District of Columbia Office of Planning

DC STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
FEDERAL AGENCY SECTION 106 REVIEW FORM

TO: Carly Bond, Historic Preservation Specialist, Smithsonian Institution

ADDRESS: Via email to: BondC@si.edu

PROJECT NAME/DESCRIPTION: Revitalization of the Historic Core Telecom Hub Relocation Project

PROJECT ADDRESS/LOCATION DESCRIPTION: Jefferson Drive, National Mall

DC SHPO PROJECT NUMBER: 22-0611

The DC State Historic Preservation Office (DC SHPO) has reviewed the above-referenced federal undertaking(s) in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and has determined:

☐	This project will have **no effect** on historic properties. No further DC SHPO review or comment will be necessary.
☐	There are **no historic properties** that will be affected by this project. No further DC SHPO review or comment will be necessary.
☒	This project will have **no adverse effect** on historic properties. No further DC SHPO review or comment will be necessary.
☐	This project will have **no adverse effect** on historic properties **conditioned upon** fulfillment of the measures stipulated below.
☐	Other Comments / Additional Comments (see below):

We understand this project proposes to relocate the existing telecommunications hub located in the basement of the Castle to the National Museum of the American Indian. Work will include construction of a new underground duct bank on the north side of Jefferson Drive. Existing below grade infrastructure will be used to the maximum extent possible to limit the amount of trenching that will be required. All disturbed sidewalks, planting beds, roadway surfaces and related infrastructure will be restored to their existing conditions once the work is completed. Since this project is subject to the South Mall Plan Programmatic Agreement, any unanticipated discoveries of archaeological resources will be addressed in accordance with Stipulation 9. For these reasons, we concur that the proposed undertaking will have "no adverse effect" on historic properties.

BY: _____ **DATE**: July 1, 2022

C. Andrew Lewis
Senior Historic Preservation Specialist
DC State Historic Preservation Office

Smithsonian Facilities

June 2, 2022

C. Andrew Lewis
Senior Historic Preservation Specialist
DC Historic Preservation Office, DC Office of Planning
1100 4th Street SW, Suite E650
Washington, DC 20024

Re: Revitalization of the Historic Core – Telecom Hub Relocation

Dear Mr. Lewis,

The Smithsonian Institution (SI) is in the midst of design development and Section 106 consultation for the Revitalization of the Historic Core (RoHC) project, with a new scope direction that focuses on the Revitalization of the Smithsonian Institution Building (Castle). Per the construction schedule for the RoHC Revitalize Castle, the Castle will close to the public and construction will begin in early 2023. There is a critical first step that must be completed prior to beginning construction on the RoHC Revitalize Castle, which is the relocation of the Telecommunications Hub currently in the basement of the Castle and which must always be available for SI continued operations.

The existing Telecom Hub receives fiber optic cable from the National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) through the existing steam tunnel and high voltage duct bank under the National Mall. From the Telecom Hub in the Castle basement, hub connectivity is provided to all of the other facilities in the South Mall Campus, the National Air and Space Museum (NASM), and the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI). The Freer Gallery and Quadrangle Building are connected to the Telecom Hub through a connection at the Castle basement. The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, NASM, and NMAI are connected to the Telecom Hub through a duct bank that is located underground along the south side of Jefferson Drive.

Under the Telecom Hub Relocation project, the hub will be relocated from the Castle basement to a new Telecom Hub within the NMAI. A new underground duct bank will be constructed on the north side of Jefferson Drive, extending from the existing steam/telecom tunnel from NMNH and running east to the Hirshhorn Museum. The existing duct bank that extends from the Hirshhorn to the NMAI will be retained and reused. The new telecom duct bank is proposed on the north side of Jefferson Drive and not to conflict with work on the north side of the Castle, such as seismic base isolation and perimeter security which are under design development. Other utilities, including electrical, steam lines, and water service also require extension from the north side of Jefferson Drive to the Castle and the AIB for permanent operations. The Freer Gallery and the Quadrangle Building will connect to the new telecom duct bank through an extension west of the Castle.

The installation of the new telecom duct bank and utilities will require trenching which impacts the Jefferson Drive roadbed and sidewalk. The depth of the trenching varies from one foot to five feet below grade depending on the location and the specific utility line. The maximum excavation depth is up to nine feet below grade. The variable depth is related to the required connections to the existing utilities. After installation of the duct bank and utility lines, Jefferson Drive roadbed, sidewalk, and displaced plantings will be replaced in-kind.

