

# USS Jacob Jones Memorial Monument Handout

[www.jacobjonesmemorial.org](http://www.jacobjonesmemorial.org)

## A Sacred and Solemn Obligation A Significant Opportunity



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## Cape May: Ground Zero for Naval War between US & Germany

- On December 11, 1941, four days after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, Germany declared war on the United States
- On February 28, 1942, US Navy destroyer, the Jacob Jones 130, on patrol off Cape May, was the first US warship following the declaration of war to be sunk by a German U-Boat during the “Battle of the Atlantic”
- 131 officers and crew perished . . . All but one body remain entombed within the wreckage at the sinking site
- 11 survivors were treated at the Cape May Naval Air Station (now the Coast Guard Base)

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## Significant News, Military & Homeland Security Impact

- National News event with headlines in dozens of newspapers
- Military Impact:
  - The loss of the USS Jacob Jones underscored the vulnerability of U.S. naval vessels to German U-boats in the Battle of the Atlantic
  - Led to technological advancements such as sonar and radar to counter the U-boat threat effectively
- Homeland Security Impact
  - The attack off Cape May brought the war alarmingly close to American shores
  - This heightened public awareness and urgency for coastal defense measures, including expanded naval patrols, improved air reconnaissance, and coastal blackouts to mitigate submarine threats

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## The First Monument

- A Jacob Jones monument (vs. a plaque) is warranted given the historical significance of what is described above
- No monument currently exists anywhere to honor any US Naval ships destroyed by U-boats nor their crews who made the “ultimate sacrifice”
- The proposed Cape May monument will be the first of its kind
- This monument will commemorate and honor the Jacob Jones in addition to all other US Naval ships and crews lost to U-boats during the Battle of the Atlantic

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## Background of Work Effort and Research:

- Began with Core Committee meeting in July 2024
- Development and alignment of project's Purpose (on next slide)
- Expanded team of devoted co-creators and stakeholders
  - Collaboration with City Council members, Mayor, City Manager
- Extensive historical research with significant support from
  - US Naval Archives
  - Professor Emeritus of History USNA at Annapolis
- Assessment of four different sites and design iterations to date
- Intensive research on crew members, Commander, and descendants
  - Contact made with Commander's grandchildren
- Solicitations of support from US Navy and major foundations

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## Project Purpose Statement:

To co-create and curate the design, construction, ceremonial use, and national awareness of an impressive, accessible, and poignant public memorial for the fallen of the USS Jacob Jones that connects us to and amplifies Cape May's role in America's history,

In a way that moves all participants to deeply value with humility, gratitude, and reverence the loss of these particular lives here,

So that engaging this memorial serves to help all of us reflect upon, appreciate, and be inspired by how the loss of the Jacob Jones symbolizes all conflicts and forgotten heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice to defend America's fragile freedom.

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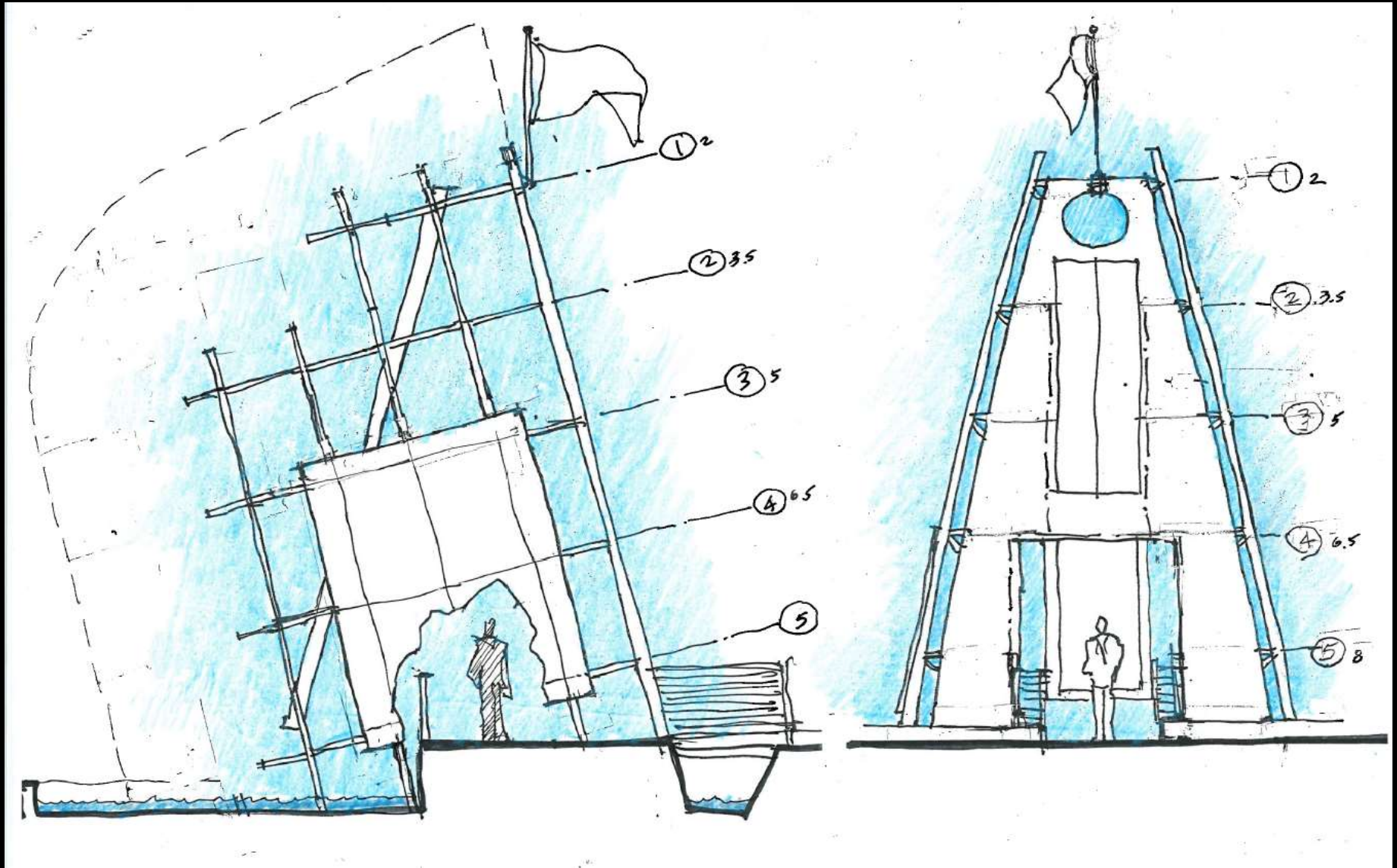
## Criteria for Selection of a Desirable and Appropriate Site:

