

NEPEAN POINT RENEWAL



Canada

Planning Workshop
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1. Site location and its surroundings



Philemon Wright's map illustrating Nepean Point and its surroundings in 1828.

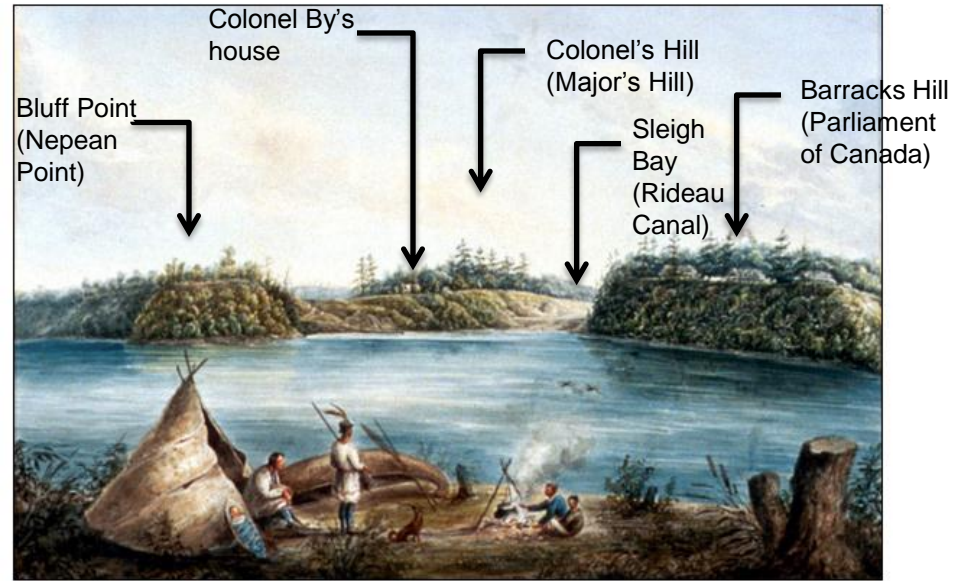


Map illustrating Nepean Point and its surroundings today.

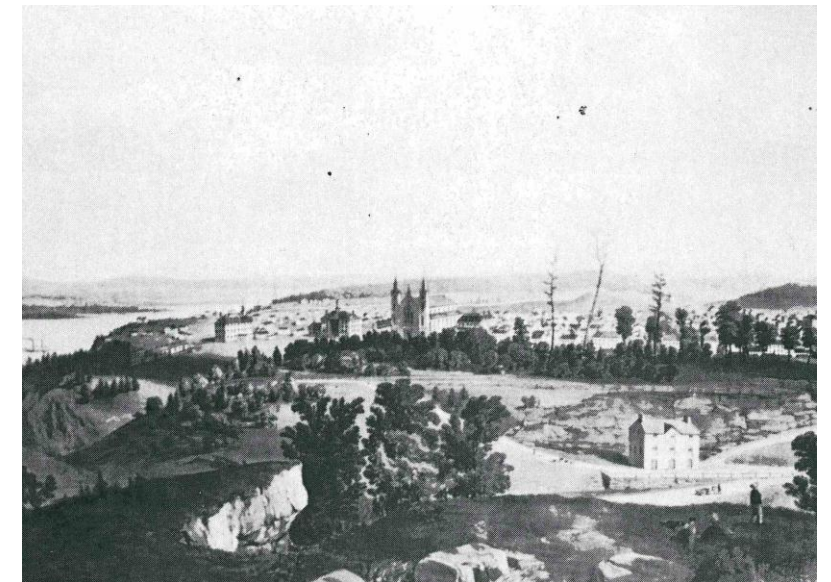
2. History of Nepean Point



In 1613, 1615 and 1616, Champlain explored the Ottawa River.



Mouth of the Rideau Canal, Ottawa River, 1833. Source: Ill. Henry Pooley



Lower Town Ottawa, 1855. Source Ill. E.Whitefield



The National Printing Bureau was built in 1890 and then demolished in 1957. This photo was taken before the development of Nepean Point.



The cannons from the War of 1812 and the Crimean War (1856) were melted during the Second World War.



1876: Nepean Point was named in honour of Sir Evan Nepean, Colonial Affairs Secretary, after the apparent purchase of a large piece of land from Aboriginal Canadians by the British Department of Indian Affairs. Part of this land was used to form the townships of Carleton and Nepean.

