitol building.



Image 1: Brick steps with handrails



Image 2: Granite steps and brick landings



Image 3: Granite steps and permeable brick landings



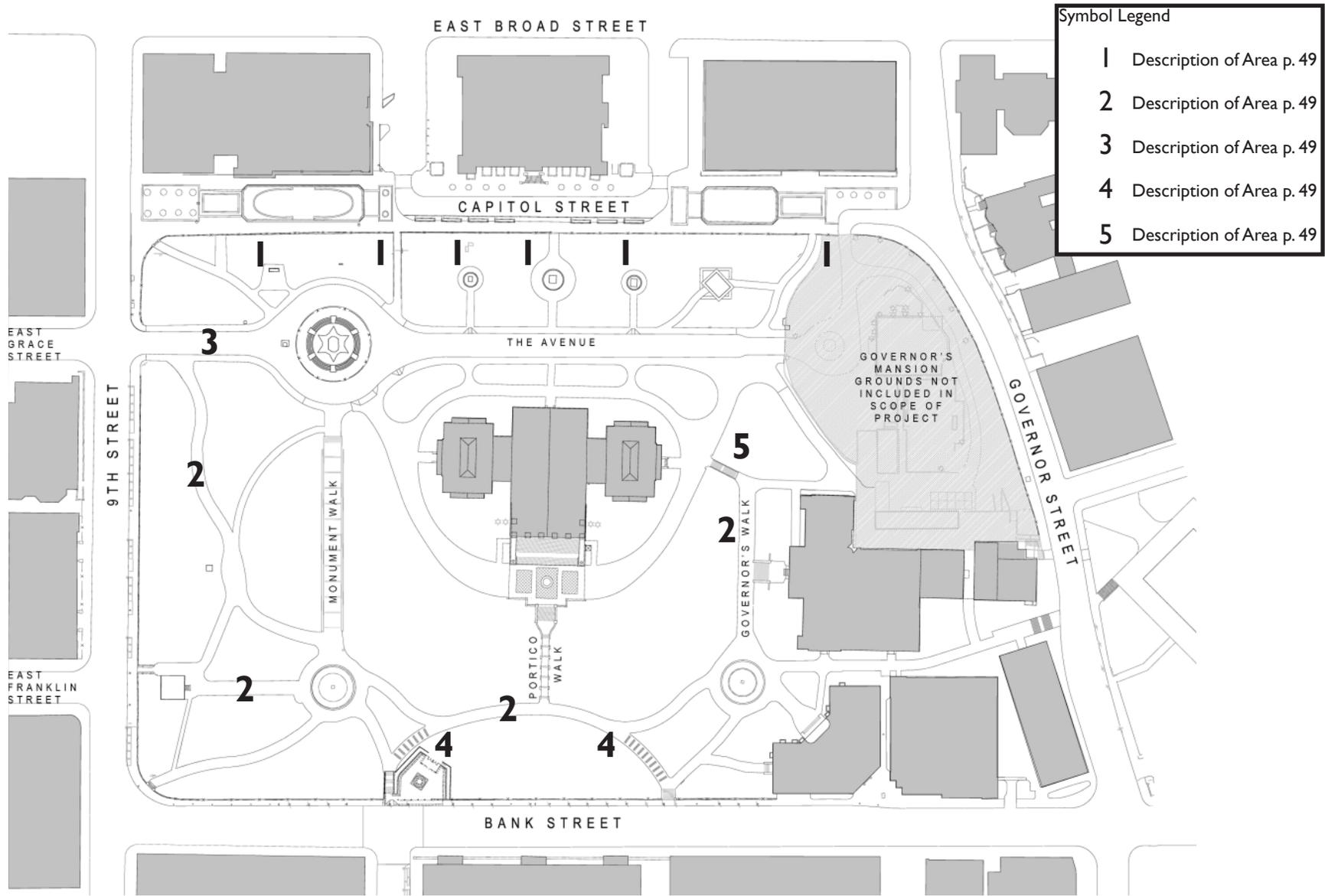
Image 4: Concrete steps with handrail



Image 5: Entry steps from the Visitor Center with continuous handrail



Image 6: ADA accessible ramp



EXISTING CONDITIONS - HARDSCAPE MATERIALS



Hardscape Materials

Recommendations

Implemented 2004 CSLMP recommendations:*

- *Reduce the area of roadway and repave with a material that compliments the design of the Capitol building and the historic character of the site.*
- *Replace the red brick paving adjacent to the Capitol with high quality neutral-colored complementary material.*
- *Replace the curb and gutter along The Avenue with one that is attractive, stable, non-mountable, and can accommodate accessible ramps. [Note: partially completed; the section of curb from the Washington Monument to Ninth Street is still left to be replaced].*
- *Replace the concrete spatter course around the Capitol with stone that will compliment the building. [Note: concrete was replaced with an upgraded concrete rather than stone]*
- *Replace the sloping brick along Portico Walk with stone steps and landings.*
- *Replace the sloping terraced steps on Monument Walk with new steps and landings.*

Priority recommendations from the 2004 CSLMP remaining to be implemented: * (see corresponding numbers on map at left)

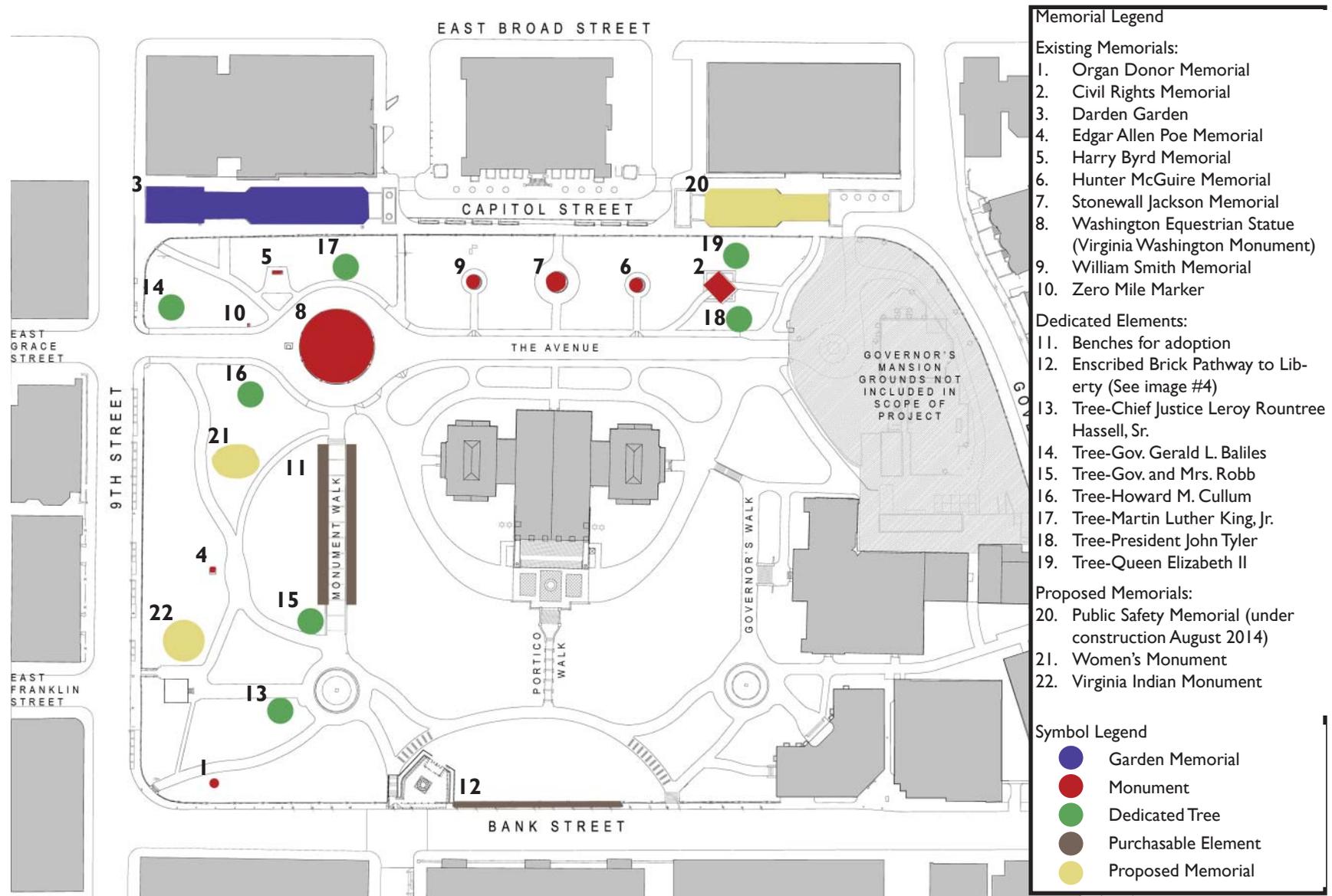
1. *Establish a standard brick paving material, pattern and method of setting to be used for all future repairs and replacements. [Note: standard has been set but most areas of brick have not been repaved to the new standard]*
2. *Reconstruct the loose-set edge of the modern pavers with a fixed edge*
3. *Develop a consistent path edge detail. [Note: install the same curb detail around the Washington Monument to Ninth Street that has been installed along the Avenue].*

Additional recommendations not included in the 2004 CSLMP: (see corresponding numbers on map at left)

4. Replace the discontinuous handrails along the stairs on the two Bank Street entries with a continuous railing along each side, which would be more visually understated and more in keeping with other restrained site elements.
5. Replace the uneven handrails at the stairs down the east side of Capitol Hill.

The overriding goal for hardscape materials is for consistency throughout the Square.

*Items in italics are quoted from the 2004 CSLMP



EXISTING CONDITIONS - MONUMENTS & MEMORIALS 

Site Elements:
Monuments & Memorials

There is a plethora of monuments and memorials in and around Capitol Square. These range from garden/environmental pieces, to monumental figurative sculptures, to smaller plaques, to memorial trees, to “donor opportunities” such as named benches and bricks. The memorials extant at the time of the 2004 CSLMP were described as follows:*

The monumental sculptures include the Washington Monument, the Stonewall Jackson Memorial, the William Smith Memorial, the Hunter Holmes McGuire Memorial, the Harry Byrd Memorial and the Edgar Allan Poe Memorial...The engraved plaques include the memorial to Martin Luther King, Jr., the John Tyler Memorial, the Organ Donor Memorial and the Zero Mile Marker...The few memorial trees that were observed are marked with an engraved metal placard loosely set into the ground at the base of a tree.

Since 2004, the Civil Rights memorial has been installed. In addition to the multitude of existing memorials, there are three sizable new pieces planned (see diagram on p. 50).

Leading up to and since the 2004 document, new memorials and monuments have been built or proposed at a number of disparate sites around the Square. With respect to existing pieces, the addition of any future memorials or monuments may diminish their importance, as well as the historic “open space” intention for the Square overall.

*Items in italics are quoted from the 2004 CSLMP

The Avenue serves as an organizing spine along which many of the memorials are located. Similarly, Capitol Street is home to two of the garden/environmental pieces: the Darden Garden and the Public Safety Memorial (under construction as of August 2014), south of the Patrick Henry Building.



Image 1: Civil Rights Monument



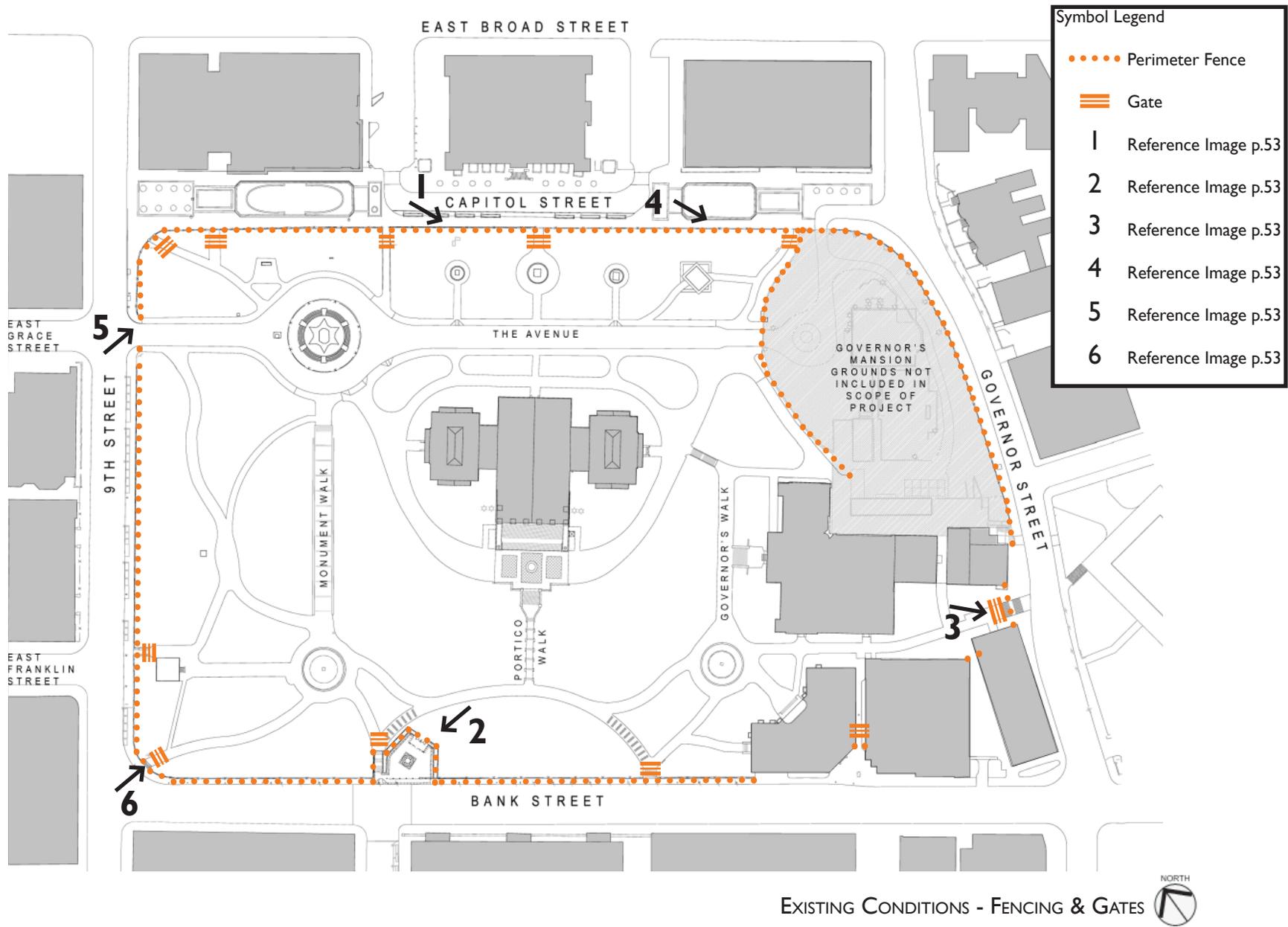
Image 2: Dedicated Tree Memorial



Image 3: Adopted benches located along Monument walk



Image 4: Enscribed Brick Pathway to Liberty south of Visitor Entrance on Bank Street



Site Elements:

Fencing & Gates

The fence and gates of Capitol Square have not changed substantially from the time of the 2004 CSLMP, so we repeat the description from that document: *

The historic Sabaton fence that bounds the perimeter is a unique and important feature of the Square. The majority of the fence, however is obscured by dense, evergreen trees and shrubs. The welded chain closures and signs that hang at each gate also detract from the elegant detailing of the fence and gate posts.