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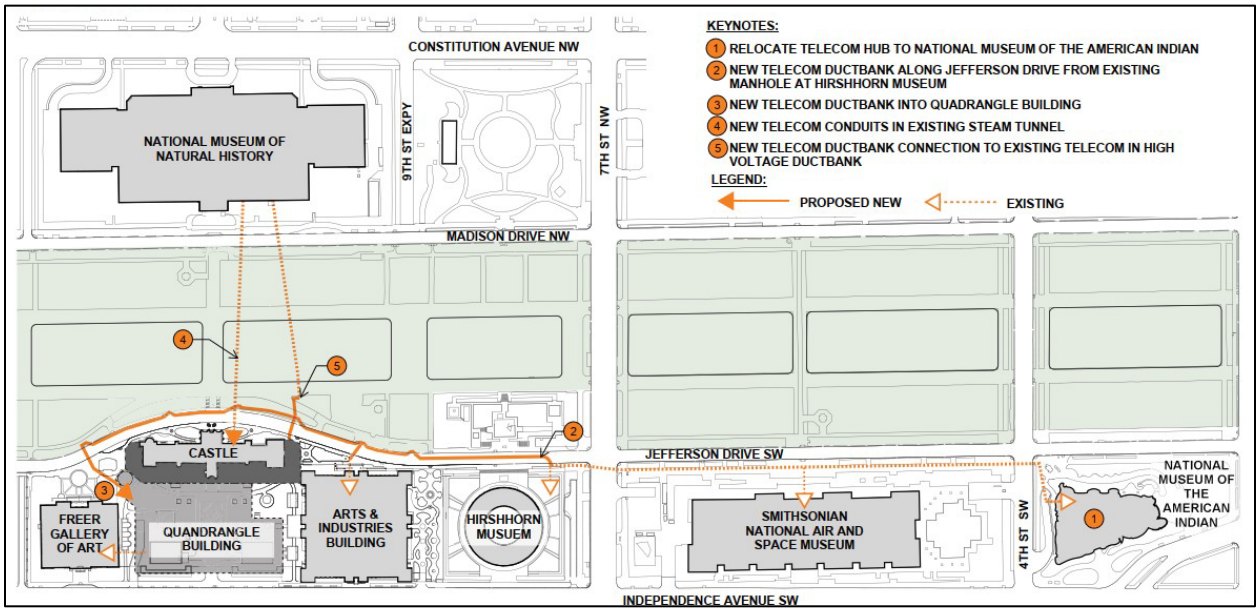

Proposed Work Site Plan.

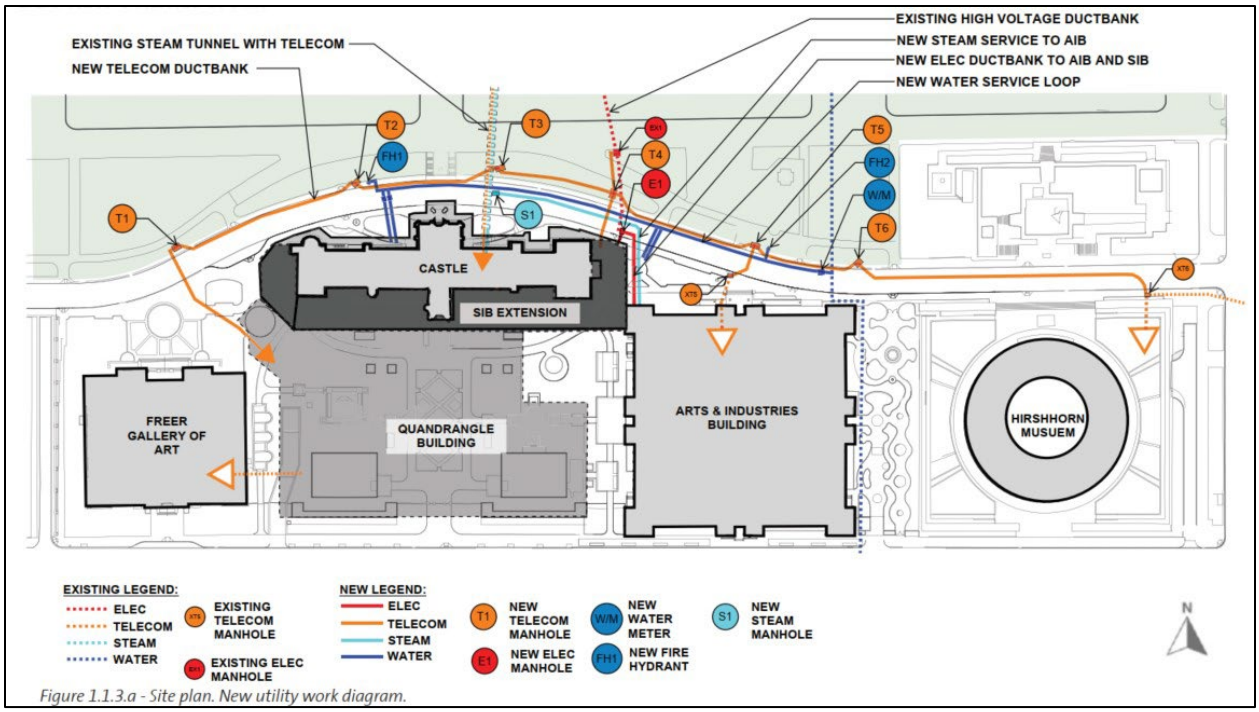

Figure 1.1.3.a - Site plan. New utility work diagram.