2. History of Nepean Point



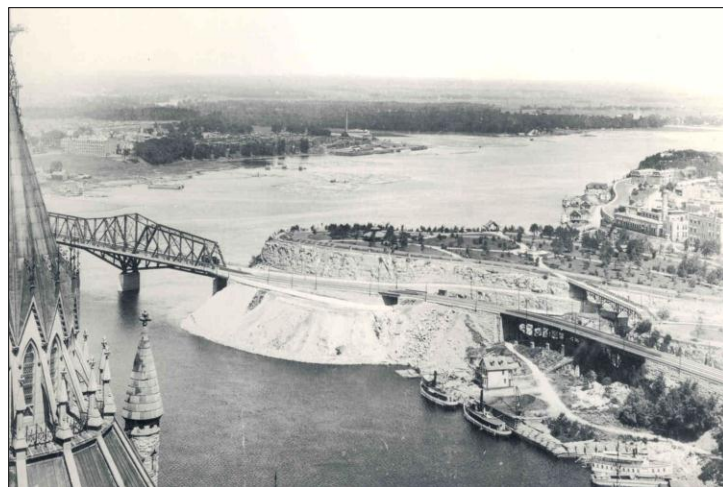
1900: The Dominion Bridge Company built the Royal Alexandra Interprovincial Bridge and the railway splitting Nepean Point and Major's Hill Park.



Todd Plan: The development of Nepean Point started in 1909 and ended in 1912. A wrought iron fence identifies the escarpment. The entire surface is levelled, grass is planted, and trees and shrubs are planted on four hectares. The park includes a summer house, a gazebo, two toilets and an oriental fountain.



The fountain, made in Osaka, Japan, was offered by Baron Strathcona. It was dismantled and stored in 1925. It was reinstalled and then stored again in 1961 for restoration.



Between 1912 and 1925, a footbridge was built between Major's Hill Park and Nepean Point. It was demolished in 1959, as it had become useless after the removal of the railway between downtown Hull (Gatineau today) and downtown Ottawa — a recommendation of the Gréber Plan. The footbridge foundations are still visible.



1915: Unveiling of the Samuel de Champlain statue, by the sculptor Hamilton MacCarthy, commemorating the 300th anniversary of Champlain's first trip on the Ottawa River.



1915: Unveiling of the boundary marker at Nepean Point, donated by the Women's Canadian Historical Society. This marker had been installed in 1845 at the border between Quebec and the United States.

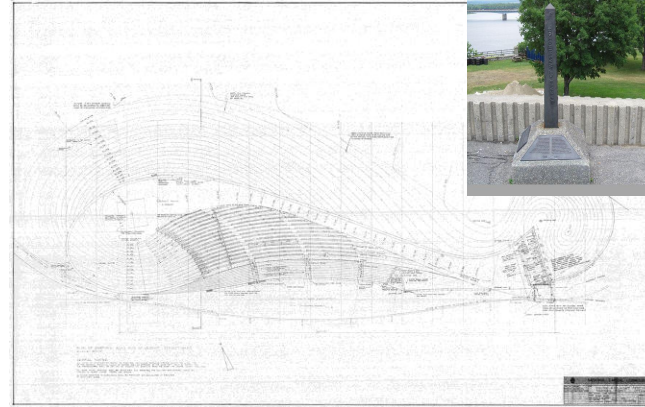
2. History of Nepean Point



1918: Adding of the sculpture *Anishinabe Scout* at the foot of the Samuel de Champlain statue to represent the help Champlain received from First Nations people in navigating the Ottawa River.



1961: Installation of new lighting on the peripheral wall.



1965–1967: Temporary construction of bleachers for the presentation of a sound and light show on Parliament Hill to mark the centennial of Confederation. Relocation of the Champlain statue and boundary marker.



1972–1974: Addition of control and dressings rooms, and, a small pavilion with toilets.
1980: Reconstruction of the bleachers.
1983: Minor renovation work.



Land Surveyors' Monument, 1967



1974: Construction of a parking lot on the site of the National Printing Bureau.



1983-1988: Construction of the National Gallery of Canada, designed by the architect Moshe Safdie.