The chain closures referred to in the 2004 CSLMP are at the Ninth Street entry only. They are not currently in use and are scheduled to be removed. The fence appears to be generally in good repair, although the points of several finials have broken off over time. This does not detract from the visual quality of the fence and any repairs should be undertaken with historic integrity in mind. The modifications to the fence required by the 2007 construction of the Visitor Center are in keeping with the historic standard.



Image 1: Broken fence finials



Image 2: Modern fence surrounding Visitor center



Image 3: Typical gate closure between Oliver Hill and Jefferson building

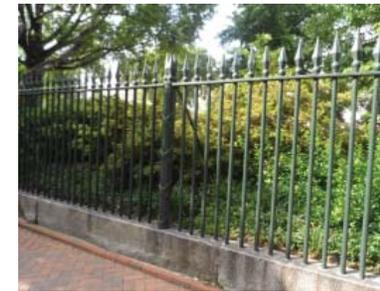


Image 4: Fence along Capitol Street

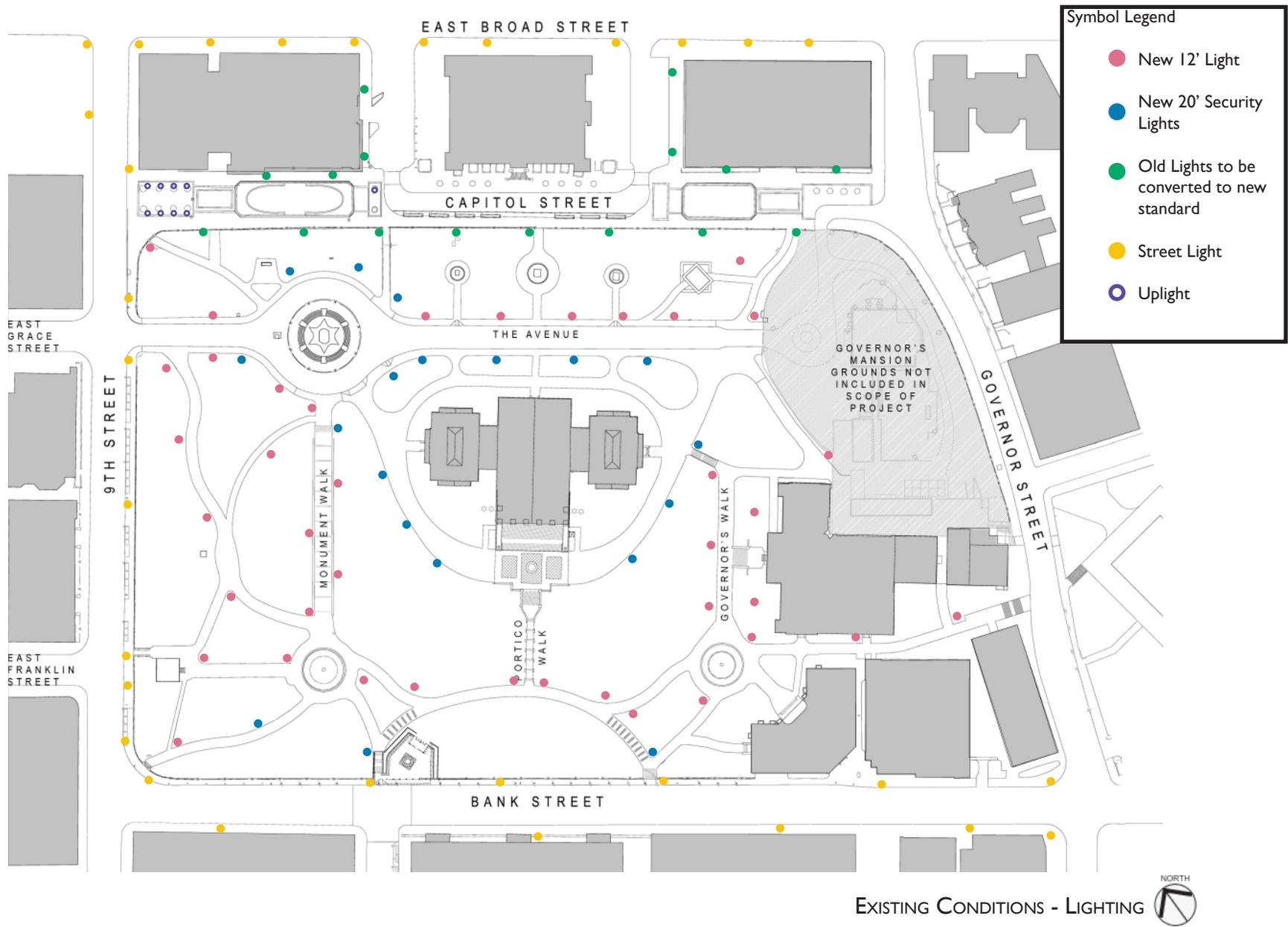


Image 5: Chain closure at Ninth street entrance



Image 6: Fence and entrance at Ninth and Bank streets

*Items in italics are quoted from the 2004 CSLMP



EXISTING CONDITIONS - LIGHTING



Site Elements:

Lighting

The move toward modern, fiberglass light poles that was recommended in the 2004 CSLMP has been enacted progressively over time; only the light poles located along the perimeter fence and around the buildings on Capitol Street remain to be converted to the new standard. The pole paint color is as suggested a dark green that coordinates well with the color of the other metalwork on site (fencing, benches, trash cans, drinking fountains). The Capitol Square maintenance staff feels the current standard works well. While the material itself is modern, the styling of the poles keeps in character with the historic nature of the site.

Light coverage was not addressed in the 2004 CSLMP, with the exception of noting that the two lights flanking the Portico Walk do nothing to light the walk (and detract from views of the Capitol from the south). Despite the fact that the site is closed at night, a basic level of lighting should be maintained for safety purposes. Most pathways are lined with pole lights, with a wider spacing on the southern cross path that is in the foreground to the Capitol building and a few peripheral paths.

Additionally, since the time of the 2004 CSLMP, issues of sustainability have become more important, and at the same time LED light technology has improved. The existing light standards could be refitted with new ballasts and LED bulbs, which should greatly reduce the amount of time maintenance staff has to spend on bulb-changing, and will save on energy costs.



New light pole -20' tall with security camera, 250w metal halide



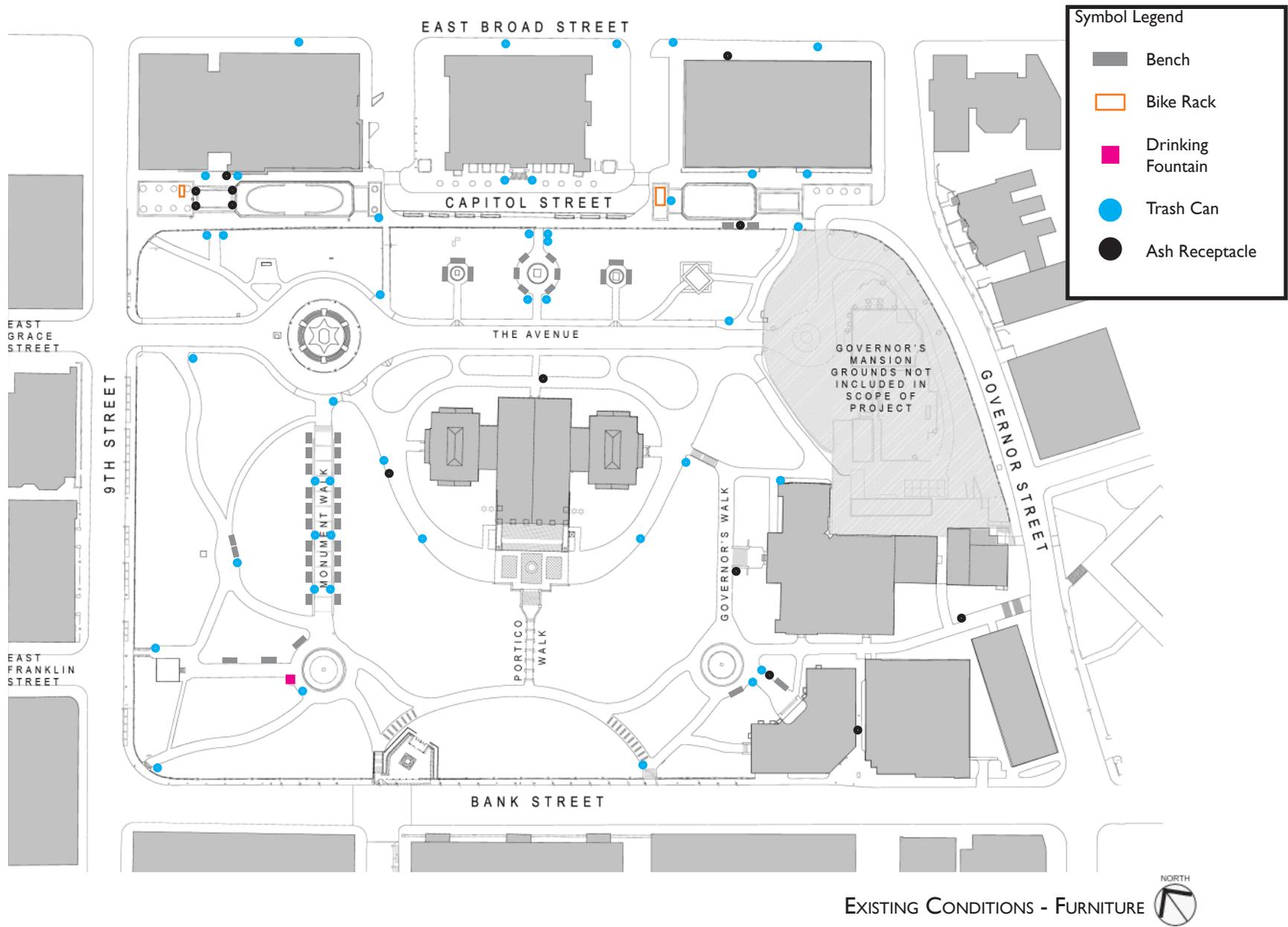
New light pole - 12' tall, 175w metal halide



New poles - selected specifically to match the historic standards previously in place



Light poles remaining to be converted to new standard



Site Elements:

Furniture

As stated in the 2004 CSLMP:*

Site furniture includes benches, trash receptacles and bike racks. While all of the existing furniture is functional, the design, color, quantity and locations can be improved.

Currently the only benches on site are located around the Jackson, Smith and McGuire Memorials, and along both sides of the terraced steps of Monument Walk. The benches have painted cast iron legs with coated wood slats. When they need replacement, the maintenance crew is able to reuse the cast iron legs and provide new wood slats...The trash receptacles used on the Square are attractive and, for the most part, well positioned. Typically, there is a receptacle at each entry gate and, at some locations, two. Receptacles are also located at each group of benches; along Monument Walk, there is one receptacle between each bench on both sides of the walk. A grouping of trash and ash receptacles near the west entrance, combined with the mail box, and directional signage also at this location create a sense of clutter.

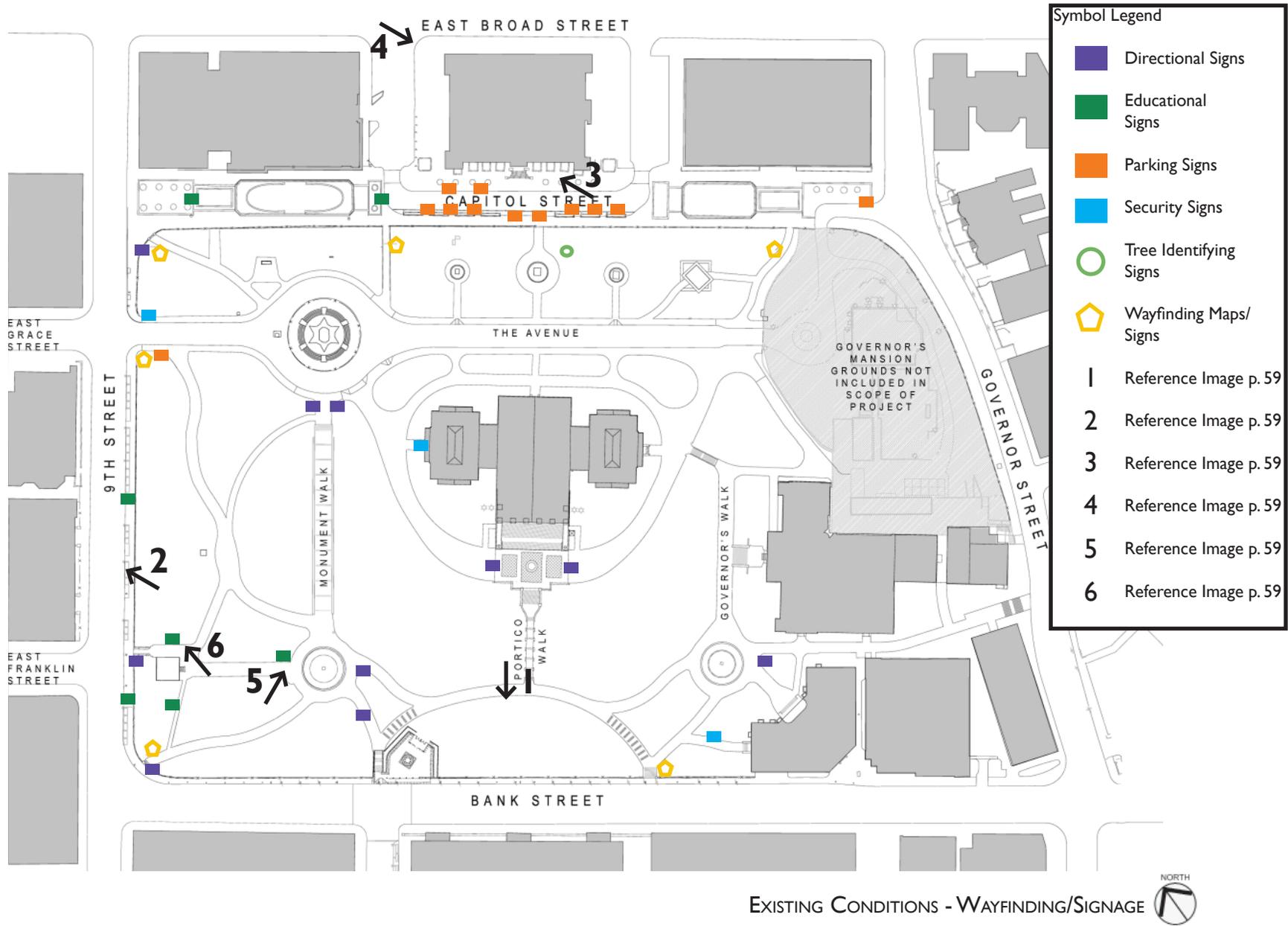
Department of General Services (DGS) maintenance staff support the use of the Victor-Stanley trash can (see Image 1 below) citing that their maintenance needs are limited to sanding and refinishing every 5-10 years. Similarly, the revised bench standard works well, although the slats are vulnerable to squirrel damage and a harder wood material would be preferable. A few benches have been added since the 2004 document was written.