Proposed Work Site Plan within the South Mall Campus.

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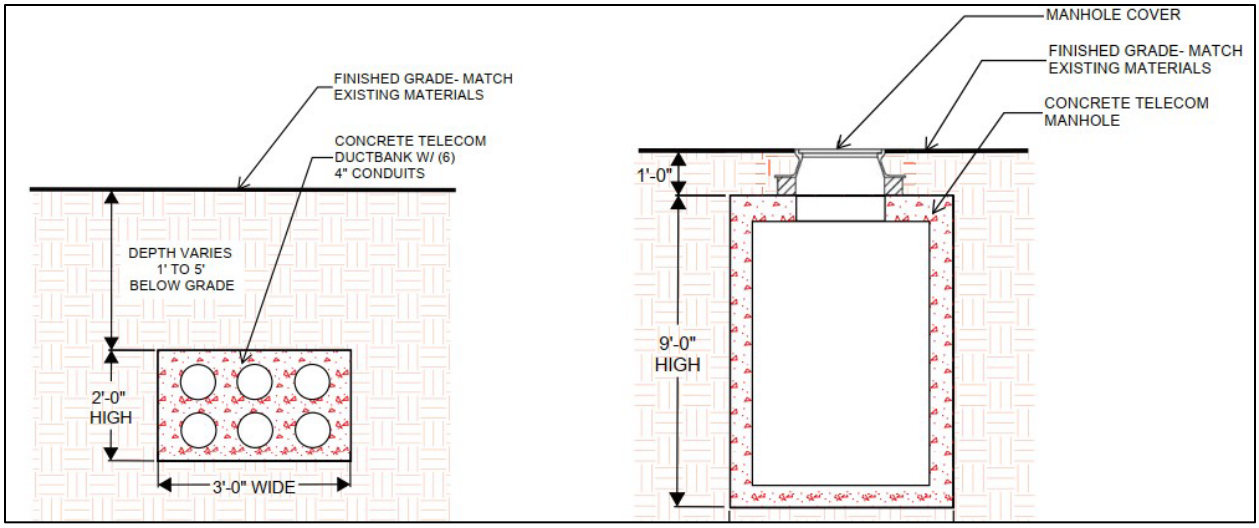

Detail sections of the Telecom Duct Bank and Manhole Access.

This project is the critical first step in the construction of the RoHC Revitalize Castle, with the Telecom Hub relocation construction complete and online by February 2023 to support functioning of the South Mall Campus, NASM, and NMAI. Construction on the Telecom Hub is projected to begin in August 2022.

The RoHC Telecom Hub Relocation is a South Mall Campus Master Plan project, and in accordance with Stipulation 2.C.ii of the Programmatic Agreement, the SI proposes a determination of "no adverse effect" for this project. The Telecom Hub project will reuse elements that currently exist below-grade, including the cross-National Mall connection and the duct bank east of 7th Street. This work occurs within the Jefferson Drive roadbed, sidewalk, or plantings, which will be replaced in-kind. There will be no visible above-grade changes for this work, beyond seven (7) manhole covers to access the telecom and electrical duct banks and one (1) fire hydrant. The manhole covers and hydrant are in keeping with existing National Mall installations.

The Environmental Impact Statement for the South Mall Campus Master Plan determined that there are few locations within the South Mall Campus and Area of Potential Effects that have not been significantly disturbed due to grading, filling, and construction activities for the museum buildings and roadbeds. The EIS concluded that "there is potential for archaeological resources to be present…the potential for resources has been determined to be low."[1] A process for the unanticipated discovery of archaeological resources in the implementation of construction projects pursuant to the Master Plan was included under Stipulation 9 of the South Mall Campus Master Plan Programmatic Agreement.

Due to the variable depth of excavation for the duct banks of one to five feet below-grade, a maximum depth of excavation of nine feet in specific locations, and the anticipated minimal potential of encountering archaeological deposits, the SI proposes a determination of "no adverse effect." This project will conform with Stipulation 9 of the PA, and if unanticipated archaeological discoveries are encountered during construction activities for the Telecom Hub Relocation, work shall be immediately

[1] Stantec. *Final Environmental Impact Statement South Mall Campus Master Plan*, p. 4-9. April 2018.