- Within the City of Cape May
- Location's reverent character/context as a fitting tribute
- Visual access to the beach and ocean
- Direct sight lines to Jacob Jones sinking site
- Accessible and conducive to an educational experience
- Capability for harmonizing site context with public art & nature



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**Previously Presented Concept**



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## East End Promenade Terminus Site





# USS Jacob Jones Memorial Monument

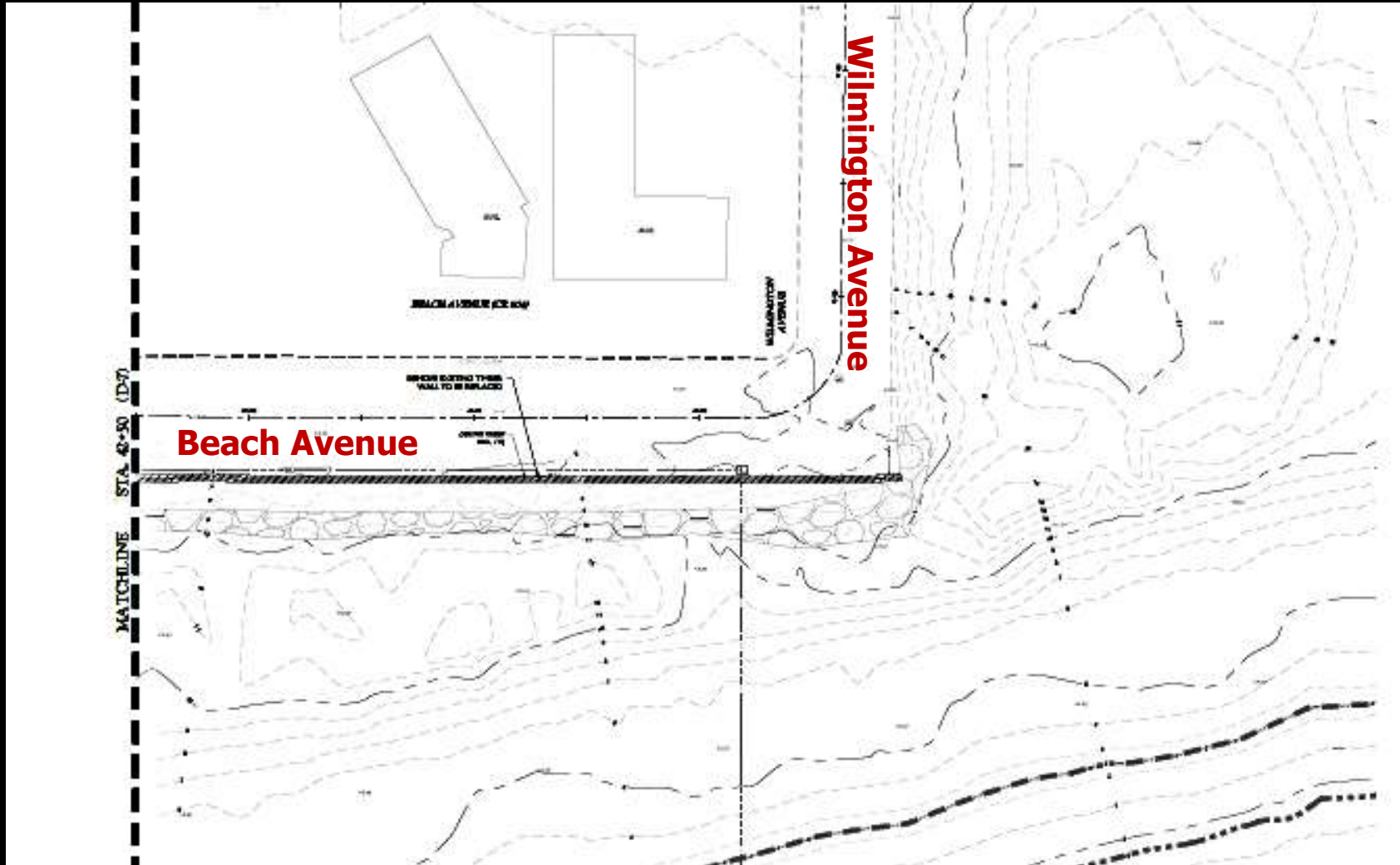
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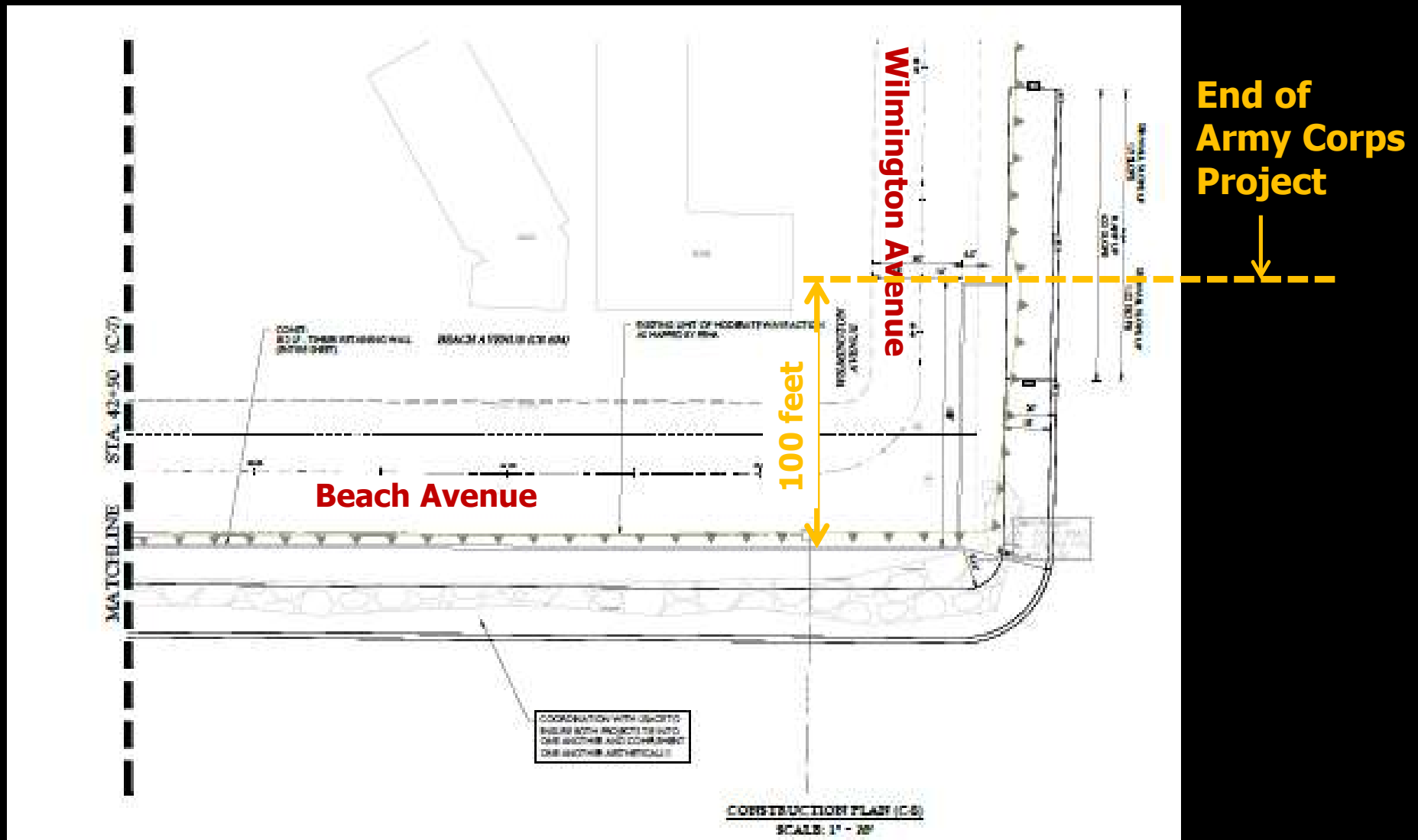