Bike racks are few; given the growing popularity of this mode of transportation, judicious placement of additional racks along Capitol Street and other peripheral areas of the site should be considered.



Image 1: Victor-Stanley brand trash cans are a standard in the industry, chosen because of their durability and longevity.

*Items in italics are quoted from the 2004 CSLMP



EXISTING CONDITIONS - WAYFINDING/SIGNAGE



Site Elements:

Wayfinding/Signage

The multiplicity of signage types, scales, colors, and locations diminishes the visitor’s experience of Capitol Square and can actually instill confusion rather than clarity. Sign types include maps, directional signs, historic interpretation, tree identification, parking/no parking signs and building/no public entry signs. There is no clear authority responsible for monitoring design or placement of the various signs found in the Square.

Of the sign types currently on-site, the more modern, horizontal format fiberglass map signage seems to be preferable, both for legibility and for visual accessibility. Keeping all signs within the dark-green color range of other site furnishings would add to the serene, elegant physical environment rather than detract from it. The development of a full signage-design package is beyond the scope of this document, but should be considered as a future project. Clear standards for design and placement of each sign need to be established and enforced. A signage package that respects the historic character and dignity of this site should include a comprehensive recommendation for way-finding and for an educational program to be developed with a corresponding site sign program (including actual sign design standards).

The overriding goal of the site signage plan should be to fit with the historic character of the site and to contribute to its restrained aesthetic and serene atmosphere while still being functional.



Image 1: Directional sign on Capitol Hill



Image 2: Educational sign- biofiltration information on Ninth Street



Image 3: Parking signs along Capitol Street



Image 4: Security sign at Capitol Street bus loop



Image 5: Tree identification sign by western dell fountain



Image 6: Wayfinding sign - map of Capitol Square in front of Bell Tower

Capitol Square Landscape Master Plan

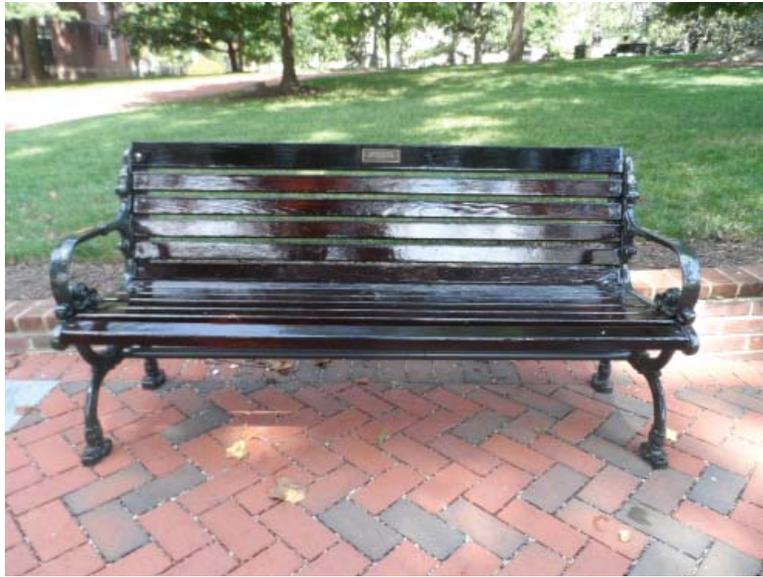


Image 1: Standard Bench along Monument Walk



Image 2: New Sign Standard in Capitol Square



Image 3: Bike Rack along Capitol Street

Site Elements:

Recommendations

Implemented 2004 CSLMP recommendations:*

- *Paint light standards to match other site metals, including the fence and the benches.*
- *Develop a consistent finish color for the replacement bench legs, trash receptacles, light fixtures and other metal furnishings.*
- *Establish both a design review committee and design criteria for new memorials.*
- *Develop new gate closures that compliment the design of the fence.*

Priority 2004 CSLMP recommendations remaining to be implemented:*

1. *Establish a policy that limits the location of future memorials and monuments outside the proximity of the Capitol, as bounded by The Avenue, Monument Walk, and Governor's Walk. [Note: at this point, the Square has reached its capacity to accommodate new monuments; our current recommendation is that no additional monuments beyond those already approved should be allowed to be built].*

Priority recommendations not included in the 2004 CSLMP:

2. Develop a program to replace existing lights with LED lighting.
3. Add bike racks in convenient, peripheral areas, such as Capitol Street.

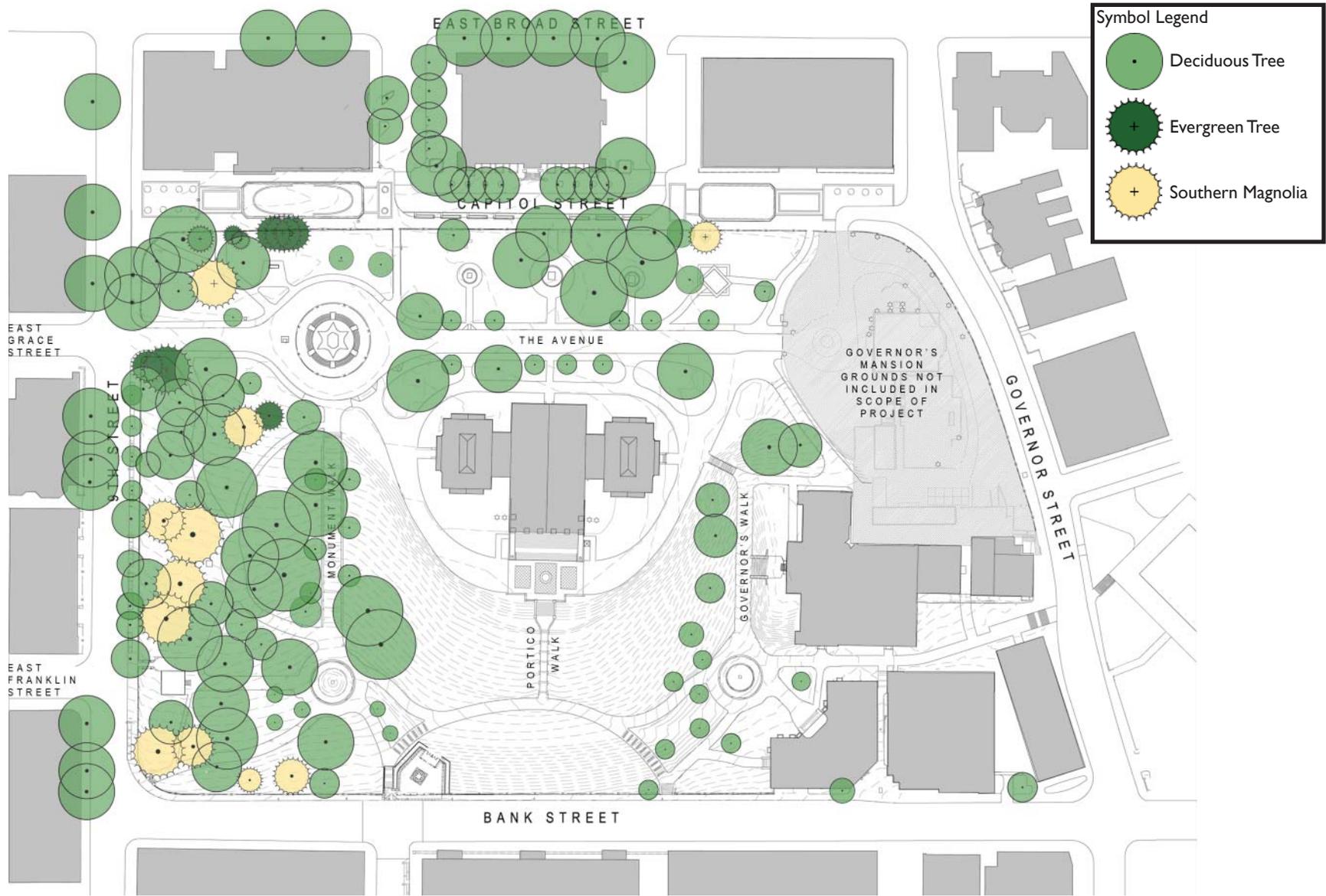
4. As benches come up for maintenance, replace current wood with a more durable, squirrel-resistant species.
5. Develop a full signage program, standardizing the design of each sign type.
6. Designate an authority to control the design and installation of any new signage.

Abandoned 2004 CSLMP recommendations:*

- *Reproduce the historic cast iron bench legs from the original castings recently discovered by T. Potterfield for new and replacement benches. [Note: this standard was replaced with the current standard that is preferred by users and maintenance staff-see p. 98 for current bench standard].*
- *Enhance the engraved plaques by adjusting their positions to be more prominent relative to the pathways. Where appropriate, adjust grades and add planting to better incorporate the plaques into the landscape.*
- *Enhance the memorial tree markers by setting them more permanently into the ground and making them more visible. Document their positions and dates of dedication. [Note: plaques and tree markers should blend into the existing surroundings].*

*Items in italics are quoted from the 2004 CSLMP

Capitol Square Landscape Master Plan



EXISTING CONDITIONS - LARGE TREES 

Vegetation & Topography:

Large Trees

The number and concentration of large trees has changed little since the publication of the 2004 CSLMP. A few trees have declined and had to be removed, but the majority remain as they were in 2004. As the 2004 CSLMP described the existing conditions: *

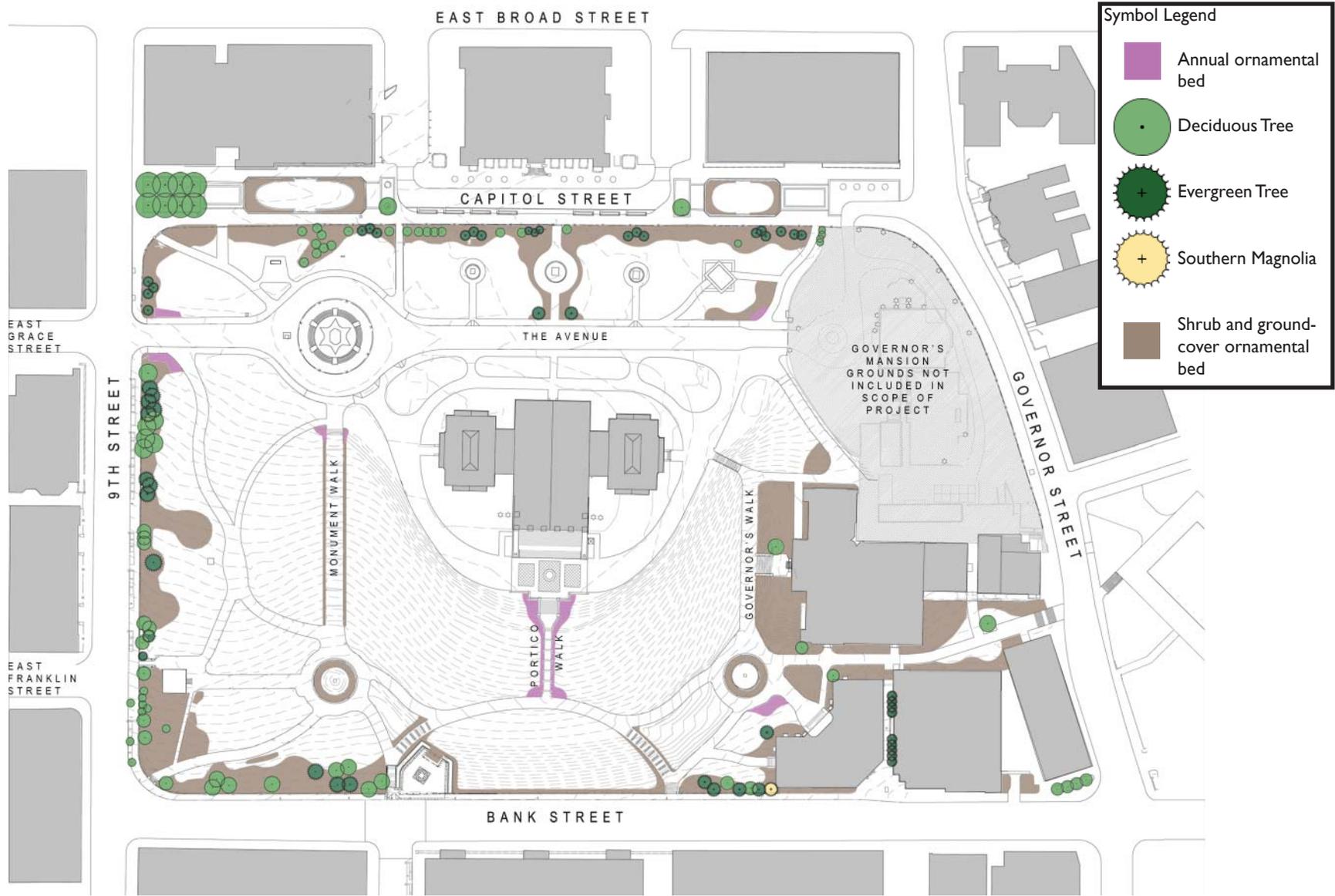
There are many mature shade trees in informal groupings throughout the Square. The heaviest concentrations are north of The Avenue and west of Monument Walk. It is not certain whether any of the trees are original to the Square although it is believed that the large Elm tree behind the Jackson Memorial is from the earliest planting period.

Records show that there once were regularly planted trees parallel to The Avenue, Monument Walk and Governor's Walk; however, there are few remnants of these plantings today. Records also indicate regular plantings of street trees along the perimeter streets; these no longer exist with any consistency.