Installation of Bill Vazan's sculptures *Black Nest* (1989–1991) and *Water Planet* (2001), by the National Gallery of Canada.

2. History of Nepean Point



1995: End of shows at the Astrolabe Theatre, an outdoor amphitheatre with 700 seats.
2008: Special performance.



1999: Moving the sculpture *Anishinabe Scout* from the foot of the Samuel de Champlain statue to Major's Hill Park.



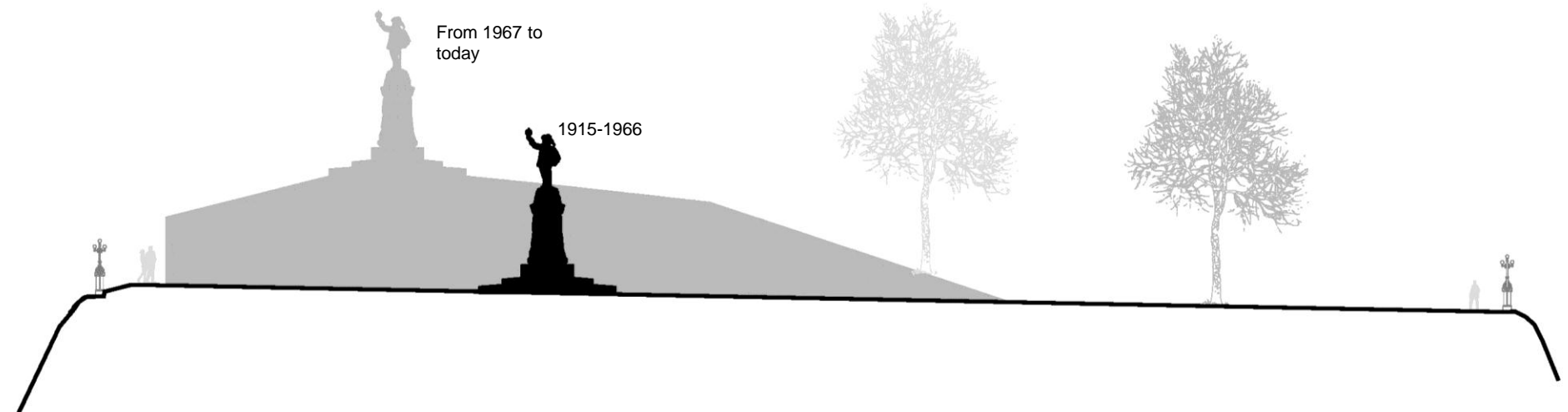
2004–2011: Several studies on the state of the Astrolabe theatre. The presence of controlled substances are found, such as lead-based paints, asbestos and mold.