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suspended and the DC SHPO will be notified for consultation on “reasonable efforts…to avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse effects to such resources” and/or to “resolve any unavoidable adverse effects.”

The SI is coordinating the review and permitting of the RoHC Telecom Hub Relocation with the National Park Service. This project also requires Erosion and Sediment Control permit from the District of Columbia, and submissions are planned for this project for the July meetings of the Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Planning Commission.

Please contact me if SI can provide additional materials for your review or if there are any questions. If the DC SHPO concurs in the proposed effect determination, the SI will provide the Telecom Hub Relocation project documentation and determination to Consulting Parties in accordance with Stipulation 2.C.ii. of the PA through the project webpage.

Sincerely,

Carly Bond

Carly Bond
Historic Preservation Specialist

Attachments: RoHC Telecom Hub Relocation, National Capital Planning Commission Combined Preliminary/Final Submission, June 2022, EYP-Loring.

cc: Ruth Trocolli, DC SHPO Archaeologist
Caridad de la Vega, National Park Service
Sharon Park, Smithsonian Facilities
Ann Trowbridge, Smithsonian Facilities
Michelle Spofford, Smithsonian Facilities
Brenda Sanchez, Smithsonian Facilities
Christopher Lethbridge, Smithsonian Facilities

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Smithsonian

Smithsonian Institution
Revitalization of the Historic Core
TELECOM HUB RELOCATION

National Capital Planning Commission
COMBINED PRELIMINARY/FINAL

June 3, 2022

EYP-Loring, LLC

Smithsonian

Project Name

Revitalization of the Historic Core (RoHC)

Smithsonian Institution Building
1000 Jefferson Dr, SW
Washington DC 20024

Arts and Industries Building
900 Jefferson Dr, SW
Washington DC 20024

Agency and Contact

Smithsonian Institution
Smithsonian Facilities (SF)
Office of Planning, Design and Construction (OPDC)
Capital Gallery
600 Maryland Avenue SW, Suite 5001
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Project Team

Sharon Park, FAIA – Assoc. Director of Historic Preservation, SF-OPDC
Carly Bond – Historic Preservation Specialist, SF-OPDC
Brenda Sanchez, FAIA – Sr. Design Manager, SF-OPDC
Christopher Lethbridge – Architect/Program Manager, SF-OPDC

Design Team

EYP-Loring, LLC – AE of Record
Silman – Structural and Seismic Engineering
Forell/Elsesser Engineers – Seismic Consulting
RHI (Rhodeside and Harwell) – Landscape Architecture
Simpson Gumpertz & Heger – Building Envelope Consulting
Jensen Hughes – Fire Protection, Life Safety, Accessibility
Sorba (f. Wiles Mensch) – Civil Engineering
Axias (f. Hanscomb Consulting) – Construction Cost Analysis & Estimating
Aerosol Monitoring & Analysis – HazMat Abatement and Analysis
Culinary Advisors – Food Service Design
Phase Shift Consulting – Audio-Visual, Electronic Security
Applied Research Associates – Blast Engineering
Gorove Slade Associates – Traffic Engineering, Materials Handling
C.M. Kling & Associates – Lighting Design
Saunders & Associates - Acoustics
Michael Blades & Associates – Vertical Transportation Systems Design
Building Conservation Services – Materials Conservation Services
Haley & Aldrich – Geotechnical Engineering

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INTRODUCTION

Smithsonian

INTRODUCTION

As part of the Smithsonian Institution Revitalization of the Historic Core project the existing below grade utilities must be rerouted to maintain operations in the Smithsonian facilities on the south side of the National Mall during construction. This includes concrete duct banks, structures that contain conduit for fiber optic and electrical cables, steam lines, and water lines. A new central location, or telecommunications hub, will be created in the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) and new below grade duct banks and utility lines installed to allow the existing system to remain active until the new configuration is in place and activated. The new duct banks and utilities will also be located to avoid the area of ground disturbance that will be required along the north side of the Smithsonian Institution Building (SIB or the Castle) as part of the seismic base isolation work and perimeter security installation along Jefferson Drive.

Existing Conditions

There is an existing telecommunications hub in the basement of the Castle which receives fiber optic feeds from the National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) through the existing steam tunnel and a high voltage duct bank under the National Mall. From this hub connectivity is provided to all of the other facilities in the South Mall Campus, the National Air and Space Museum (NASM), and the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) further to the east. The connections to the Arts and Industries Building, Quadrangle Building, the Freer and Sackler, and the National Museum of African Art (NMAfA) from the hub, run through the Castle basement and into the adjacent facilities. The Hirshhorn Museum, NASM, and NMAI are fed through a duct bank that is located underground along the south side of Jefferson Drive.