## Existing Conditions

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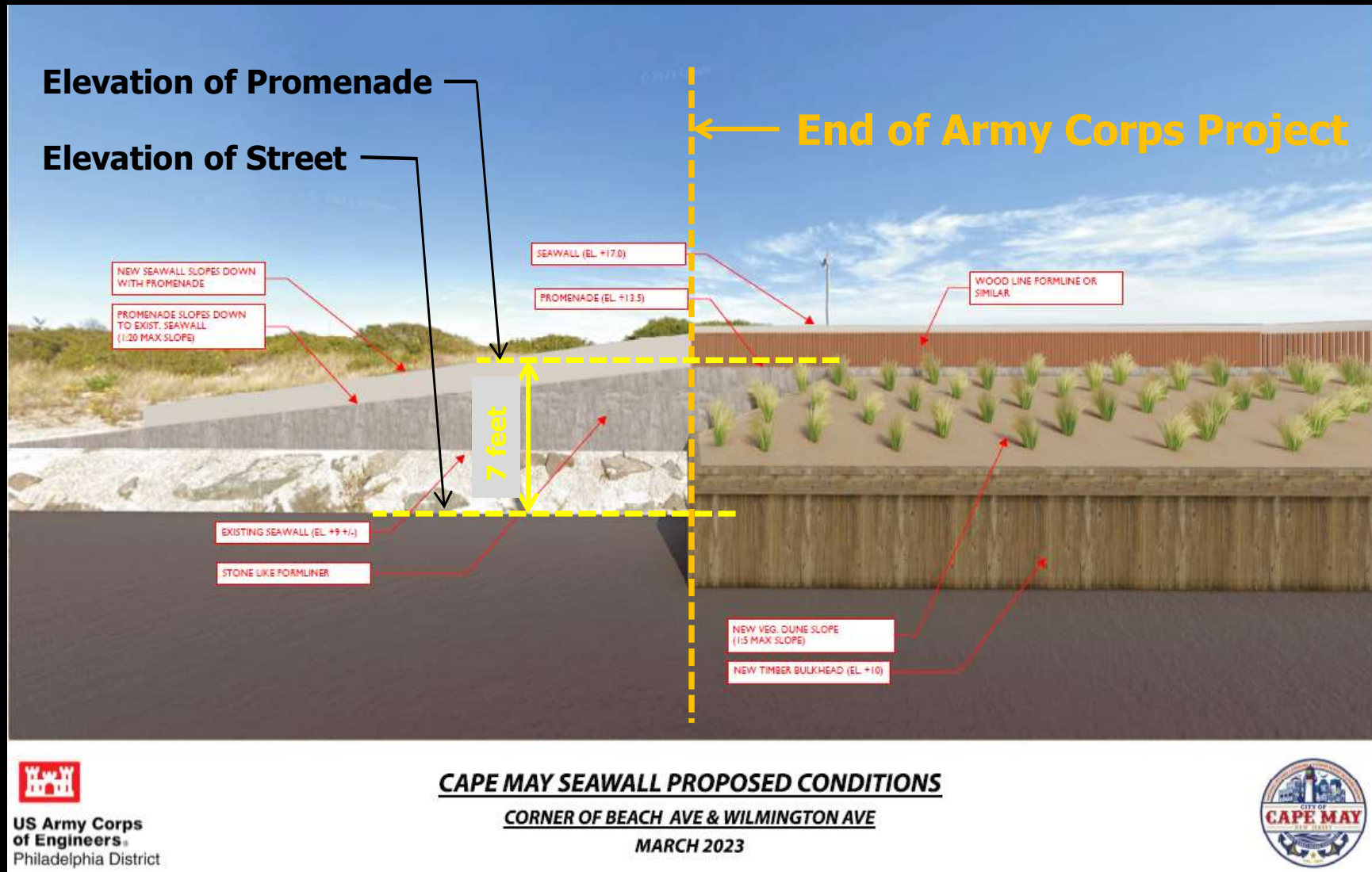