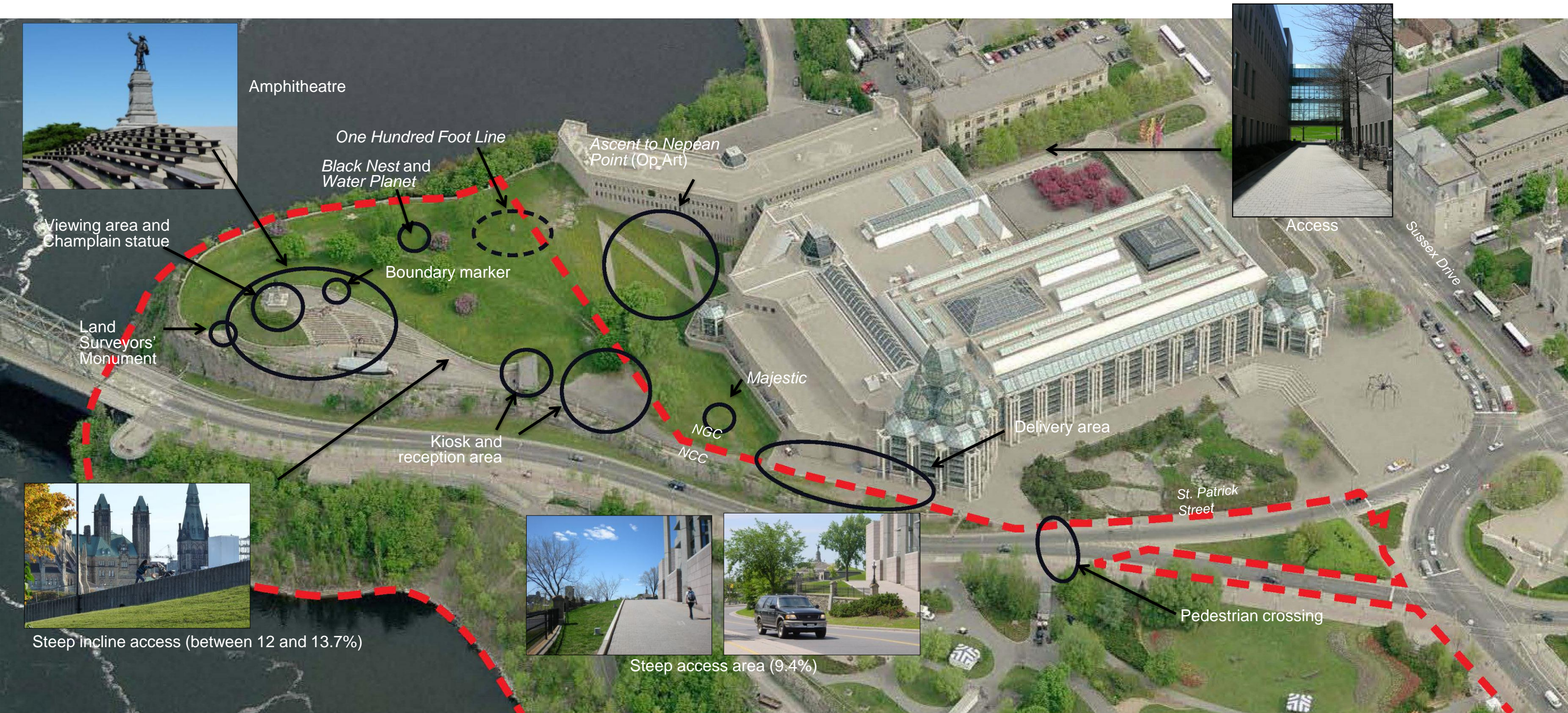
2010: Installation of Roxy Paine's *One Hundred Foot Line* by the National Gallery of Canada.



2013: *Plain Chant*, an interactive, sound and light installation that is voice-activated; it was created to mark the 400th anniversary of Champlain's passage through the region.