Proposed Design

The design intent is to relocate the telecom hub from the basement of the SIB to a newly designated South Mall Campus HUB in NMAI. The new hub will be located adjacent to the existing telecommunications utility room of NMAI. A new underground duct bank will be created on the north side of Jefferson Drive, extending from the existing steam tunnel, running to the east to the Hirshhorn Museum. The existing duct bank that extends from the Hirshhorn to NMAI will be retained and reused.

The new duct bank will also extend to the west from the existing steam tunnel along the north side of Jefferson Drive. This will provide connectivity to the Quadrangle Building, Freer and Sackler, and NMAfA without going through the footprint of the Castle.

Existing water service and steam service lines will also require rerouting on the north side of the SIB to maintain operations in the buildings south of the Mall during the construction on the Castle.

Construction Impact

Installation of the new duct bank and utilities will require trenching which will impact Jefferson Drive and the sidewalk. The depth of the trenching varies from one foot to five feet below grade depending on the location and the specific utility line. The depth is related to the required connections to the existing utilities. After installation of the duct bank and utility lines Jefferson Drive and the sidewalk will be reconstructed matching the existing layout and materials. New manholes, located in the sidewalk, will be required to access the duct bank. A new fire hydrant will be installed on the north side of Jefferson Drive across from the Castle. The new manholes and fire hydrant will be similar in appearance to existing manholes and hydrants.

Section 106 Consultation

Revitalization of the Historic Core project is a design project within the Smithsonian Institution's South Mall Campus Master Plan (approved June 7, 2018). The Smithsonian is in the midst of Section 106 consultation for the RoHC pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act and in accordance with Stipulation 2 of the Programmatic Agreement for the South Mall Campus Master Plan. The SI has submitted the Telecommunication Hub as a separate Section 106 submission to the DC Historic Preservation Office, proposing a "no adverse effect" determination, due to the minimal potential of encountering archaeological deposits in the project area. The project area has previously been extensively disturbed by the construction of buildings and roadways.