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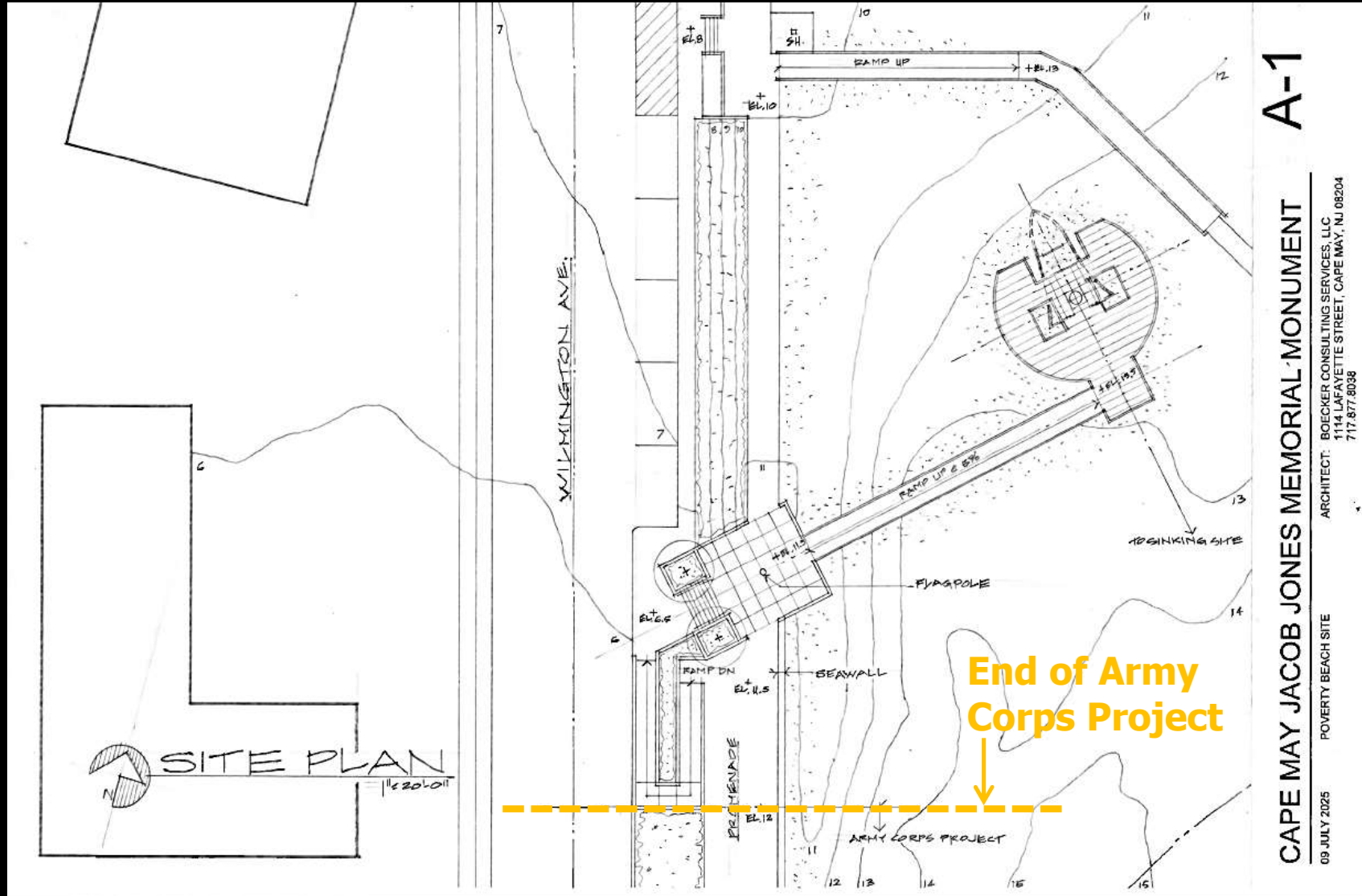
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