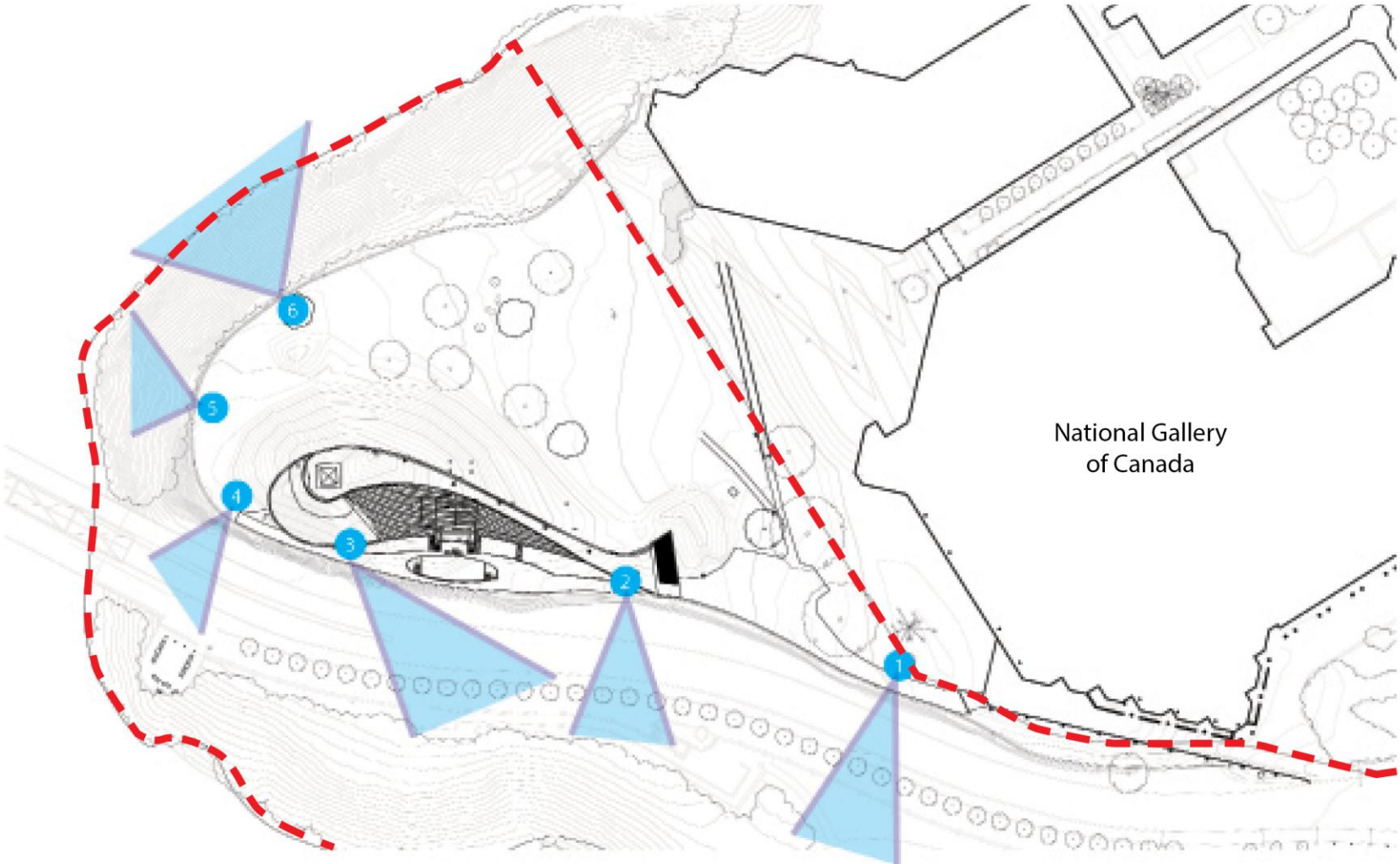
3. Nepean Point today



3. Nepean Point today

Spectacular views

- 1. Parliament of Canada
- 2. Château Laurier
- 3. Rideau Canal and locks
- 4. Ottawa River and Gatineau
- 5. Canadian Museum of History, Gatineau Hills and Alexandra Bridge
- 6. Macdonald-Cartier Bridge