1. DETAILED PROJECT INFORMATION

Smithsonian

1. DETAILED PROJECT INFORMATION

1.1 TELECOM HUB RELOCATION

1.1.1 EXISTING CONDITIONS

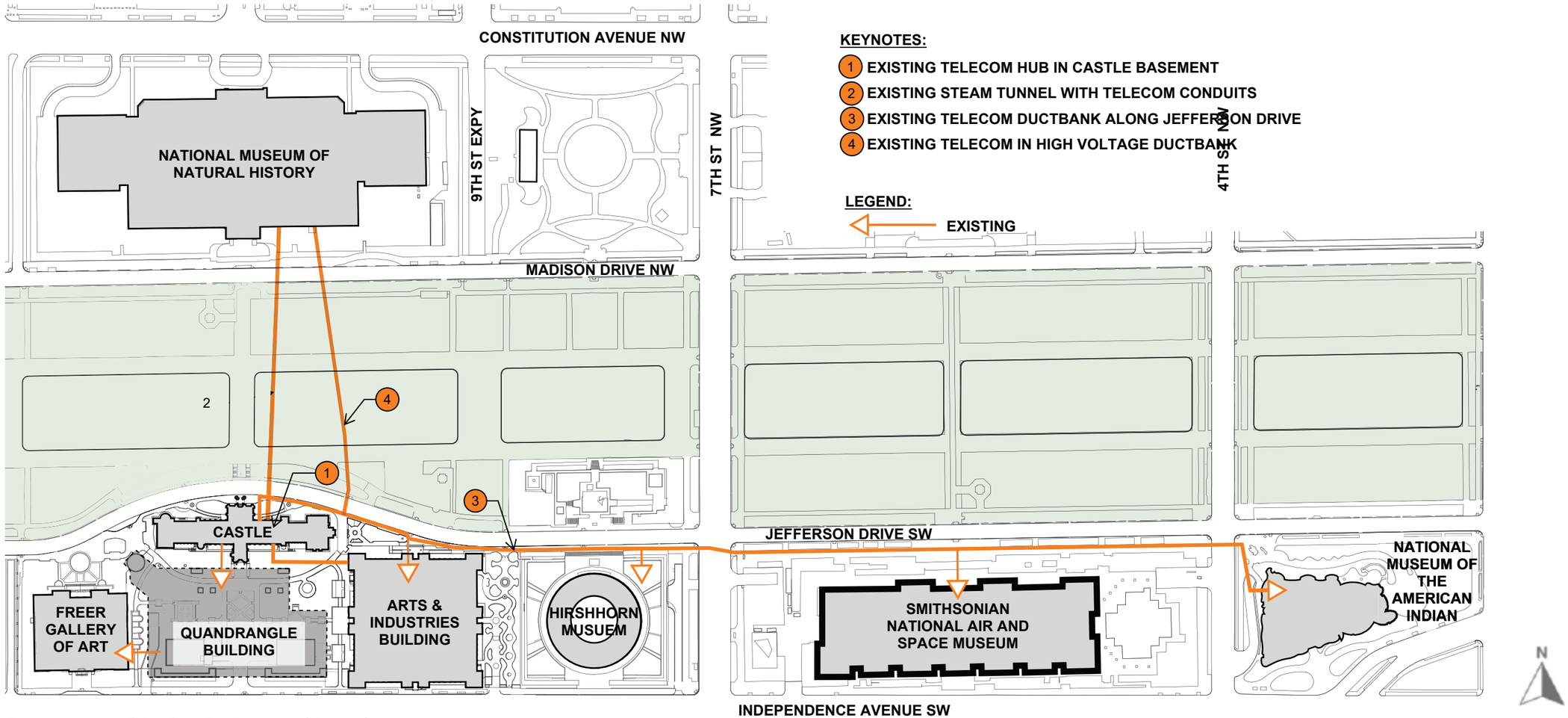

Figure 1.1.1.a - Site plan. Existing conditions diagram.

The existing telecom hub is located in the basement of the Smithsonian Institution Building (Castle). The hub receives fiber optic feeds from the National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) through the existing steam tunnel and a high voltage duct bank under the National Mall. Feeds to the other Smithsonian facilities on the south side of the Mall are either through the basement of the Castle or a below grade duct bank on the south side of Jefferson Drive as shown in Figure 1.1.1.a.

1. DETAILED PROJECT INFORMATION

1.1 TELECOM HUB RELOCATION

1.1.2 PROPOSED WORK

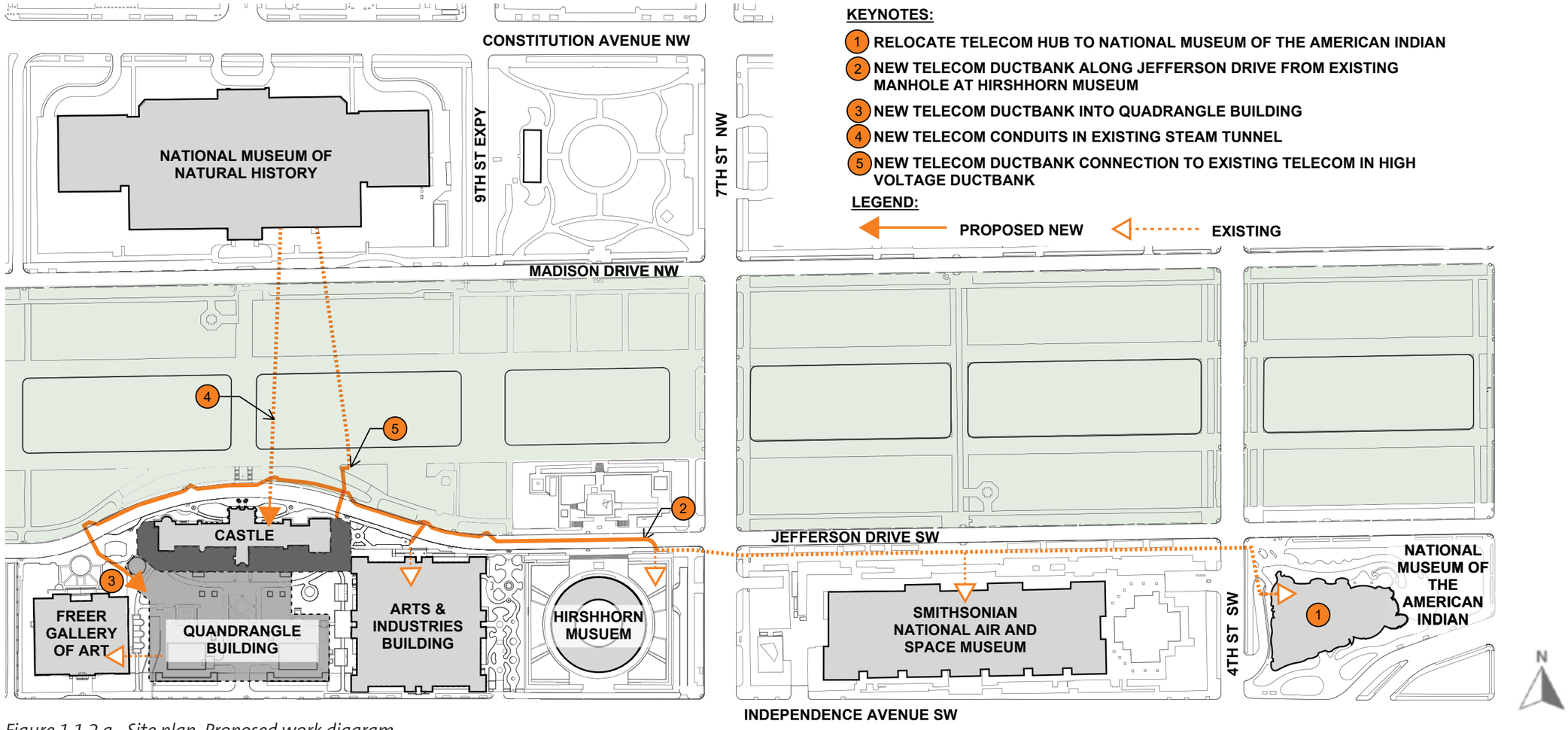

Figure 1.1.2.a - Site plan. Proposed work diagram.