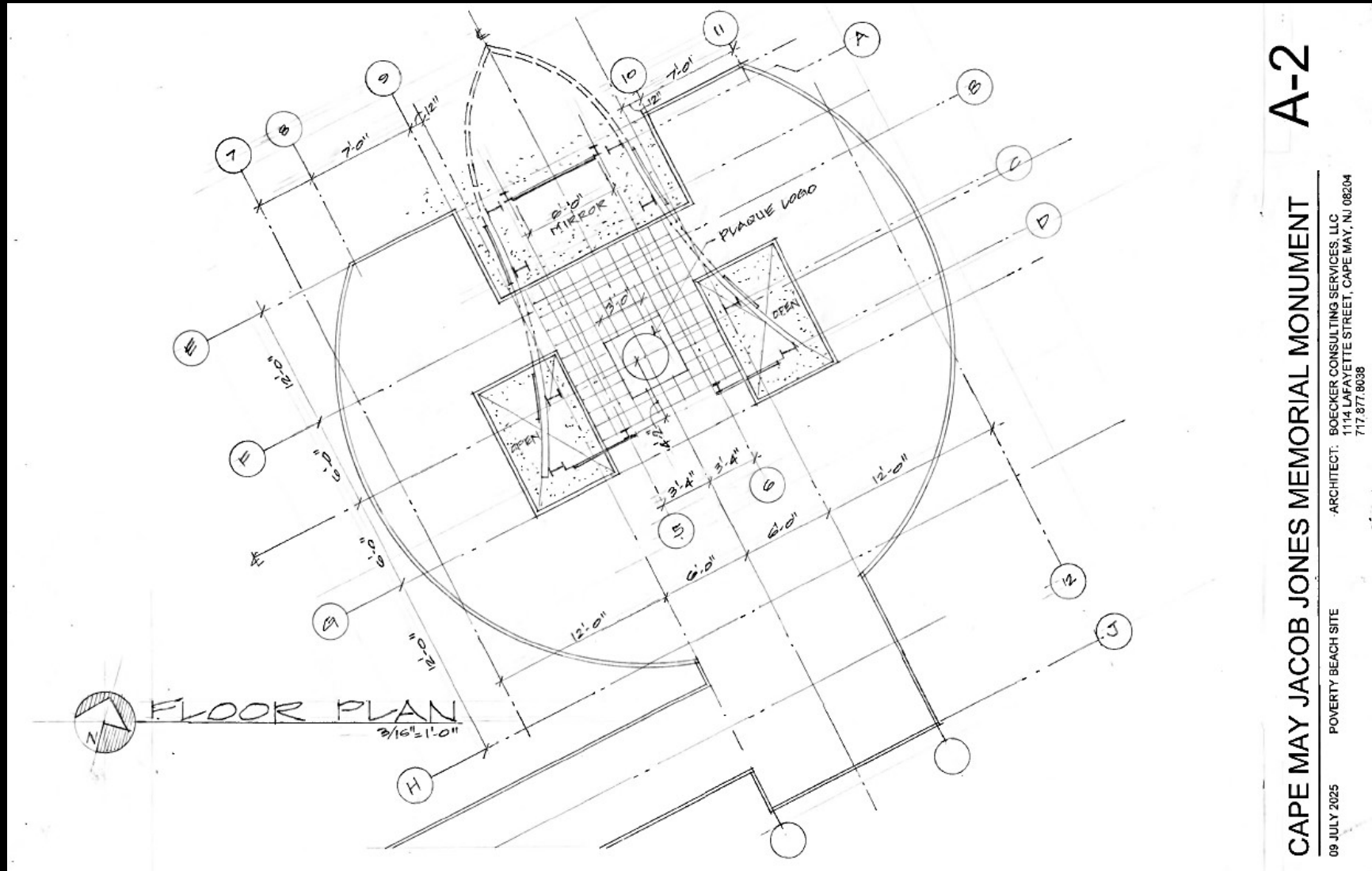
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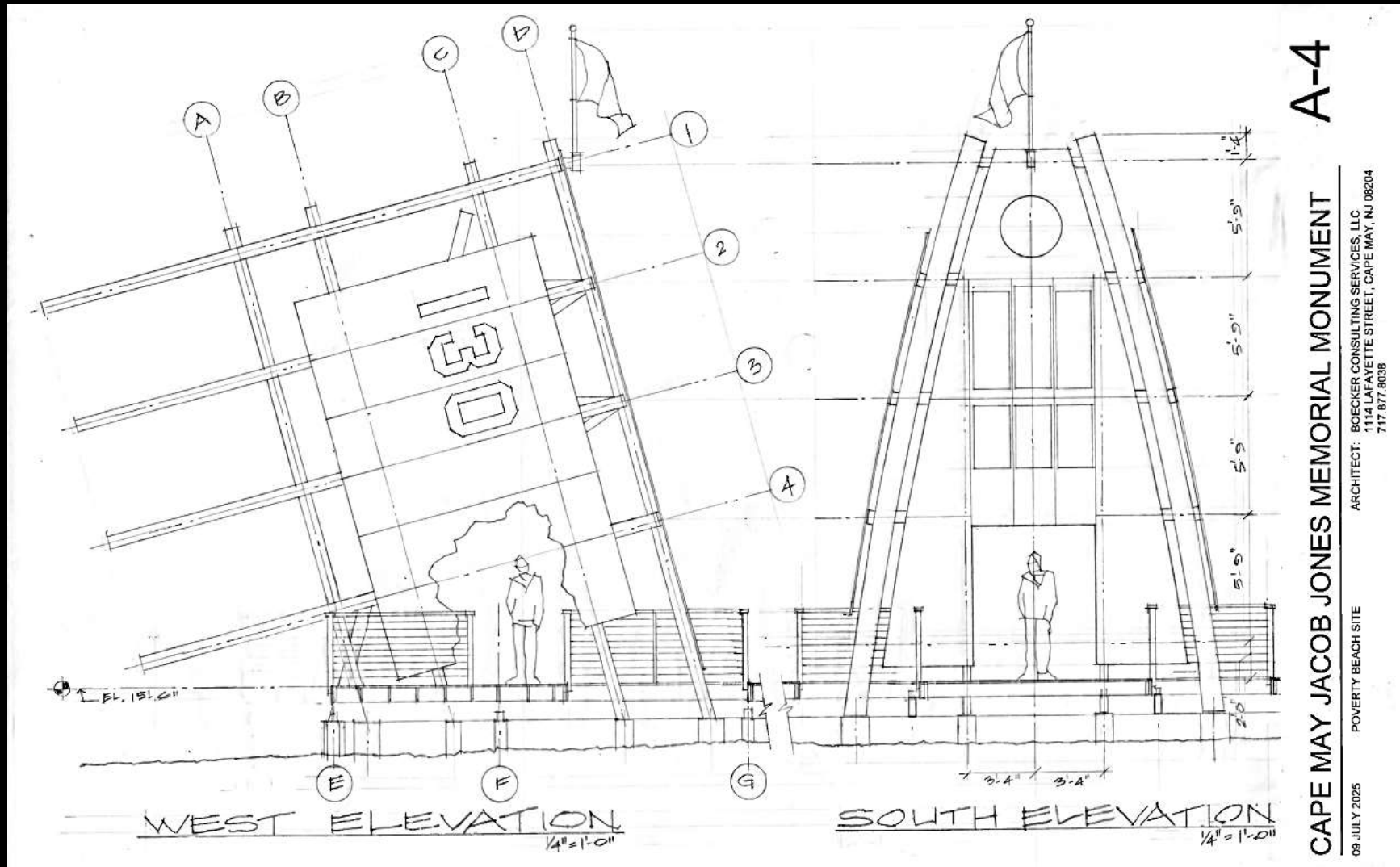




