



Preservation of Washington Avenue Historic District and Tourist Attraction

- Right Tree Right Place in Fredericksburg VA -

Washington Avenue

Historic District 2002

Religious Freedom Monument
1977

Kenmore Plantation
1776

George R. Clark Memorial
1929



Mary Washington Monument
1894

Hugh Mercer Statue
1906

Historic Significance of Mall

1752: Kenmore house built

1890: Daughters of the American Revolution founded and undertakes completion of Mary Washington Monument as its first project.

1891: Washington Avenue Mall established as a commemorative approach to the Mary Washington monument.

1902: United States Congress appropriates funds to build a monument to Hugh Mercer on Washington Avenue.

1905: City of Fredericksburg deeds a plot of land to the United States of America for the erection of the Hugh Mercer Statue

2002: Washington Avenue listed on the National Register of Historic Places by the United States Department of Interior.

Why do we emphasize the fact that:

- The Mary Washington Monument was the product of a nationwide DAR campaign to fund its completion,
- The United States Congress erected the Hugh Mercer Statue,
- The Daughters of American Revolution of Muncie Indiana erected the George Rogers Clark memorial, and
- The Virginia Statute of Religious Freedom marked a turning point in human history and provided the precedent for our national First Amendment right to freedom of religion?

These monuments are not just important for Fredericksburg.

They are important to the entire nation, and we in this city have a responsibility to respect their national significance by continuing to display them prominently.

Official Policies Affecting the Mall

Fredericksburg 2010 Historic Preservation Plan

Requires consideration of adverse impacts to an historic property, **including visual obstruction.**

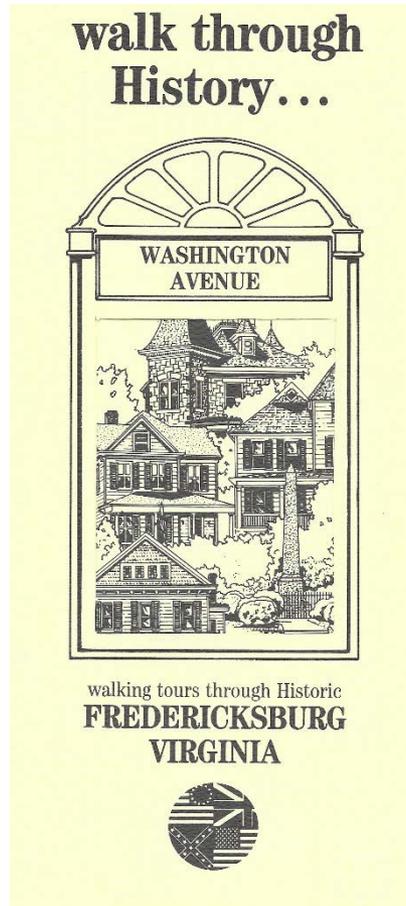
Fredericksburg Uniform Development Ordinance

“To protect against destruction of or encroachment upon historic areas.”

Fredericksburg 2015 Comprehensive Plan

Designates Washington Avenue Mall as an historic preservation area consisting of *“Open medians w/ monuments.”*

Tourism Significance of Mall



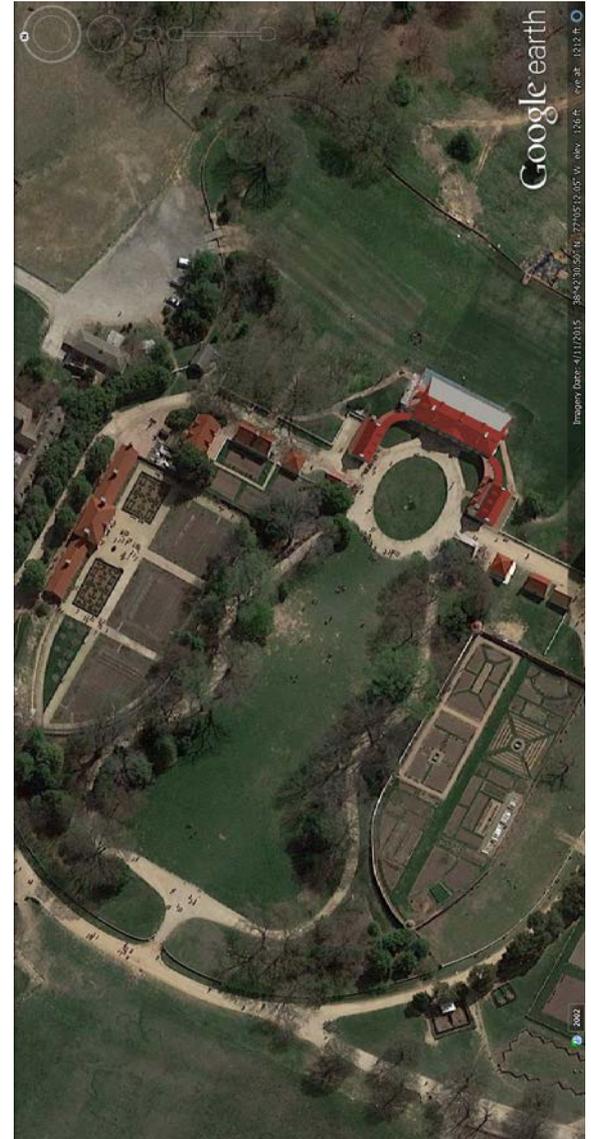
The Issue: Sightlines and Viewshed

- **Historic District Largely Because of its Sightlines and Views of Monuments and Historic Homes**
- **Tourist Attraction Because of its Sightlines and Views of Monuments and Historic Homes**