The proposed work illustrated in Figure 1.1.2.a. is to relocate the telecom hub to the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI), reuse elements of the existing below grade distribution network including the cross-Mall steam tunnel and the high voltage duct bank and install a new below grade duct bank along the north side of Jefferson Drive. Excavation for this work occurs between one and five feet below grade. New manhole covers will be installed as required to serve the new below grade network and will be the only visible change above grade of the work. Sidewalks, roadbed paving, and plantings removed to accommodate the work will be replaced in-kind.

1. DETAILED PROJECT INFORMATION

1.1 TELECOM HUB RELOCATION

1.1.3 NEW UTILITIES WORK

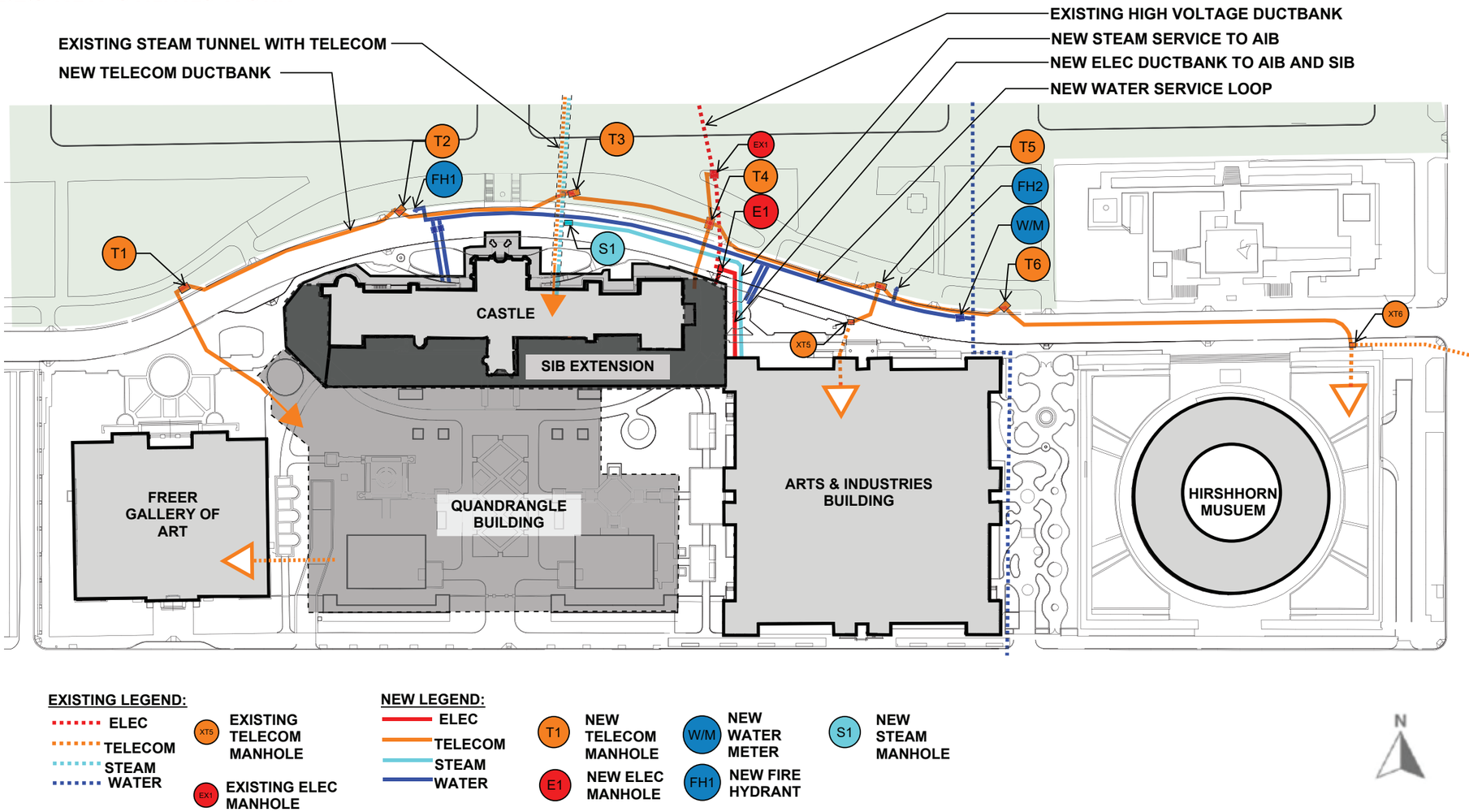

Figure 1.1.3.a - Site plan. New utility work diagram.