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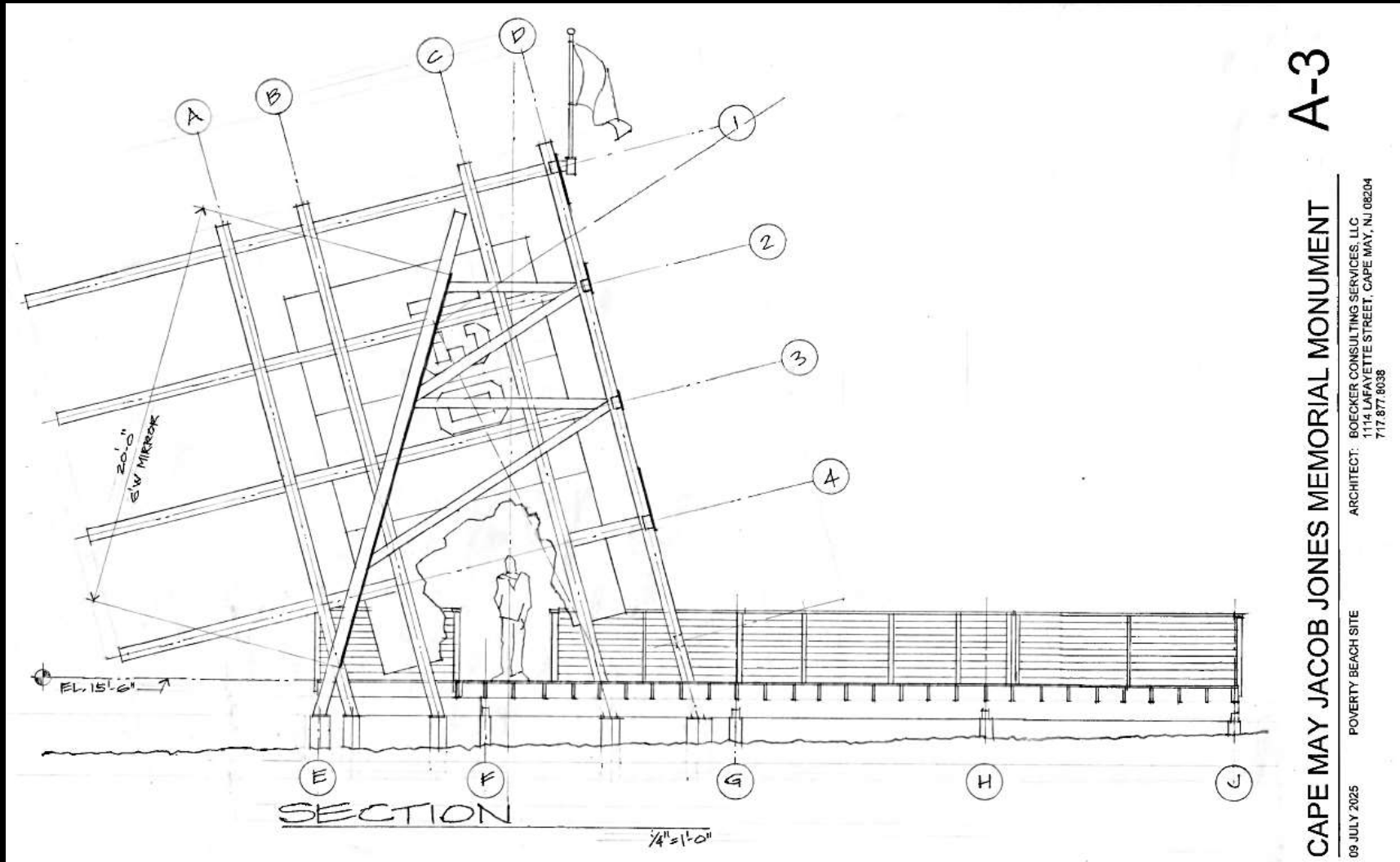
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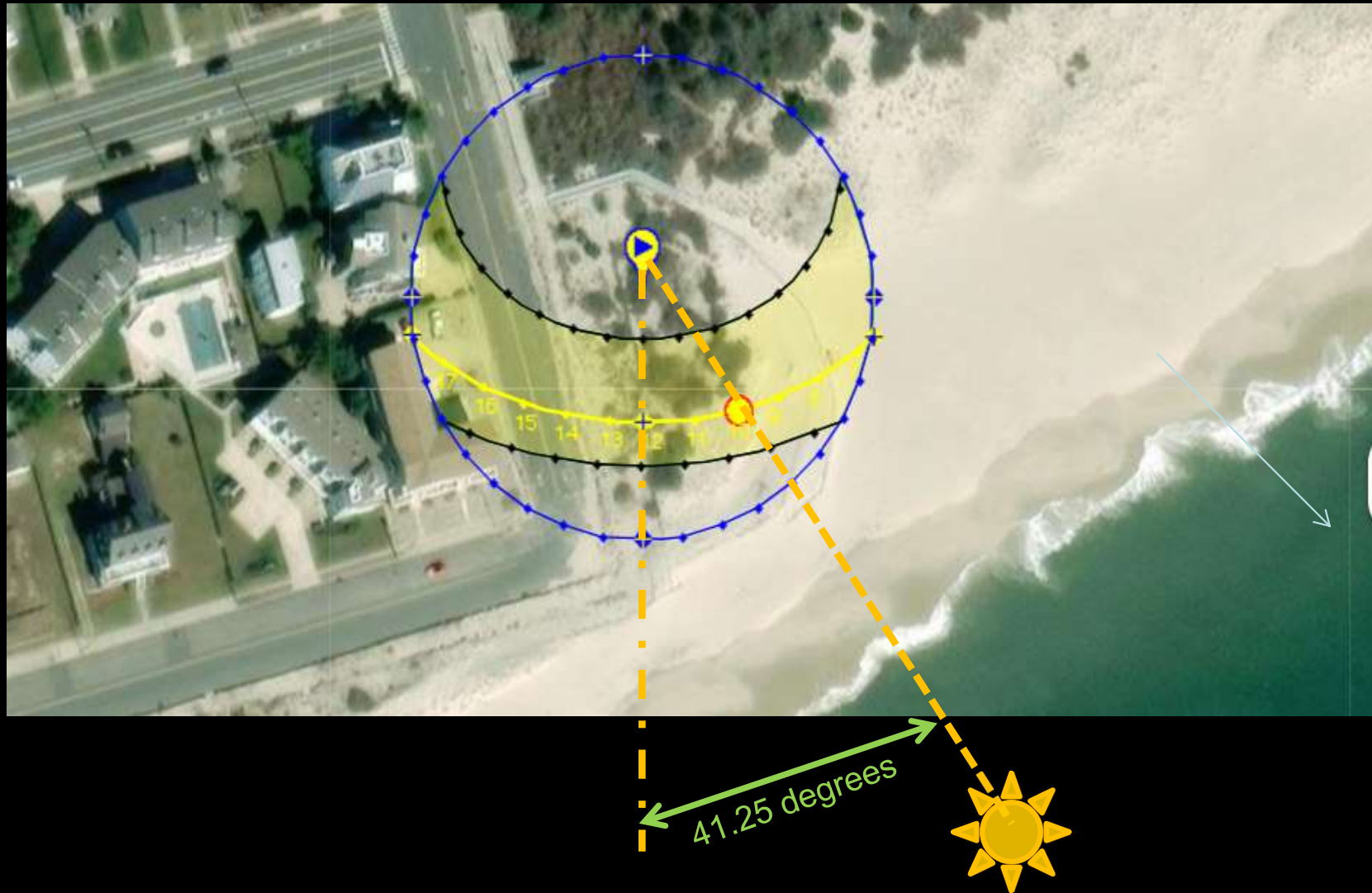