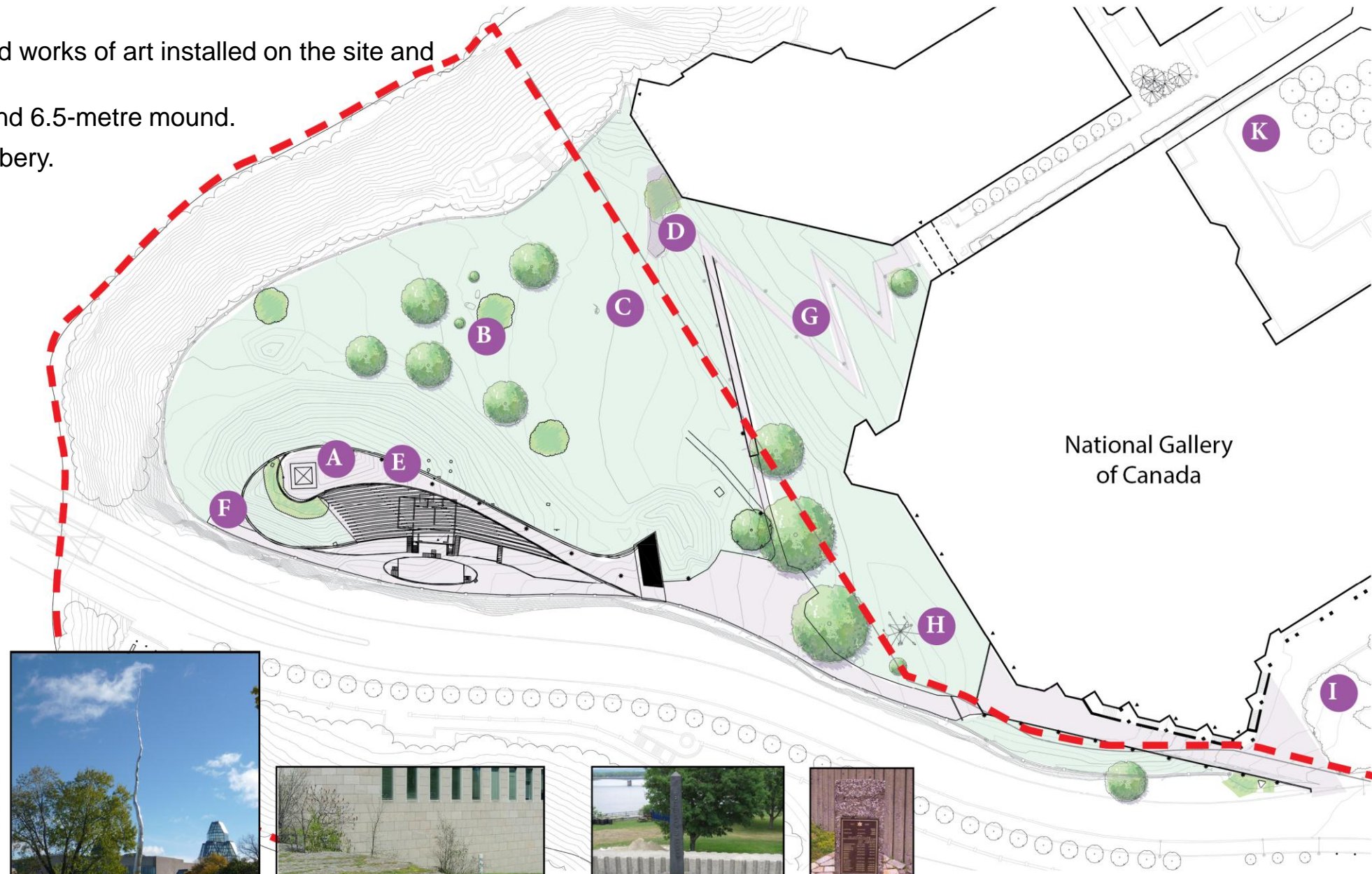


3. Nepean Point today

Several monuments and works of art installed on the site and in surrounding areas.

Large grassy surface and 6.5-metre mound.

Mature trees and shrubbery.



A Samuel de Champlain



B Black Nest and Water Planet



C One Hundred Foot Line



D Nature Will Reclaim You



E Boundary Marker



F Land Surveyors' Monument



G Ascent to Nepean Point (Op Art)



H Majestic



I Taiga Garden



K Sunken Garden

3. Nepean Point today

Considerations

- Location of the site: strategic location at the heart of the Capital; links between the bluff and the river; also considered to be the backyard of the National Gallery of Canada.
- Size of the site (1.11 hectares); location bounded by a wooded escarpment and a cliff.
- The organic character of the site compared with the modern architecture of the National Gallery of Canada and the *Ascend to Nepean Point* (Op Art) with its bold, strong shapes to be integrated.
- Universal access (maximum slope of 4.9% or addition of ramps and landings) and general access to the site; safe pedestrian crossing on St. Patrick Street.
- Emphasize the monuments, works of art and large sculptures.
- Possible demolition of the amphitheatre (excavation to remove the site, contaminated soil).
- Elevation (height) of the Samuel de Champlain statue (depending on the chosen landscaping, clean fill to be brought to the site).

3. Nepean Point today

Considerations (*continued*)

- Actual risks to health and safety of visitors (amphitheatre, reception kiosk, fence, lighting).
- Proximity to a national museum and respect for its needs: minimal effect on the National Gallery of Canada clientele; no vibrations or reverberations during the work, in order to protect art collections; access to the delivery area.
- Respect the needs of the City of Ottawa: firefighter access.
- Visitors' needs: rest area (benches, picnic tables, drinking fountains), bike racks.
- NCC's needs: green demolition, stormwater management, security and ambiance lighting, maintenance, interpretation potential.

4. Development objectives

- Encourage walking and discovery of scenic views of the Capital's national heritage.
- Respect universal access standards and ensure the safety of the site.
- Create an inviting entrance to encourage visitors to discover the park and the Capital.
- Give the park a unique, world-class character.
- Make use of the interpretation potential of the Capital's symbols.
- Favour sustainable development (redefine the vegetation cover; contribute to biodiversity; manage stormwater; install LED lighting).
- Provide links to a bridge connecting Nepean Point to Major's Hill Park and a bridge connecting Nepean Point to Lady Grey Drive.

5. Inspiring images