Figure 1.1.3.a. overlays the existing utilities, existing electrical manhole and existing telecom manholes with the new utilities, location of the new telecom manholes, new electrical manhole, new water meter, new fire hydrant and new steam manhole. Sidewalks, roadbed paving, and plantings removed to accommodate the work will be replaced in-kind. Coordination and permitting of this work is in process with the National Park Service.

1. DETAILED PROJECT INFORMATION

1.1 TELECOM HUB RELOCATION

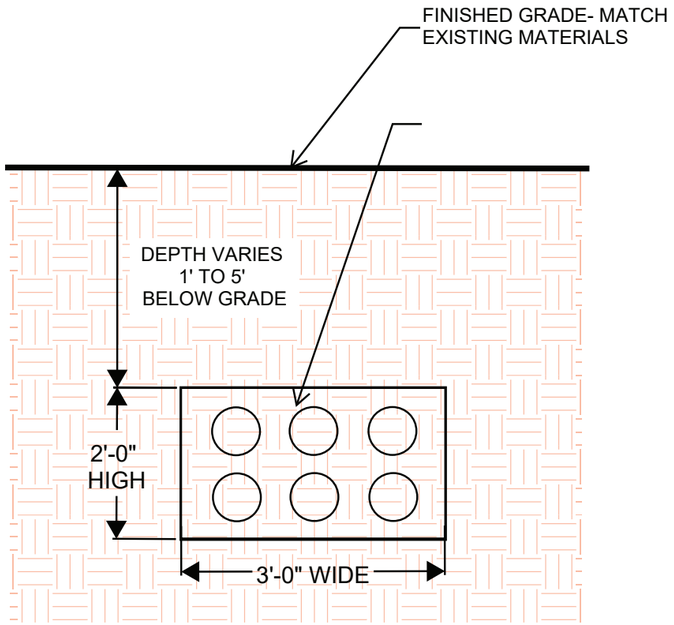

Figure 1.1.3.b - Detail section. Proposed new telecom ductbank.

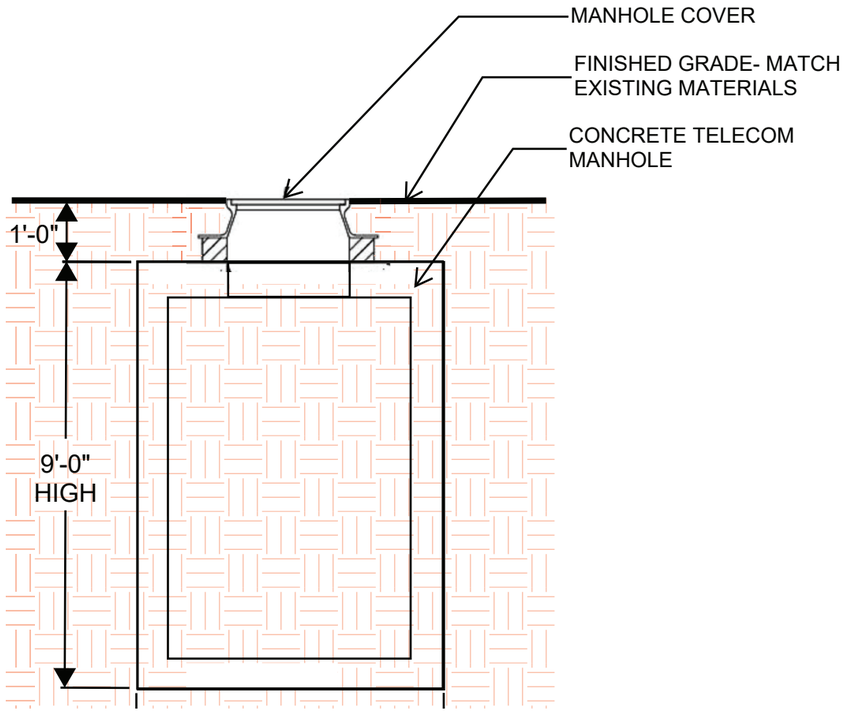

Figure 1.1.3.c - Detail section. Proposed new manhole.

Figure 1.1.3.d - Photograph. Existing manhole and fire hydrant on the north side of Jefferson Drive

Figure 1.1.3.e - Photograph. Close-up of an existing fire hydrant on the north side of Jefferson Drive.