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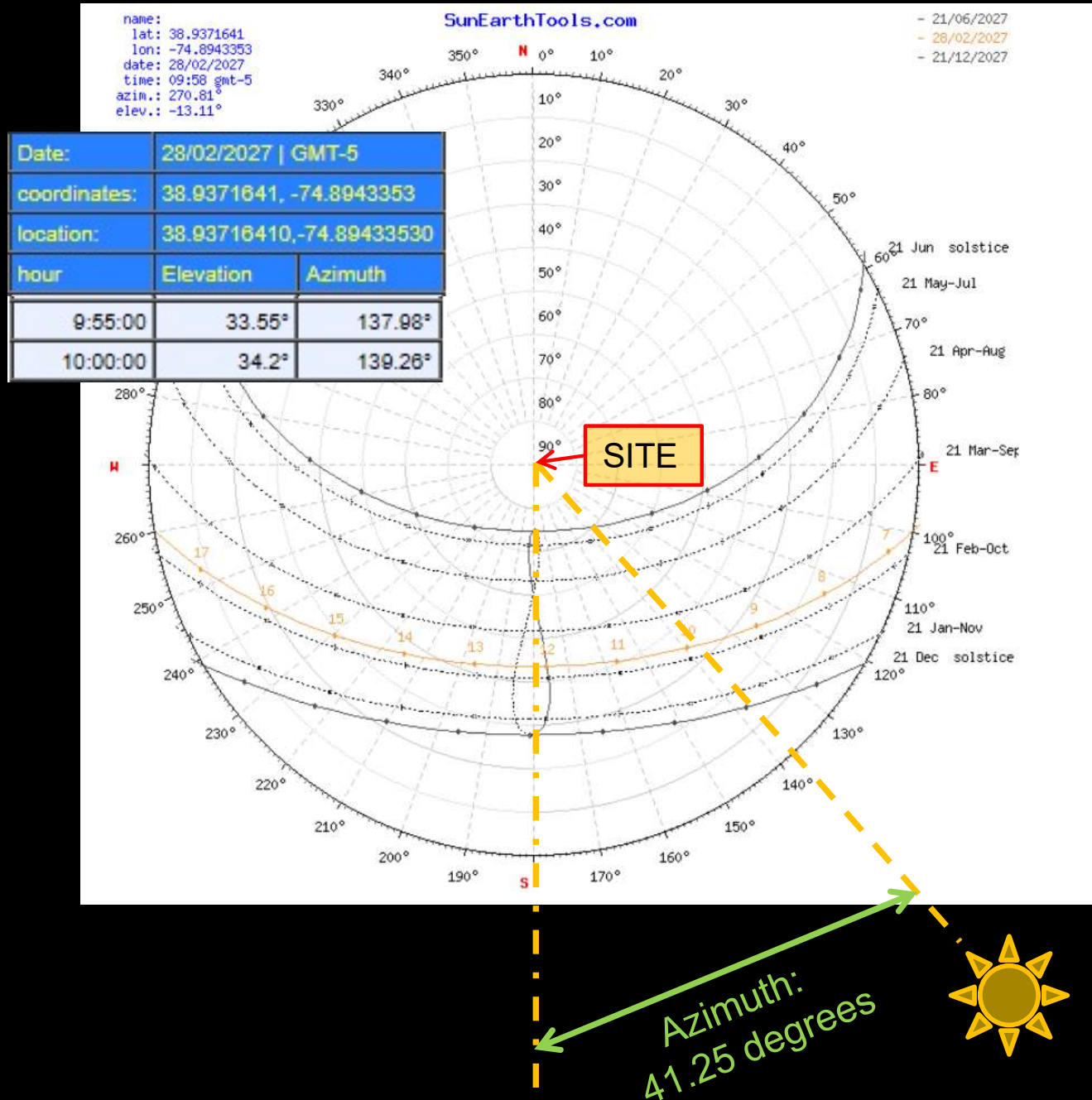
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On 28 February: Sun azimuth aligns with location of sinking site @ 9:48 am