From the mid-20th Century, Southern Magnolias were introduced to the site.

These have now grown to maturity and have significantly changed the views on the Square. At many key locations, Magnolias create a dense, evergreen obstruction to views of the Capitol.

*Items in italics are quoted from the 2004 CSLMP



EXISTING CONDITIONS - UNDERSTORY TREES & ORNAMENTAL BEDS



Vegetation & Topography:

Understory Trees & Ornamental Plantings

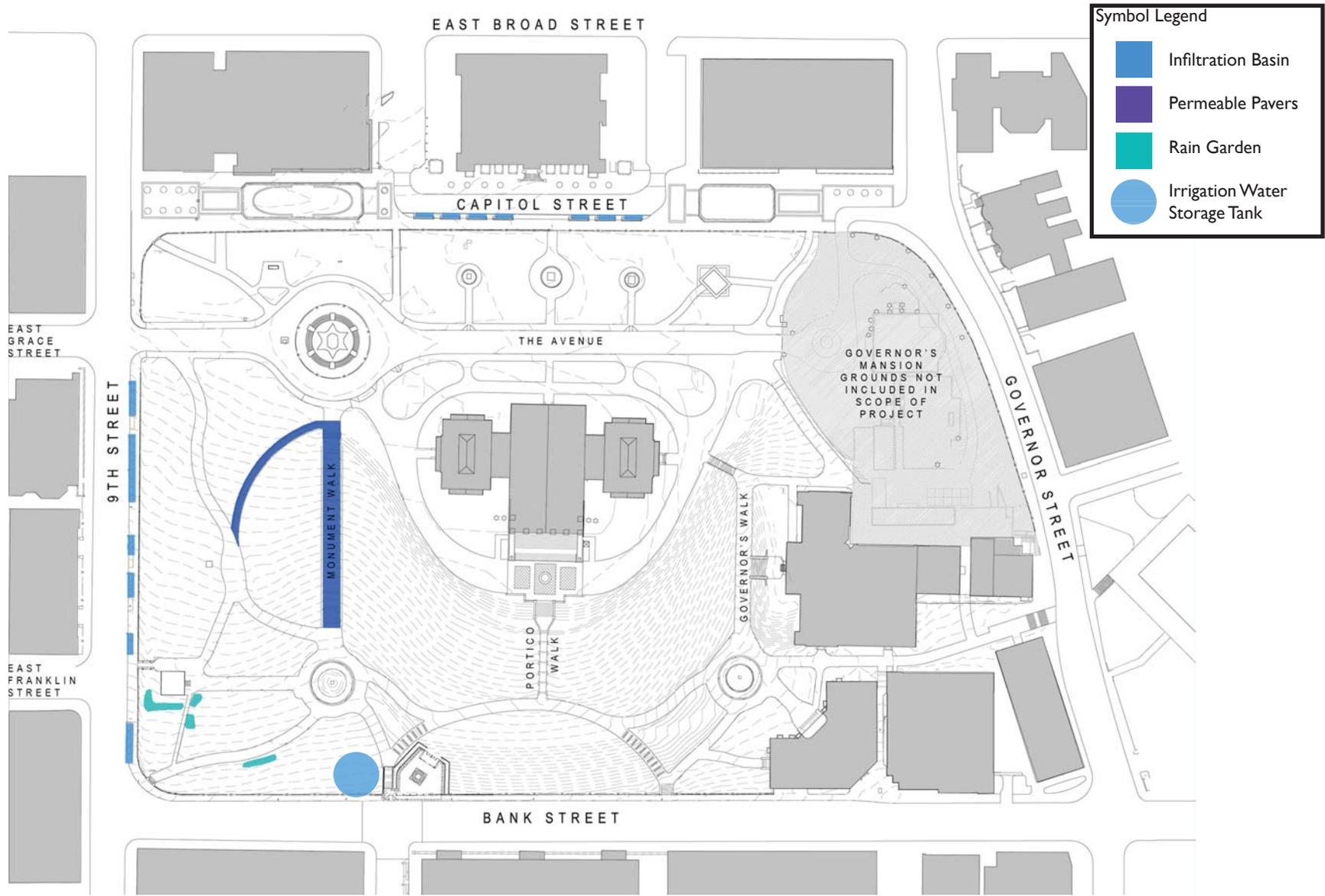
The disposition of small trees and planting beds remains mostly as it was described in the 2004 CSLMP, any changes are minimal:*

The small trees and shrubs on the Square are located almost entirely along the perimeter. Informal clusters of Hollies, Dogwoods, Azaleas, Camellias and other varieties have been planted in continuous curvilinear beds just inside the cast iron fence. The dense groupings of primarily evergreen plants have formed a visual barrier around the Square that is inconsistent with the idea of an open public space, as the Square was originally intended. The reduced visibility also hinders security surveillance.

The understory planting beds require regular pruning, weeding, raking, mulching, fertilizing, and replacement of plants. This places a burden on the limited landscape maintenance resources available.

Showy flower beds on the Square are limited to small areas near the entry gates and rose beds around the fountains and the Jackson Memorial.

*Items in italics are quoted from the 2004 CSLMP



EXISTING CONDITIONS - "GREENING THE VIRGINIA CAPITOL" ELEMENTS



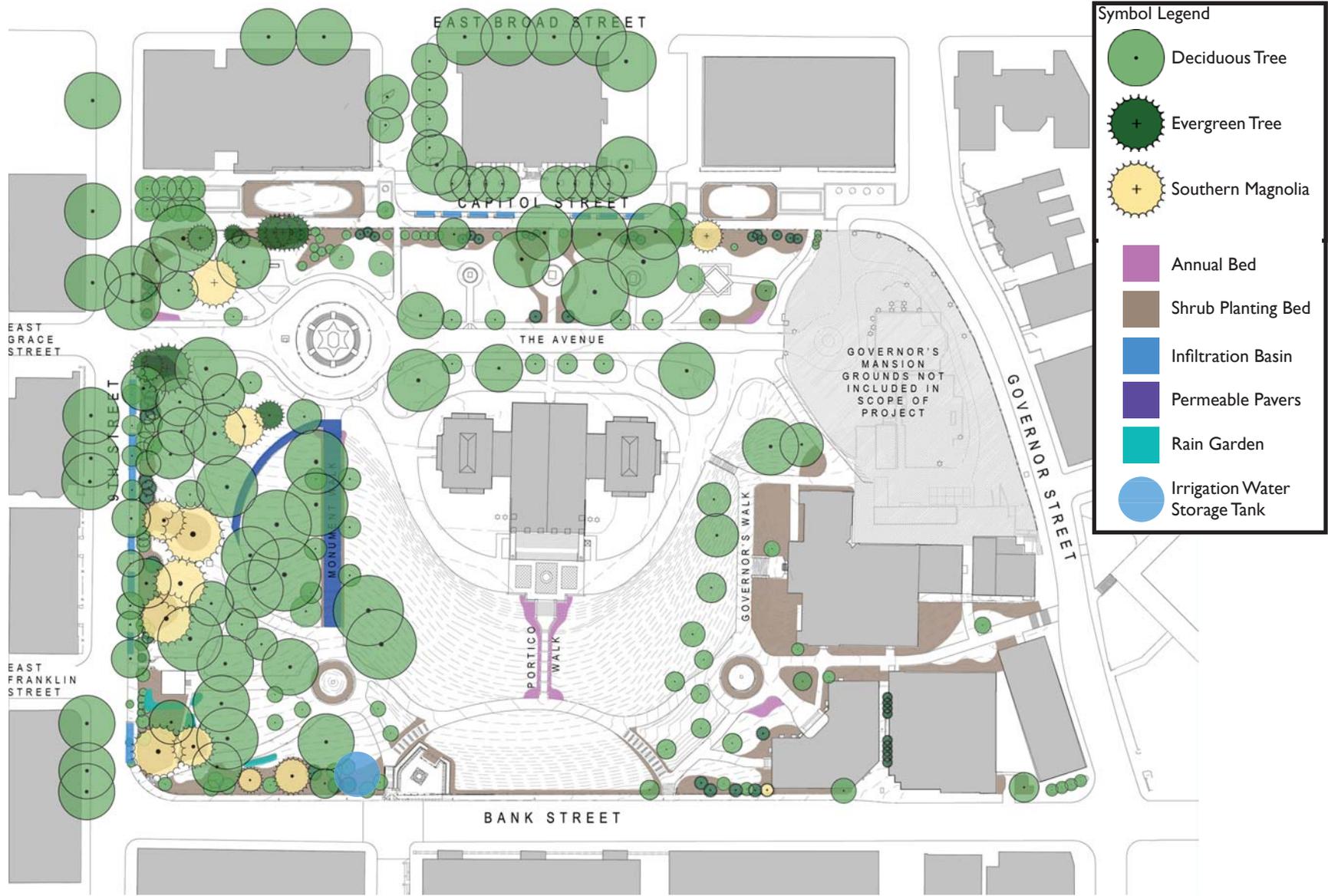
Vegetation & Topography: “Greening the Virginia Capitol” Elements

An initiative kicked off in 2009 and completed in 2012, “Greening the Virginia Capitol,” consisted of several individual projects, some of which included the use of vegetation as part of a low-impact stormwater infrastructure design. These elements included a series of infiltration planters along Ninth Street and south of Old City Hall on Capitol Street. The soil medium and vegetation in these planters is intended to absorb stormwater runoff, and to filter and discharge it with reduced contaminants. The planters on Ninth Street do not function as intended, and would benefit from improved maintenance by the City of Richmond. Their installation has taken the place of the street trees that were recommended in the 2004 CSLMP. The planters on Capitol Street function somewhat better, but the selection of plants could be more aesthetically appealing and more manicured in appearance to better integrate with the neat, traditional landscape style of the Square.

In addition, a rain garden was installed south of the Bell Tower to intercept stormwater runoff and prevent erosion through the use of landscape infiltration zones. The functional aspect of this new element is appropriate given the modern importance of sustainable, low-impact design, but the choice of plantings could better coordinate with those in other site areas.

Other “Greening” elements include the use of permeable pavers and harvesting rain water to reuse for irrigation.

Capitol Square Landscape Master Plan



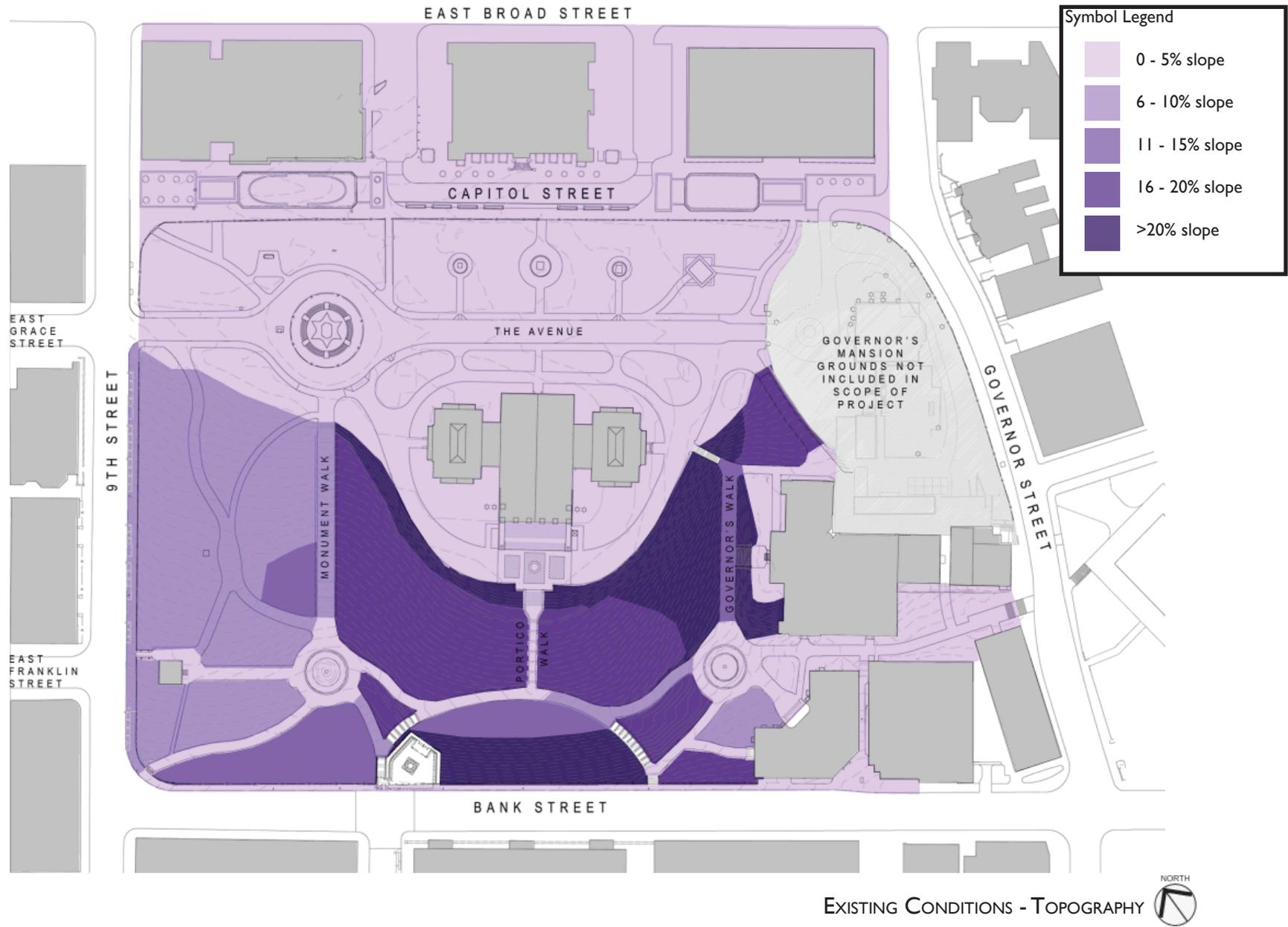
EXISTING CONDITIONS - PLANTING DESIGN STRATEGIES



Vegetation & Topography:

Planting Design Strategies

The planting design to date has emphasized the grouping of vegetation at the perimeter of the site, leaving open views to the Capitol Building from the south. Much of the planting design over the last half century has not kept with the historic design intent of a restrained, visually open planting scheme. Within the last few years, the design has also incorporated naturalistic plantings as part of a sustainable site infrastructure approach.