Viewshed of Washington Avenue



Mount Vernon Lawn



Washington Monument on National Mall



Monticello



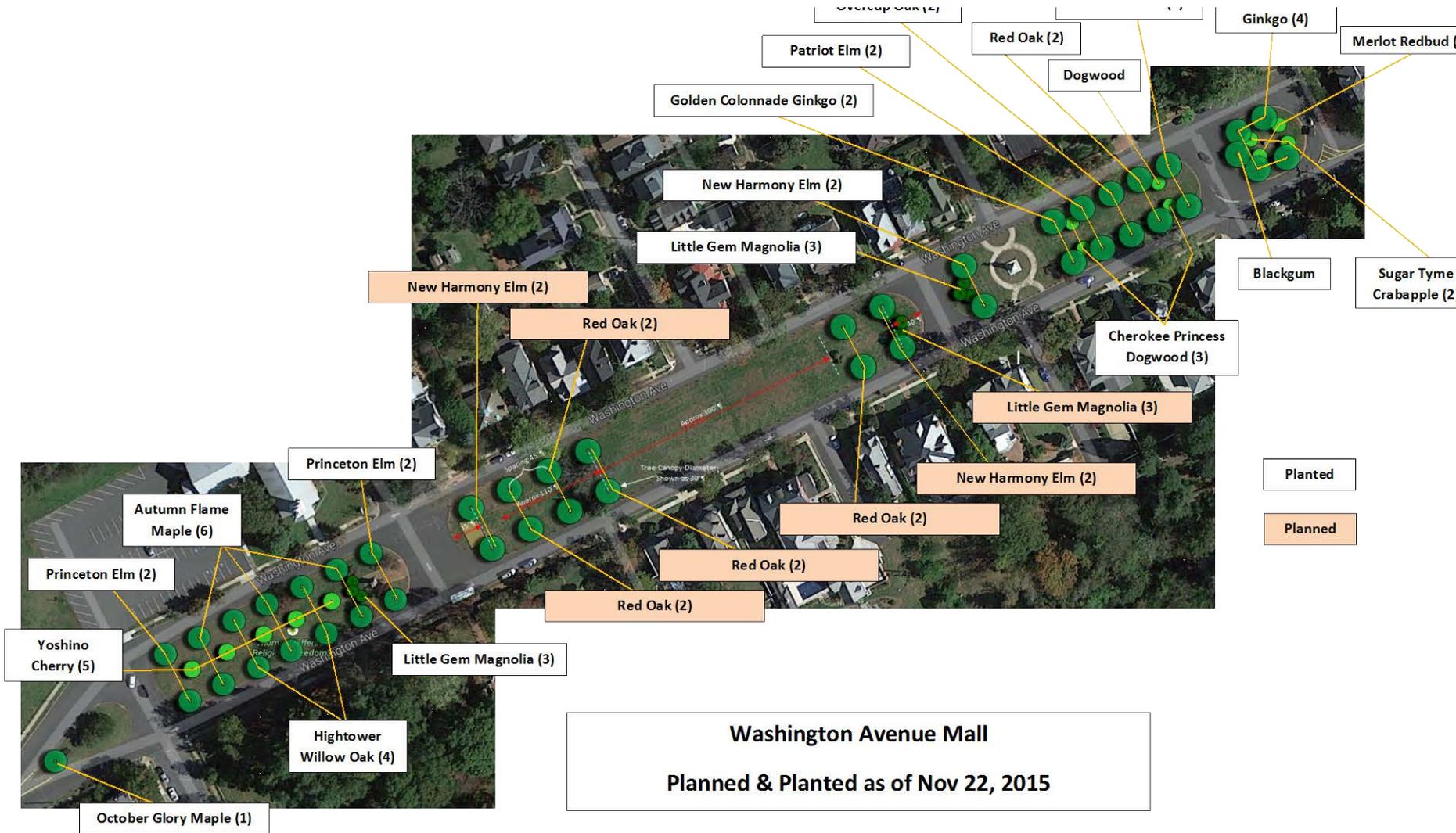
Mall's Significance to Fredericksburg Quality of Life

- 1) Tourist attraction for local citizens.**
- 2) Popular destination for walkers and joggers.**
- 3) Open space for play.**
- 4) Venue for parades, ceremonies, and community gatherings.**
- 5) Diversity of land use and relief from the claustrophobic tunnel effect created when buildings and trees are too dense in a City.**

Another Issue: Approval Process

- **No public notice of this plan**
- **No Community input**
- **No recorded votes by City officials**
- **No evidence of official approval**

November 2015 Diagram



View of Hugh Mercer Statue

From Corner of Lewis Street and Washington Avenue, December 5, 2015



Hugh Mercer

Hugh Mercer

- From Straight On At Lewis Circle -

2008

2015

Hugh Mercer





Lewis Circle 2015



Hugh Mercer

- From East in front of Kenmore -

2013

2015



Hugh Mercer - From West -

2013

2015



Religious Freedom Monument

- From North May 2012 -



Religious Freedom Monument

- From North 2015 -



Religious Freedom Monument

- From North December 2015



Homes Across From Kenmore



Historic Kenmore Plantation

**Gillette 1920's Design
at Mid-Century**



**Favrotti 1990's Design
in 2015**



Request to City Council

- (i) Establish a diverse committee to develop an appropriate landscape design
- (ii) Direct the committee to make preservation and restoration of sightlines to historic properties a priority
- (iii) Publicize the proposed design(s)
- (iv) Solicit community input
- (v) City Council vote to approve implementation of a final design plan that complements the historic structures and views.