Vegetation & Topography:

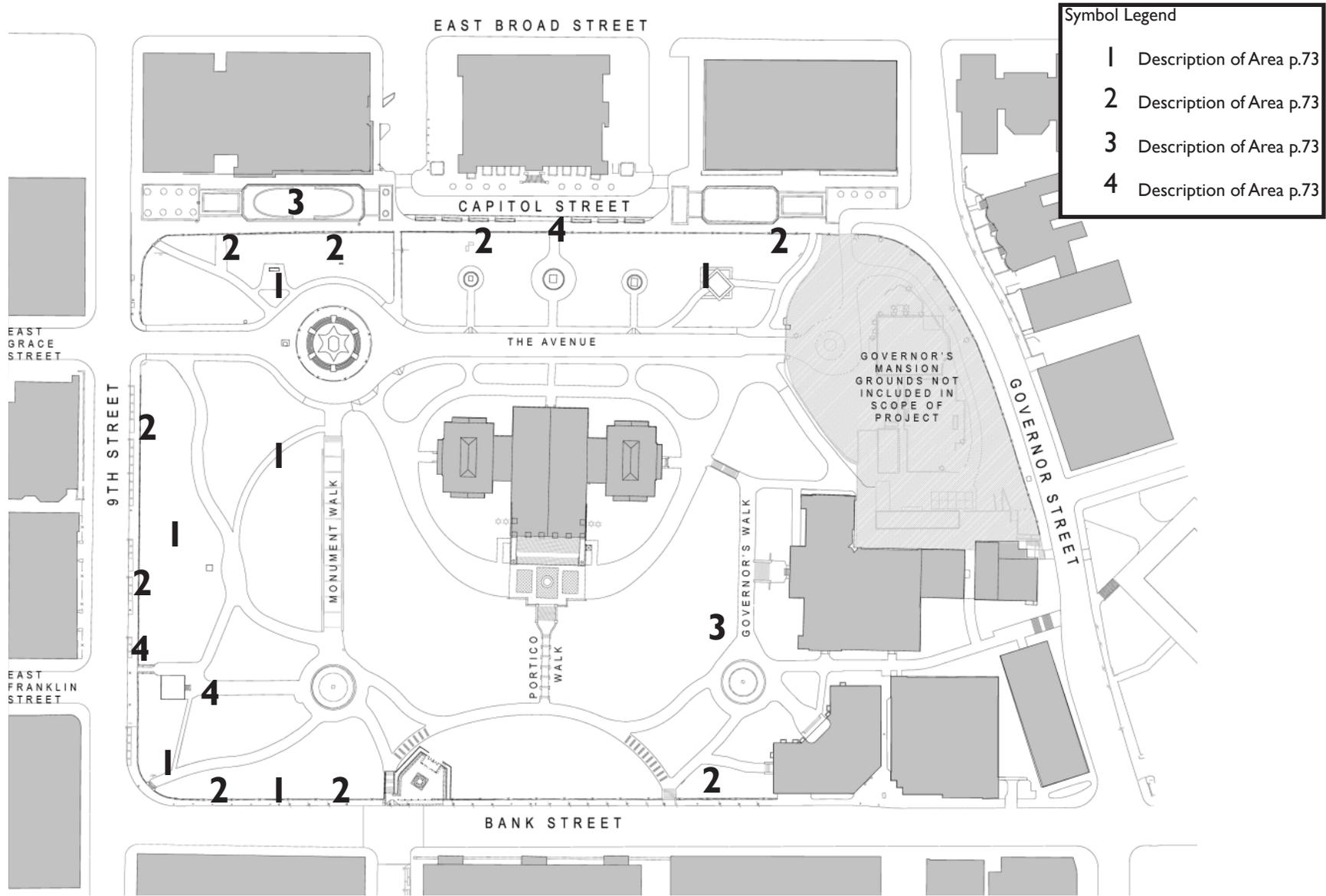
Topography

The basic topography of the site, with the Capitol building sited on a prominent ridge flanked by “dells” to the east and west, remains strongly legible. The 2004 CSLMP described the topography this way:*

The highly modified, the “dell-hill-dell” landform that existed before construction of the Capitol still remains. With every evolution of landscape design, the grades of the Square have been altered to enhance the alignment of pathways, to accentuate a monument, or to reinforce the image of the Capitol as a “temple on a hill”. When the loop road was introduced, however, this image was severely altered. The grading that was required to accommodate the roadway created a pronounced lip at the top of the hill. When observed from below, this feature blocks the view of the base of the Capitol building. This condition is made worse by the line of parked cars encircling the building.

Since 2004, a tunnel was extended from the underground Visitor Center to a new entry on Bank Street. While the site was graded for the construction project, it was restored to a condition substantially similar to its pre-construction state. The new entry on Bank Street creates a greater sense of opening by interrupting the severity of the stone retaining wall, although the opening is to underground space rather than to the Square itself.

*Items in italics are quoted from the 2004 CSLMP



Symbol Legend	
1	Description of Area p.73
2	Description of Area p.73
3	Description of Area p.73
4	Description of Area p.73

EXISTING CONDITIONS - VEGETATION & TOPOGRAPHY: RECOMMENDATIONS



Vegetation & Topography:

Recommendations

Implemented 2004 CSLMP recommendations:*

- *Preserve the large existing groves of mature, deciduous shade trees north of the Avenue and west of Monument Walk.*
- *Preserve other mature trees on the Square where practical.*
- *Develop small, concentrated areas of flowering plants to enhance entry points and significant spaces on the Square. [Note: revised recommendation is for seasonally flowering shrubs, groundcovers or perennials, requiring less maintenance and staff time].*
- *Enhance the linear tree plantings along The Avenue, Monument Walk, Governor's Walk and the perimeter streets. [Note: partially complete. Capitol Street remains to be planted, and Governor's Walk plantings could be strengthened by the addition of a few more shade trees].*

Priority 2004 CSLMP recommendations remaining to be implemented: * (see corresponding numbers on map at left)

1. *Selectively remove Southern Magnolia trees to enhance views of the Capitol and other landmarks on the Square. [Note: this initiative is intended to move the site closer to the visually open character intended by the historic designs].*

2. *Selectively remove large areas of understory plantings and planting beds adjacent to the perimeter fence. Replace with lawn. [Note: revised recommendation is to replace the plants with mulch beds and groundcovers instead of lawn].*

Priority recommendations not included in the 2004 CSLMP: (see corresponding numbers on map at left)

3. Enhance the linear tree plantings along Governor's Walk, Capitol Street.
4. Existing biofiltration basins and rain gardens should be replanted with a limited palette of shrubs. See pg. 111 for recommended species.

Abandoned 2004 CSLMP recommendations:*

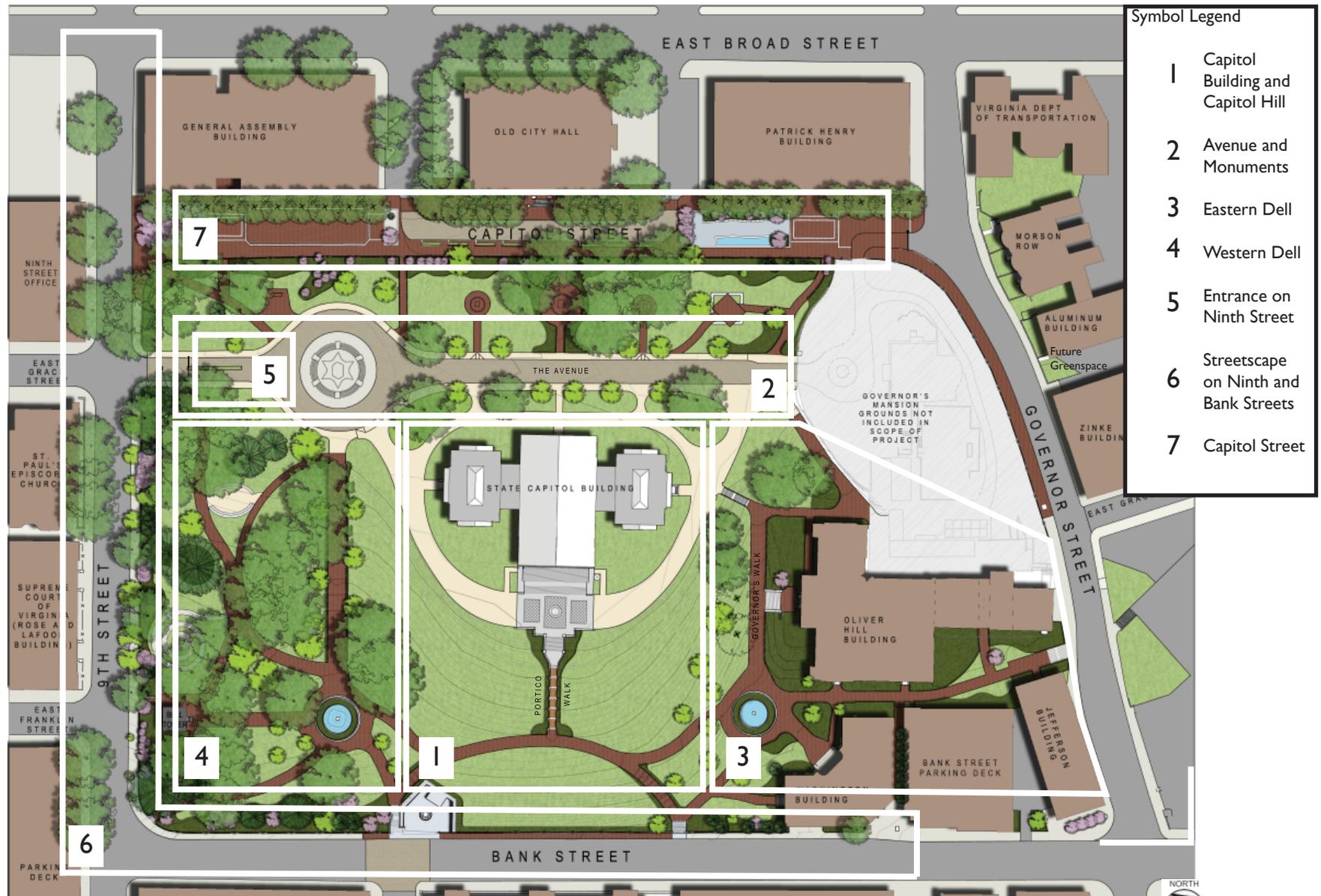
- *Regrade the slope below the Capitol to create a smooth, rounded hill closer to the condition that existing prior to the 20th Century. [Note: this is no longer feasible as the underground Visitor's Center prohibits significant re-grading in this area].*

*Items in italics are quoted from the 2004 CSLMP



Capitol Square Image courtesy of the Library of Virginia

VISION & GOALS



Symbol Legend	
1	Capitol Building and Capitol Hill
2	Avenue and Monuments
3	Eastern Dell
4	Western Dell
5	Entrance on Ninth Street
6	Streetscape on Ninth and Bank Streets
7	Capitol Street

VISION & GOALS - PROPOSED ILLUSTRATIVE AND DIAGRAM OF THE SEVEN SITE AREAS



Vision & Goals:

General Overview

The previous section, “Existing Conditions and Recommendations,” dissected the site into discrete components and analyzed each individually. This section synthesizes the separate elements to provide a comprehensive design vision for each of the following site areas:

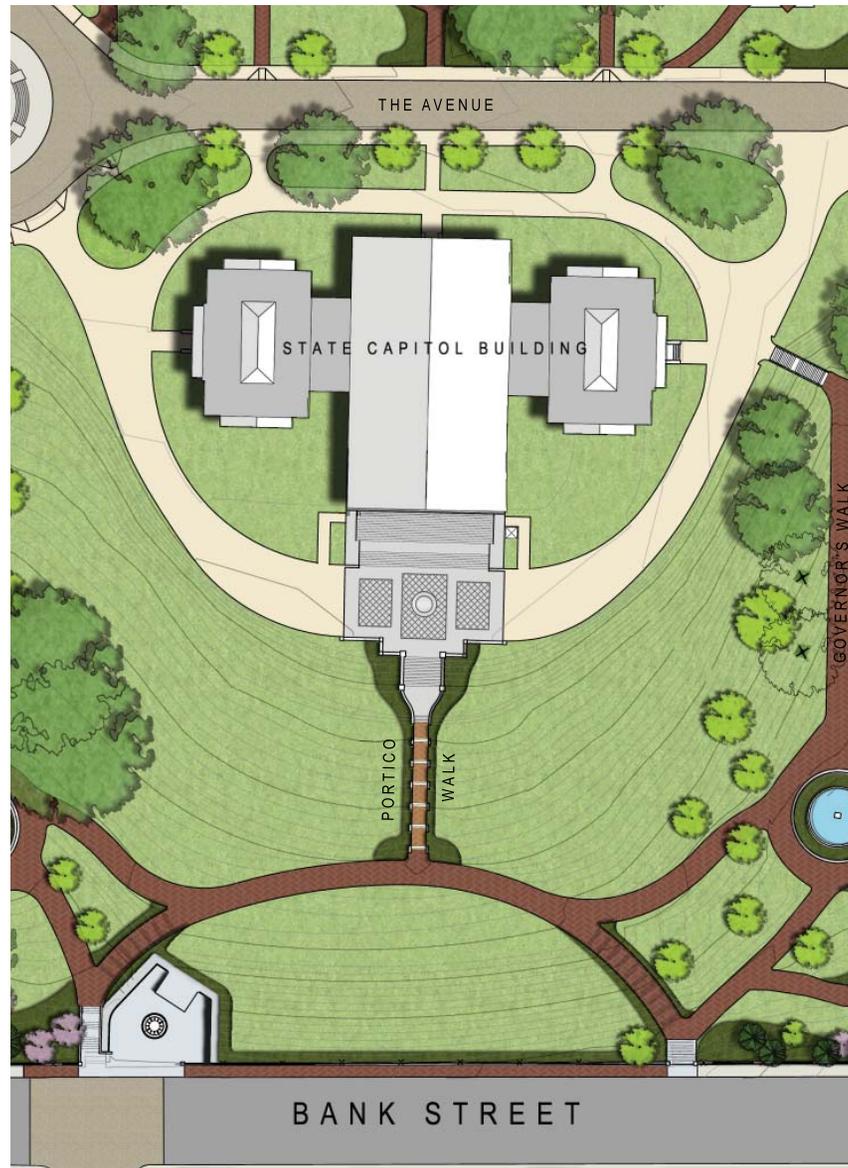
1. Capitol Building and Capitol Hill
2. Avenue and Monuments
3. Eastern Dell
4. Western Dell
5. Entrance on Ninth Street
6. Streetscape on Ninth and Bank Streets
7. Capitol Street

Of the above, Capitol Street was not included in the study area of the 2004 CSLMP. However, it is important to reiterate that the overall vision for Capitol Square remains substantially the same as it was in the 2004 CSLMP:*

- *Preserve and enhance the historic integrity of the Square.*
- *Continue to improve the pedestrian experience and reduce practices, such as parking, that are incompatible with an historic public park.*
- *Improve the visual openness of the Square and enhance views of the Capitol building and the monuments consistent with Jefferson’s design intent for his masterwork.*

The individual recommendations on the following pages are all intended to support and enhance these core design precepts. With the approach of Capitol Square’s bicentennial anniversary in 2016-2018, the imperative to take concrete steps to move the site closer to this overall vision is stronger than ever.

*Items in italics are quoted from the 2004 CSLMP



VISION & GOALS - CAPITOL BUILDING & CAPITOL HILL



Vision & Goals:

Capitol Building & Capitol Hill

The vision set out for the area around the Capitol building in the 2004 CSLMP has, in large part, been implemented. That document proposed a series of modifications that would bring this zone into closer relation with its design at the time of the Capitol expansion in 1906.

Implemented 2004 CSLMP recommendations include:*

- *Replace the asphalt road and sidewalk with a narrower concrete walkway to accommodate special events and emergency vehicles.*
- *Replace brick walkways with concrete walkways in historic alignments present at the time of the Capitol Expansion (ca. 1907).*
- *Replace concrete spatter course with granite at base of building. [Note: the new material is an upgraded concrete rather than granite].*
- *Remove walkways through lawn area around building.*
- *Construct stone-paved plaza at bottom of the portico steps.*
- *Extend existing granite retaining wall.*
- *Replace sloping brick walkway with granite steps and terraces.*
- *Replace east/west walkway and steps with brick walkway and brick steps consistent with historic alignments (ca. 1907).*
- *Selectively remove shrubs and small trees from perimeter.*

Priority 2004 CSLMP recommendations remaining to be implemented:

- None.

Priority recommendations not included in the 2004 CSLMP:

- None.

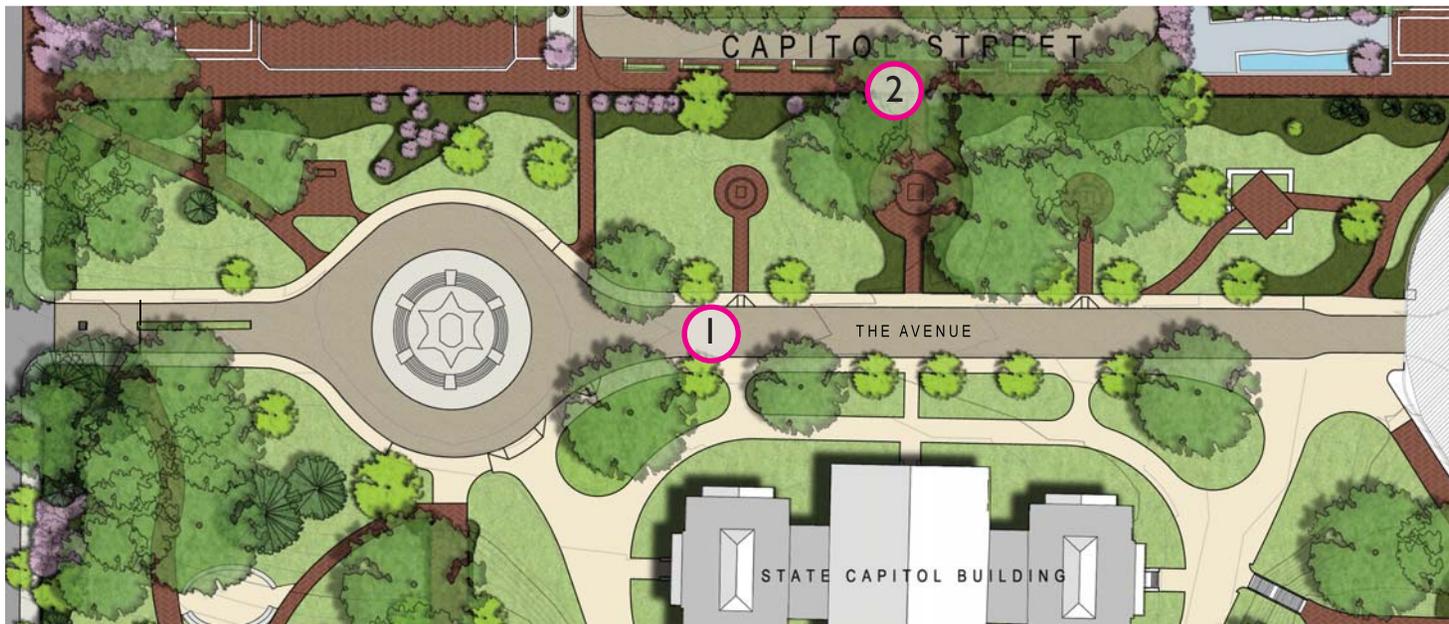
Abandoned 2004 CSLMP recommendations include:

- *Reduce steepness of slope and smooth grades. [Note: construction of the underground Visitor Center supersedes this recommendation].*
- *Add deciduous canopy trees around base of hill. [Note: trees cannot be planted above the building and planting on the east side would break the symmetry in this view corridor that has been part of the design since the Godefroy era].*

*Items in italics are quoted from the 2004 CSLMP

Symbol Legend

- 1 Description of Area
- 2 Description of Area



Vision & Goals:

The Avenue & Monuments

The vision set out for The Avenue and the monuments in the 2004 CSLMP has, in large part, been implemented.

Since 2004, the Civil Rights monument was built in the last remaining large open space on the Avenue. The Public Safety memorial is being constructed on Capitol Street as of August 2014, and the Women’s Monument and Virginia Indian Monument have been approved for installation in the Western Dell.

Capitol Square is subject to continuing pressures to accommodate more Monuments and Memorials. We are concerned that adding any further built elements to the site will compromise the desire to retain as much green space as possible; we also believe there is a danger that the site will become so crowded that the existing pieces will lose the attention and dignity they deserve. For those reasons, we believe that no new monuments should be approved in Capitol Square.

Implemented 2004 CSLMP recommendations include:*

- *Eliminate parking and narrow roadway to allow two-way circulation.*
- *Replace sloped brick curbs with granite curbs.*
- *Replace brick sidewalks with light-colored exposed aggregate concrete. [Note: partially complete. The area from the Washington Monument to Ninth Street still remains to be replaced].*
- *Provide rolled curb to allow for turnaround at end of the drive.*
- *Plant new deciduous canopy trees to supplement existing groves of trees.*

- *Replace benches with historic reproductions.*
- *Paint light fixtures and other furnishings to match.*
- *Reconstruct pedestrian entrance to make it ADA accessible.*
- *Plant an allee of trees in the historic alignment.*

Priority 2004 CSLMP recommendations remaining to be implemented: (See corresponding numbers on map at left)

1. *Replace asphalt road with light colored exposed aggregate concrete. [Note: recommended material is asphalt with a brown aggregate or a permeable paver in a warm brown tone].*

Priority recommendations not included in the 2004 CSLMP: (see corresponding numbers on map at left)

2. Replace the dying Jackson tree with a Princeton Elm.

Abandoned 2004 CSLMP recommendations include:

- None.

*Items in italics are quoted from the 2004 CSLMP



Vision & Goals:

Eastern Dell

The Eastern Dell is now interpreted to include the connector walk and stair to Governor Street, located south of the Oliver Hill building. This walk is pleasant, with low ornamental shrub plantings around the building base and pathway and pedestrian-scale pole lights.

Implemented 2004 CSLMP recommendations include:*

- *Replace damaged brick paving.*
- *Reconstruct drainage gutter and inlets.*
- *Reconstruct brick walkways and curbs to match historic alignment and details as part of Washington Building improvements.*
- *Replace non-native invasive ground cover planting on slope with native or other non-invasive planting as part of Finance Building [now the Oliver Hill Building] improvements. Alternatives include Creeping Lily Turf (*Liriope spicata*), David Viburnum (*Viburnum davidii*), Allegheny spurge (*Pachysandra procumbens*) and Rock-Cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster horizontalis*).*

Priority 2004 CSLMP recommendations remaining to be implemented:

- Strengthen the linear tree planting along Governor's Walk by adding two to three large shade trees on its western side.

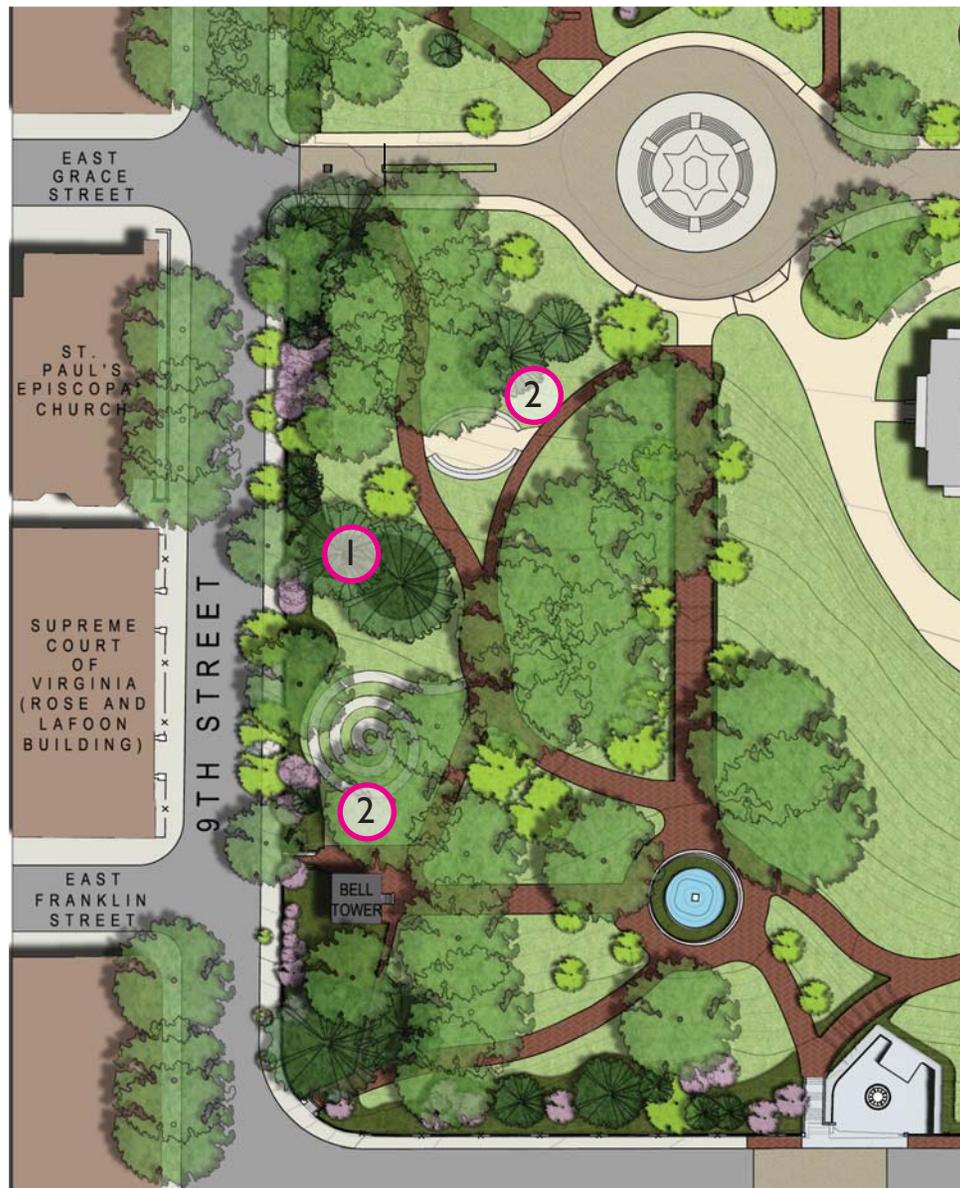
Priority recommendations not included in the 2004 CSLMP:

- None.

Abandoned 2004 CSLMP recommendations include:

- None.

*Items in italics are quoted from the 2004 CSLMP



Symbol Legend

- 1 Description of Area
- 2 Description of Area

Vision & Goals:

Western Dell

The 2004 CSLMP describes the Western Dell as having “*the most significant extant features from the Notman Era.*” Even though this area has been altered, the “*original alignments are still apparent.*”

Since the production of the 2004 document, the Western Dell has seen and will continue to see some of the most significant changes of any area of the site. Additions since the 2004 CSLMP include the rain gardens at the Bell Tower (constructed as part of the Greening the Virginia Capitol initiative), and the planned Indian and Women’s Monuments.

In addition, the Western Dell in particular is an area that would greatly benefit from the removal of shrubs and evergreen vegetation from the site’s perimeter in order to meet the visual intent for greater openness.

Implemented 2004 CSLMP recommendations include:*

- *Add new brick walkway in historic alignment.*
- *Replace sloping, terraced brick steps with flat terraces and groups of steps.*
- *Add benches along paths.*
- *Add large, spreading canopy trees in informal groups.*
- *Add trees in formal alignment along Monument Walk.*

Priority 2004 CSLMP recommendations remaining to be implemented:

1. Remove many of the Southern Magnolias and shrub/understory planting at the site perimeter to move this area closer to its historic intent of visual openness. These were planted as part of the late 20th Century plantings which were not in keeping with the original Godefroy or Notman era designs.

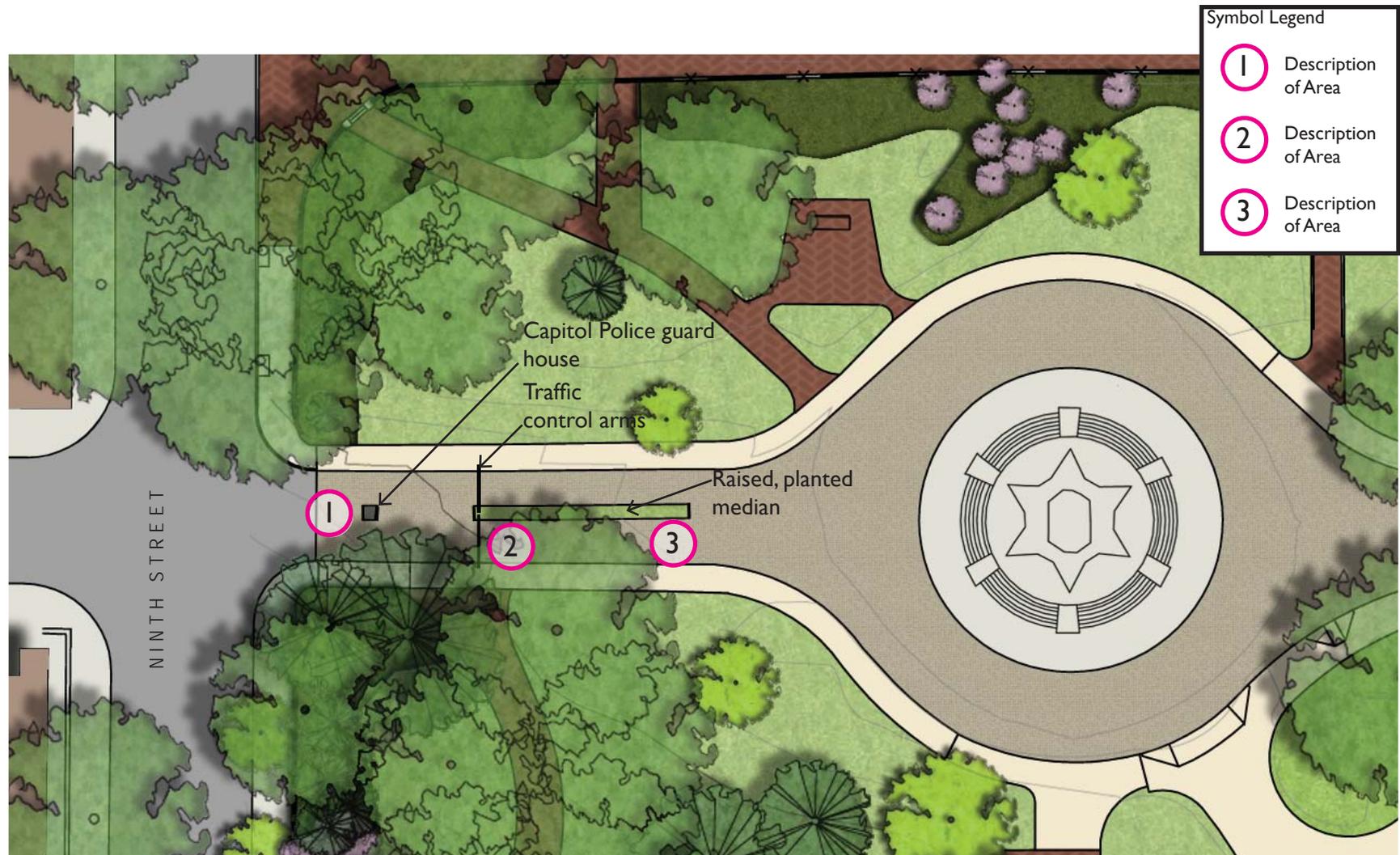
Priority recommendations not included in the 2004 CSLMP: (see corresponding numbers on map at left)

2. Work with the planning committees for the Women’s Monument and Virginia Indian Monument to maximize the harmonious integration of the new monuments with the historic intent for the Capitol Square landscape.

Abandoned 2004 CSLMP recommendations include:

- *Construct planting bed in historic location of the Clay Pavilion.* [Note: the proposed site for the Women’s Monument and the Virginia Indian Monument would take the approximate space that the 2004 CSLMP suggested for a new planting bed in the historic location of the Clay Pavilion and the reinstallation of a Notman-era pathway].

*Items in italics are quoted from the 2004 CSLMP



Vision & Goals: Ninth Street Entrance

The recommendations from the 2004 CSLMP, none of which have been realized, are eminently sensible guidelines which will become even more important if East Grace Street becomes a two-way road, thereby directing more cars into the site.

Implemented 2004 CSLMP recommendations:

- None

Priority 2004 CSLMP recommendations remaining to be implemented include: * (see corresponding numbers on map at left)

1. *Relocate Capitol Police structure to the entry point to the Square.*
2. *Install operable bollards in the driveway to control vehicular entry and exit. [Note: this update shows vehicular control arms as an alternate security option].*
3. *Construct a raised, planted median to control traffic. [Note: the median would provide a location for a vehicular control gate to prevent cars not approved by the Capitol Police from entering the Avenue or from using the Washington Monument as a turn-around].*

Priority recommendations not included in the 2004 CSLMP:

- None.

Abandoned 2004 CSLMP recommendations include: *

- *Establish a right-turn lane for queuing at high peak entry periods. [Note: because most vehicular traffic has been eliminated from the Square, a queuing lane is no longer needed].*



Image 1: View from Ninth Street into Capitol Square

*Items in italics are quoted from the 2004 CSLMP

Capitol Square Landscape Master Plan



Symbol Legend

- 1 Description of Area
- 2 Description of Area
- 3 Description of Area

VISION & GOALS - STREETScape ON NINTH & BANK STREETS 

Vision & Goals:

Streetscape on Ninth & Bank Streets

The 2004 CSLMP recommendations for Bank and Ninth Streets have been made obsolete due to the improvements made in this corridor in the period between 2004 and now.

Implemented 2004 CSLMP recommendations:

- None.

Priority 2004 CSLMP recommendations remaining to be implemented include: * (see corresponding numbers on map at left)

- 1. Selectively remove the dense shrubs and small trees along the inside perimeter of the fence.*

Priority recommendations not included in the 2004 CSLMP:

2. Maintain the Bank Street streetscape as is.
3. Replant the Bank Street infiltration basins with lower maintenance vegetation to be maintained by the Capitol Square staff to ensure that they create a suitable edge and foreground to this important historic site.

Abandoned 2004 CSLMP recommendations include: *

- *Create tree planting areas with improved soil between the curb and sidewalk.*
- *Remove parking lane on Bank Street to extend sidewalk and planting area.*
- *Remove parking lane.*
- *Construct new sidewalk further away from the existing stone wall. [Note: on Bank Street, the creation of a wider pedestrian / planting zone on the north side would necessitate the elimination of parking on the south side of Bank between Ninth and Twelfth Streets, and a major utility corridor runs beneath the sidewalk, prohibiting construction in this area].*
- *Plant street trees of uniform species along each street.*
- *Do not allow trees to block views on axis with the Bell Tower and Capitol Building.*
- *Plant street trees between the sidewalk and curb. [Note: on Ninth Street, the Greening of the Virginia Capitol initiative impelled the installation of infiltration basins in the zone where additional street trees would have gone. On Bank Street, the creation of the Visitor Center entry changed the reading of the streetscape significantly].*

*Items in italics are quoted from the 2004 CSLMP

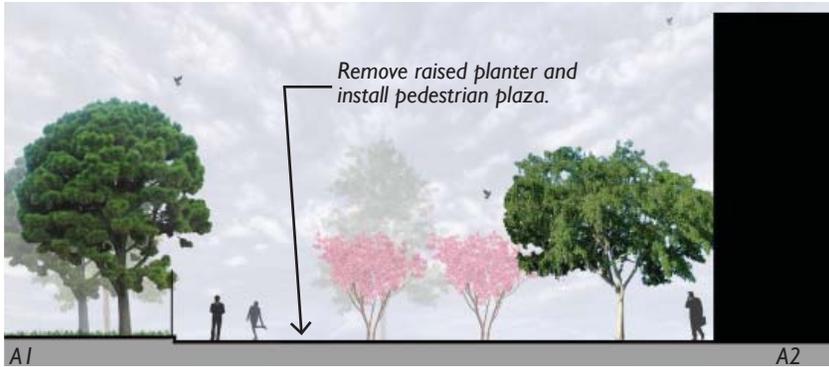
Capitol Square Landscape Master Plan



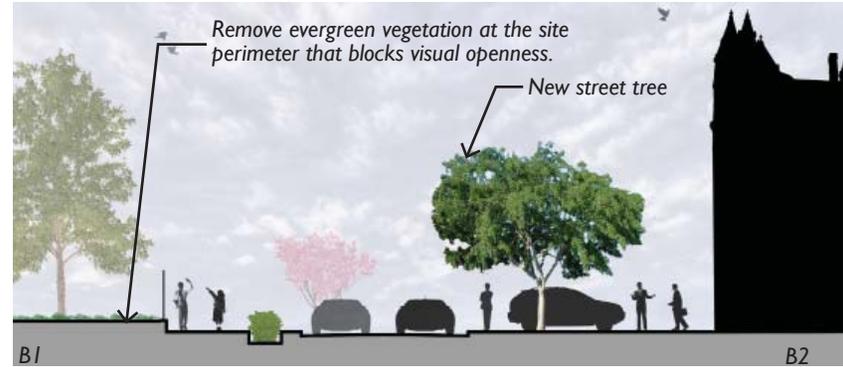
A1-A2 - Existing Section through Capitol Street at General Assembly Building



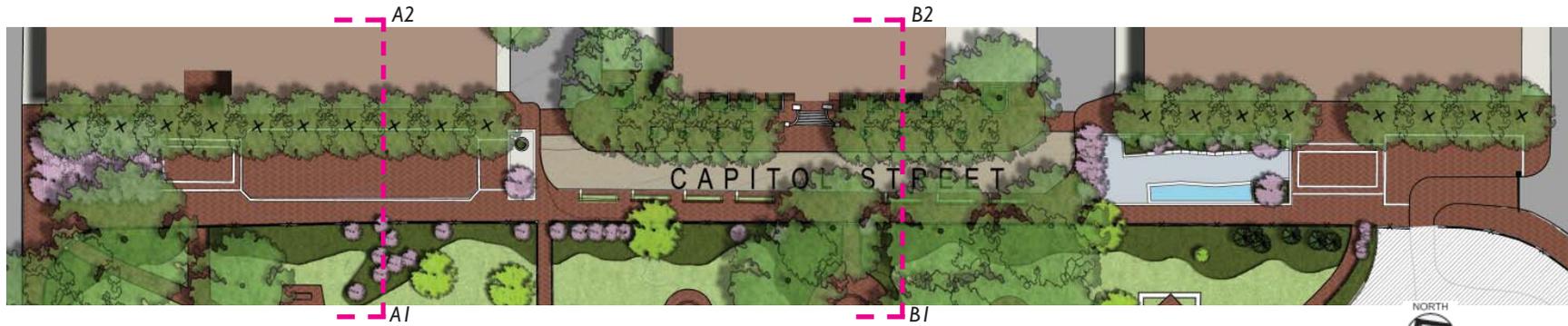
B1-B2 - Existing Section through Capitol Street at Old City Hall



A1-A2 - Proposed Section through Capitol Street at General Assembly Building



B1-B2 - Proposed Section through Capitol Street at Old City Hall



VISION & GOALS - CAPITOL STREET

Vision & Goals:

Capitol Street

Capitol Street was not included in the 2004 CSLMP. This area includes the zone between the northern Capitol Square fence line and the face of the General Assembly Building (GAB), Old City Hall, and the Patrick Henry Building (PHB). Capitol Street has a different character south of each of the three buildings: at the GAB, the Darden Garden's raised panels of grass and plantings and small bosques of ornamental trees create a pedestrian-plaza feel. The zone south of Old City Hall is more vehicular in character and use; it includes a bus loop, parking, and a series of infiltration basins similar to those on Ninth Street. The area south of the PHB is currently undergoing construction of a new Public Safety Memorial. The Memorial incorporates seating and a linear water feature.

The project to replace the GAB will necessitate the demolition of the Darden Garden, and the project to renovate Old City Hall will create the opportunity to rethink the vehicular character of that space.

Implemented 2004 CSLMP recommendations:

- None.

Priority 2004 CSLMP recommendations remaining to be implemented:

- None.

Priority recommendations not included in the 2004 CSLMP:

1. An overall emphasis on creating a unified, pedestrian-oriented space. The space can be primarily hardscape, to create a balance to the green park-like character of Capitol Square itself.
2. Replacement of the Darden Garden with an at-grade plaza that both relates to a new GAB building and incorporates a graceful pedestrian connection to the Capitol (See Sections A1-A2).
3. Replace the bus loop paving at Old City Hall with the same brown-toned asphalt proposed for the Avenue. While vehicular use of this space will continue, the change in material will hint at the potential movement of this space to a more pedestrian-oriented one in the future (See Sections B1-B2).
4. Consider incorporation of permeable pavers as a unifying element along the entire corridor to lessen the amount of stormwater runoff.
5. Incorporate more Capitol Square standard benches to reinforce the space as an attractive destination.
6. Reworking of the planting at the infiltration basins to make them function better and to be a more visually appealing component of a new plaza.
7. Extend the linear Chinese Elm planting from Old City Hall along the full length of the street, as far as is possible.

Abandoned 2004 CSLMP recommendations:

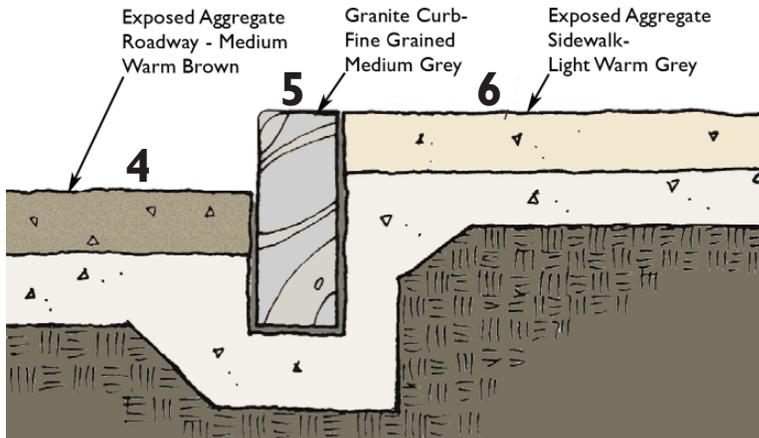
- None.



DETAIL DESIGN GUIDELINES



Image 1 - Granite Curb with exposed brown aggregate roadway and light warm grey sidewalk on the Avenue ca. 1910. SOURCE UNKNOWN (see corresponding numbers on detail 1 below)



Detail 1 - Granite Curb with exposed brown aggregate roadway and light warm grey sidewalk



Images 2 and 3 - Remainder of the existing brick walkway along the Avenue needs to be replaced with current aggregate standard.



Image 4 - Current aggregate standard walkway example along the Avenue.

Hardscape:

Within Capitol Square Proper

For hardscape modifications recommended in this document, the following guidelines should be adhered to:

1. The standard black asphalt on The Avenue should be replaced with a brown-toned asphalt. The historic character will be restored without the greater expense of installing the exposed aggregate concrete recommended in the 2004 CSLMP (See Detail 1 and Image 1).
2. All sidewalks along The Avenue not already redone in exposed-aggregate concrete should be replaced so that there is consistency along the length of the Avenue (See Detail 1 and Images 2-4).
3. All sloped brick curbs to be replaced with granite curbs (See Image 5 and Detail 1).
4. As recommended in the 2004 CSLMP, brick walks requiring replacement should be replaced in the same paving pattern with the standard concrete set brick pavers—Pine Hall heavy-duty brick with an English edge, color: Full Range, size: 4"x8"x2-3/4" (See Images 6 and 7).



Image 5 - Existing sloped brick curb



Image 6 - Historic brick walk - note varying colors



Image 7 - New walk adjacent to historic brick



Detail 1 - Proposed section through Capitol Street at General Assembly Building

Hardscape:

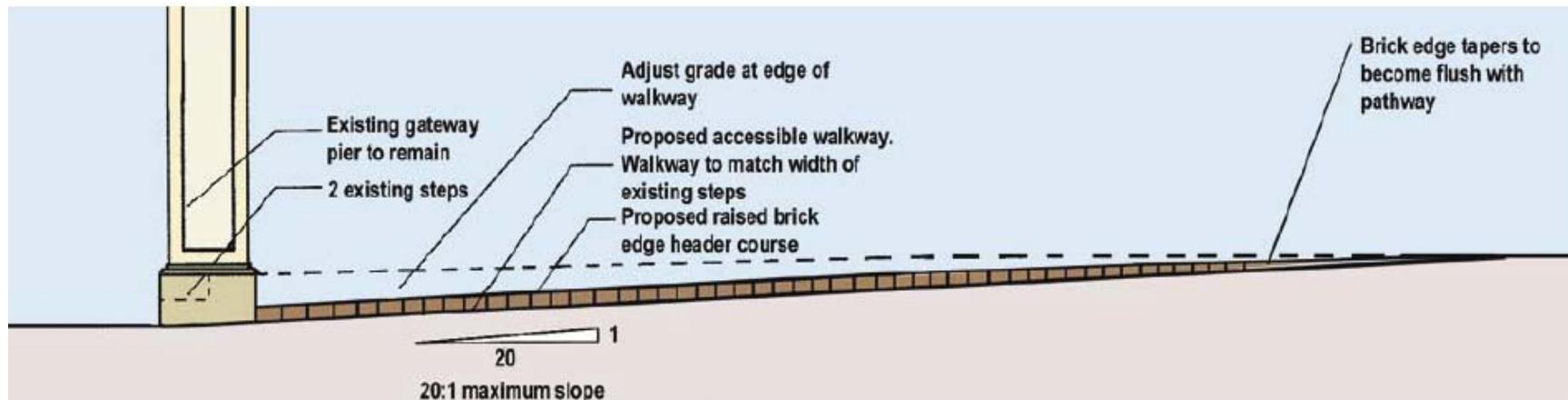
Capitol Street

Capitol Street was outside the scope of the 2004 CSLMP and therefore the following recommendations are all new:

1. The bus loop on Capitol Street should be repaved in the same warm brown asphalt recommended for the Avenue to emphasize a pedestrian-friendly character.
2. As part of the renovation of the General Assembly Building, add tree pits on the north side of Capitol Street where possible (See Detail 1). See p. 101 for recommended species.
3. Pavement around the new Public Safety Memorial and for the remainder of Capitol Street south of the Patrick Henry Building should be the standard—Pine Hall heavy duty brick with an english edge, color: Full Range, size: 4" x 8" x 2-3/4"—to be used for all new brick pavement (See image 7, p. 93).



Image 1



Detail 1

Design Guidelines:

Accessibility

When converting the currently inaccessible site entry to an accessible one as recommended earlier (pp. 32-33, 40), follow the conceptual section included in the 2004 CSLMP. (See Detail I and Image I). Grades should be smoothed on either side of the new sloped walkways to connect with existing grade.

As the 2004 CSLMP stated: *“The walkways should be designed to meet ADA codes and should not exceed a slope of 20:1 to avoid the need for handrails.”* *

*Items in italics are quoted from the 2004 CSLMP

Capitol Square Landscape Master Plan



Design Guidelines:

Site Furnishings

Capitol Square official paint color for all site furnishings:

Benjamin Moore “Essex Green”



New light standard around Capitol Building



New light standard at Capitol Square

Capitol Square Landscape Master Plan



Image 1: Capitol Street Allee Elms



Image 3: View of Capitol Street bus loop looking towards Governor Street



Image 2: Bank street sidewalk

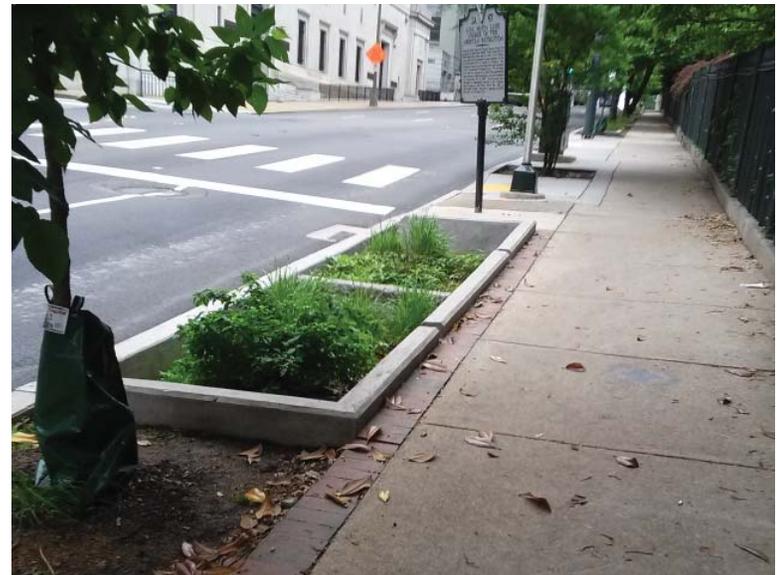


Image 4: Ninth Street infiltration basin and sidewalk

Vegetation:

Street Trees

The 2004 CSLMP delineated the historical research on street tree species that had been recommended in the mid-19th century:*

As reported by Tyler Potterfield, in 1851 and 1852 the Richmond Capitol Square Committee began a street tree planting program on the perimeter of the square. The tree species selected at this time were as follows:

*Capitol Street - Maple
Bank Street - Willow Oak
Ninth Street - Tulip Poplar*

This update makes different recommendations for each street; these recommendations differ from the above originals as well as the 2004 CSLMP recommendations:

Capitol Street:

Capitol Street has the beginnings of a regular street tree planting of Chinese Elms on the north side at Old City Hall. In order to create uniformity in this corridor, we recommend planting the same species as regularly as possible for the remainder of the corridor rather than introducing the Maple tree (see Images 1 and 3).

Bank Street:

As mentioned earlier, (see p. 87) it has been determined that the Bank Street sidewalk is not wide enough to incorporate tree planting (see Image 2).

Ninth Street:

The introduction of the stormwater infiltration basins on Ninth Street, which happened following production of the 2004 CSLMP, has taken over the space where additional street trees would have been planted. Therefore, a street tree species is not recommended for Ninth Street (see Image 4).

*Items in italics are quoted from the 2004 CSLMP



Image 1: Big Linden along the Avenue



Image 3: Small Linden along the Avenue



Image 2: Allee of Lindens along the Avenue



Image 4: Allee of Lindens along the Avenue

Vegetation:

The Avenue

Following the recommendation of the 2004 CSLMP, new Littleleaf Lindens (*Tilia cordata*) have been planted along the Avenue to create a more continuous alley. Any replacements or new trees planted in this corridor should be the same species. The rationale for this recommendation was described in the 2004 document:*

Historic accounts describe trees “planted in precise lines at certain intervals” and photographs show the double row of like trees, however, there is no clear record of the tree specie originally planted along The Avenue. The alignment of this road was established during the Godefroy period, and consistent with tastes of that time, it is likely that the trees were an imported, exotic species. Some photographs suggest that they may have been Littleleaf Lindens... It is recommended that a new alley of trees be planted along The Avenue.

*Items in italics are quoted from the 2004 CSLMP



Image 1: Willow oak on Monument walk



Image 3: View north on Monument walk



Image 2: Tulip Poplar by Monument Walk

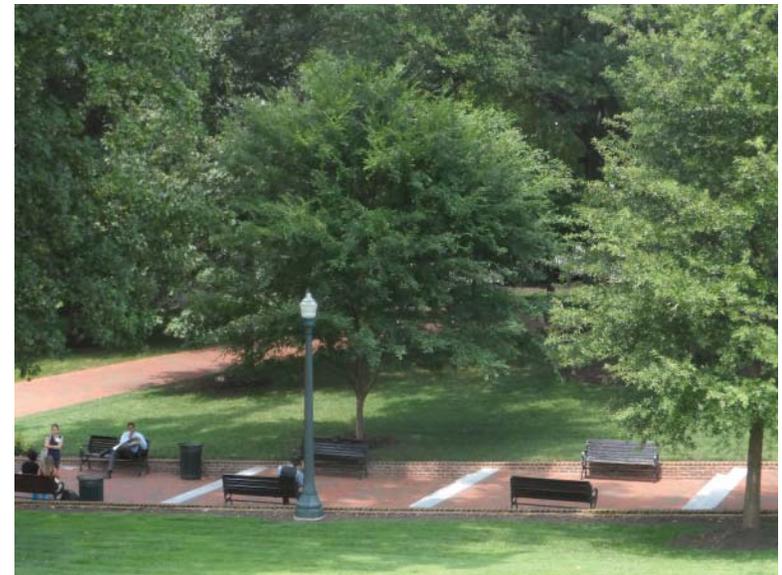


Image 4: Elm on Monument walk

Vegetation: Monument Walk

The 2004 CSLMP recommended planting an allee of London Plane Trees (*Platanus x acerifolia* 'Bloodgood') along Monument Walk. This recommendation was not followed; large trees existing during the 2004 CSLMP included Willow Oaks and Tulip Poplars. Trees added since 2004 include Elms, Maples, Willow Oaks, and Tulip Poplars. As the predominant species is Oak, any replacements should be Willow Oak (*Quercus phellos*).



Image 1: View west from Governor's Street to Capitol Street



Image 3: View of Crape Myrtles at the General Assembly Building on Capitol Street



Image 2: View west on Capitol Street from Old City Hall

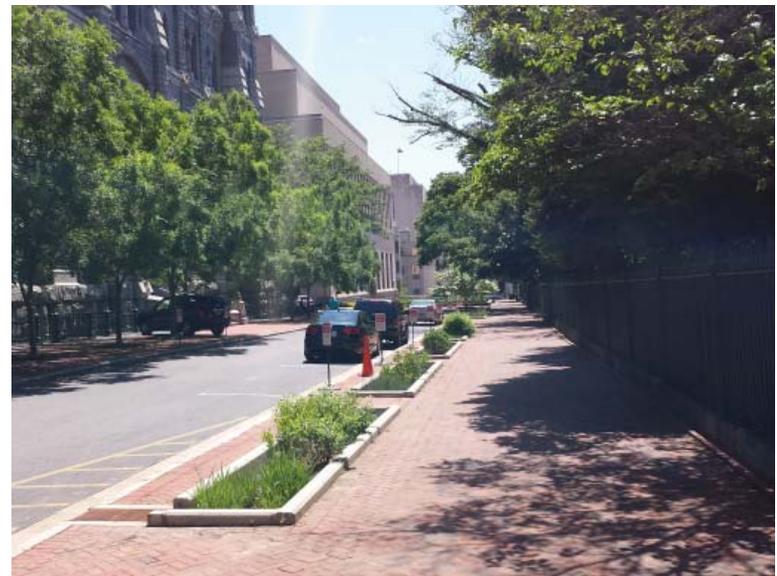


Image 4: View east on Capitol Street from Old City Hall

Vegetation:

Capitol Street

Capitol Street currently contains a mix of vegetation types. At the GAB, there is a small bosque of Crapemyrtles (*Lagerstroemia indica*) to the east and a raised bed with lawn and shrubs to the west. The Crapemyrtle bosque should be reinstalled as part of the GAB replacement project. A row of Chinese Elms (*Ulmus parvifolia*), similar to those at Old City Hall, is recommended to create a regular street tree planting on the north side of Capitol Street at both the GAB and the PHB.

For recommendations on plantings for the infiltration basins see p. 111.

Capitol Square Landscape Master Plan



Images 1-4: Obscured Views at the Site Perimeter



Images 6-7: Decorative Annual beds on Capitol Square



Image 5: Decorative Shrub and annual beds on Capitol Square



Image 8: Decorative Shrubs on Capitol Square

Vegetation:

Ornamental Trees, Shrubs, & Plants

For any new tree plantings (which would generally be replacements as we do not foresee adding to the numbers of trees), the philosophy and plant list included in the 2004 CSLMP are still applicable:*

Other areas on the Square, that were never planted in straight rows or single species should be supplemented with mixed native tree species in informal arrangements. The goal is to create a high, uniform canopy of trees that provides shade and minimal interruption of views through the Square.

Trees appropriate for this use include:

American Elm (Ulmus americana 'Princeton')
London Plane (Platanus x acerifolia 'Bloodgood')
Tulip Tree (Liriodendron tulipifera)
Horsechestnut (Aesculus hippocastanum)
White Oak (Quercus alba)

The existing ornamental shrub and groundcover beds around buildings and fountains can remain (see Image 8). We recommend the removal of the shrub beds on the periphery of the site; these beds can be replaced either by groundcovers, mulch, or some combination of these (See Images 1-5).

The beds of decorative annuals create a time-consuming maintenance job (see Images 5-7). We recommend replacing these beds with flowering groundcovers.

Recommended flowering groundcover species for sunny areas include:

- Carpet Rose (*Rosa x noaschnee*)
- St. John's Wort (*Hypericum calycinum*)
- Sedum (*Sedum 'Acre'*)

Recommended flowering groundcover species for shade include:

- Sweetbox (*Sarcococca hookeriana var. humilis*)
- Bunchberry (*Cornus canadensis*)
- Periwinkle (*Vinca minor*)

*Items in italics are quoted from the 2004 CSLMP

Capitol Square Landscape Master Plan



Images 1 - 3: Biofiltration issues



Images 4 - 7: Functional biofiltration examples

Vegetation:

Biofiltration Plantings

The infiltration basins on Ninth Street and Capitol Street, and the rain gardens at the Bell Tower were installed as part of the “Greening Virginia’s Capitol” initiative for the laudable purpose of handling stormwater in a low-impact way. The current plantings, which were installed just a few years ago, have not performed as expected—either functionally or aesthetically.

The number of species within the infiltration basins should be limited to one or two, with a preference for shrubs rather than herbaceous plants. These species will assist the cooperative effort between the City and state to maintain neatness as well as substance to the basin plantings throughout the year. Recommended shrub varieties are approximately 3 feet in height at maturity.

Similar to the infiltration basins, the use of a smaller number of species in the Bell Tower rain gardens would be more visually in keeping with the historic character and neat, manicured quality of the site. Recommended hydric species that could be planted in either area include:

- Dwarf Sweet Pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia* ‘Hummingbird’)
- Compact Inkberry (*Ilex glabra* ‘Shamrock’)
- Dwarf Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata* ‘Red Sprite’ (female) and *Ilex verticillata* ‘Jim Dandy’ (male) - both sexes needed)
- Dwarf Red-twig Dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera* ‘Arctic Fire’)
- Dwarf Yellow-twig Dogwood (*Cornus* ‘Arctic Sun’)
- Iris sp. (*Iris ensata* varieties)