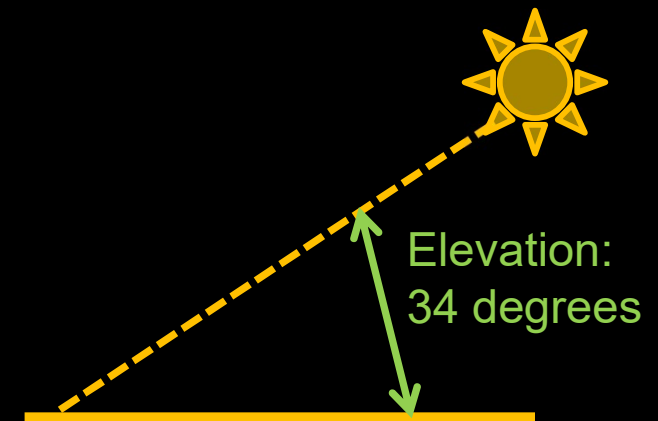


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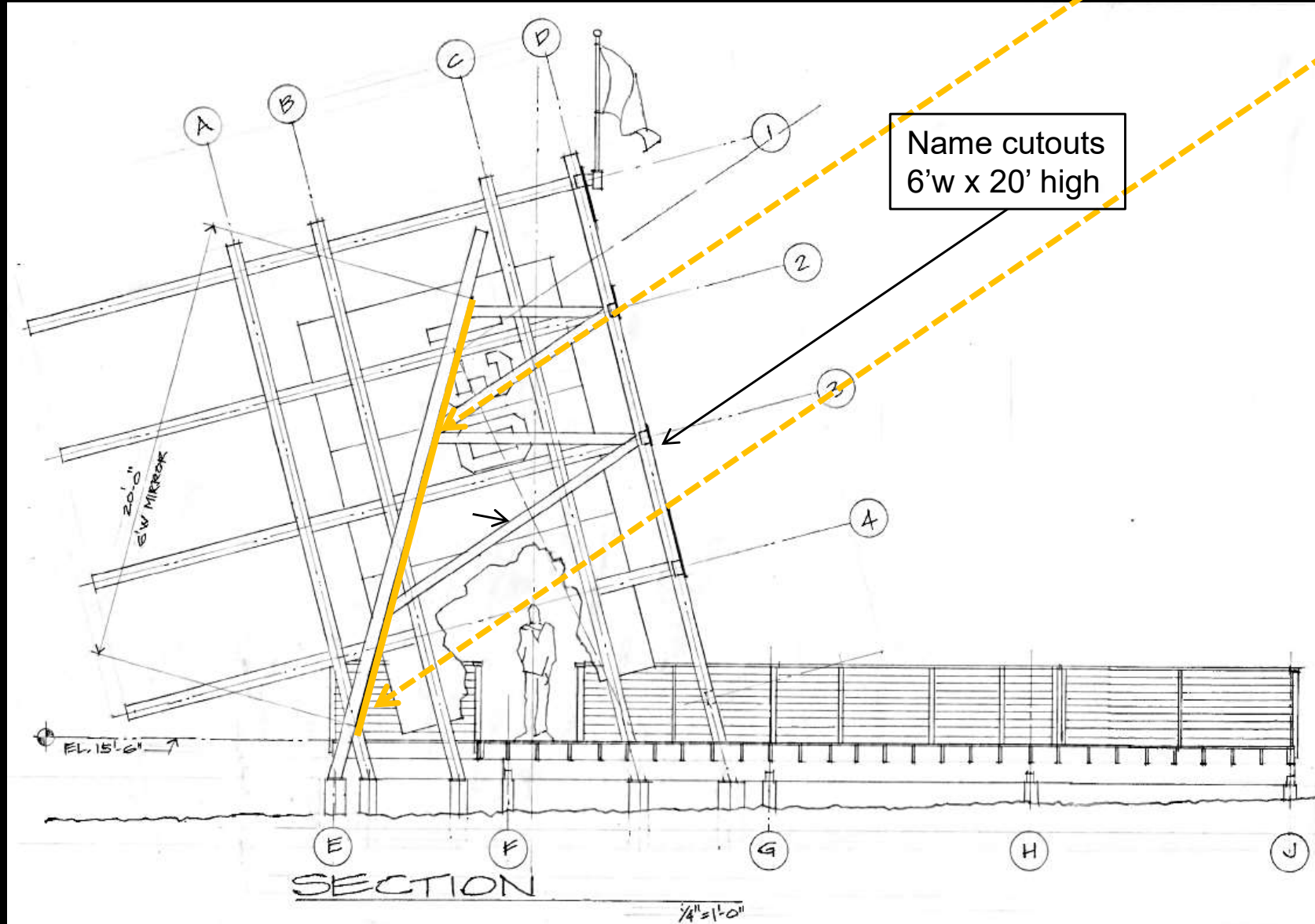
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On 28 February:  
Sun elevation  
is @ 34 degrees  
above ground plane  
@ 9:48 am



## A Sacred and Solemn Obligation . . . A Significant Opportunity



Name cutouts  
6'w x 20' high

# A-3

CAPE MAY JACOB JONES MEMORIAL MONUMENT

09 JULY 2025

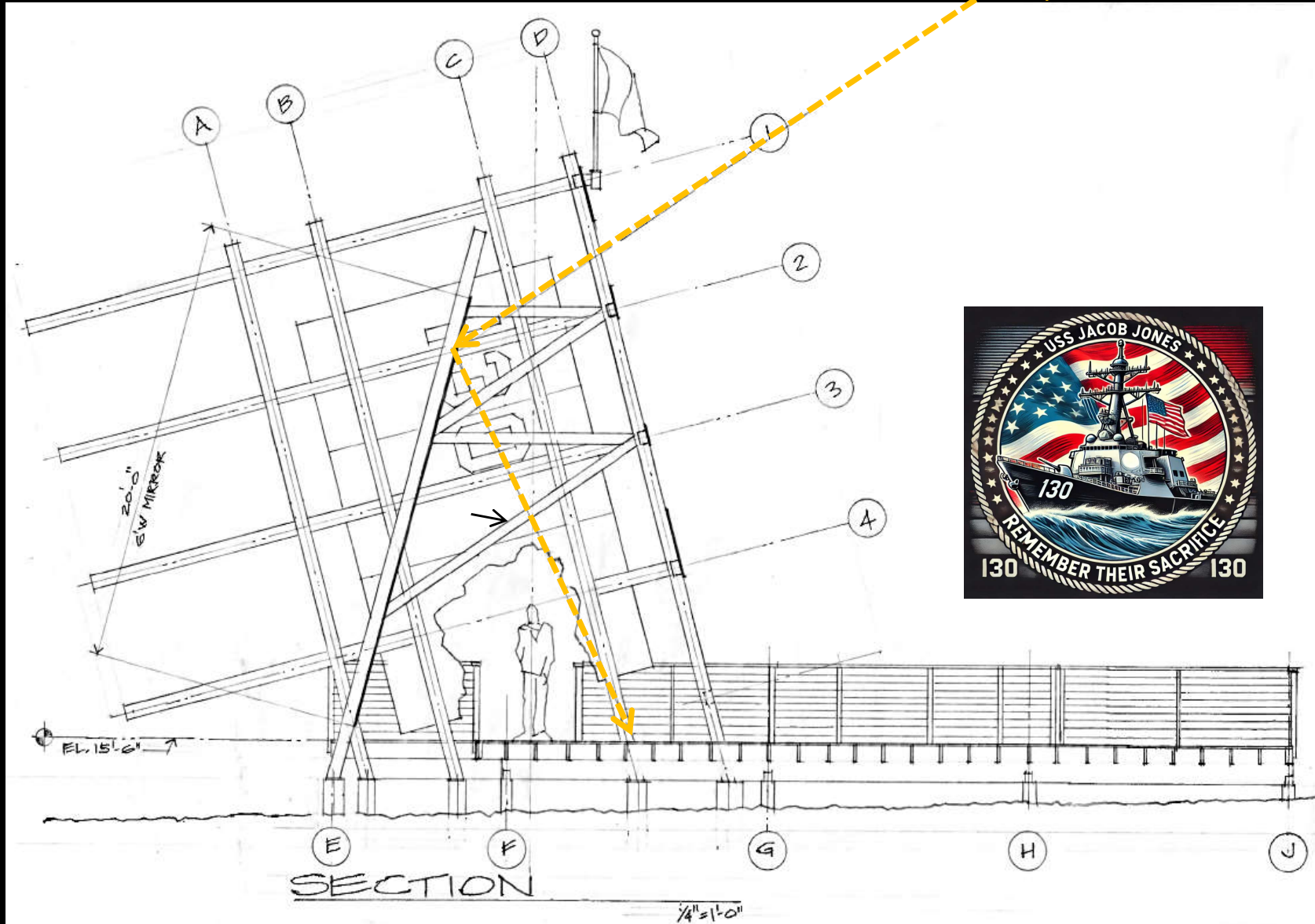
POVERTY BEACH SITE

ARCHITECT: BOECKER CONSULTING SERVICES, LLC  
1114 LAFAYETTE STREET, CAPE MAY, NJ 08204  
717.877.8038



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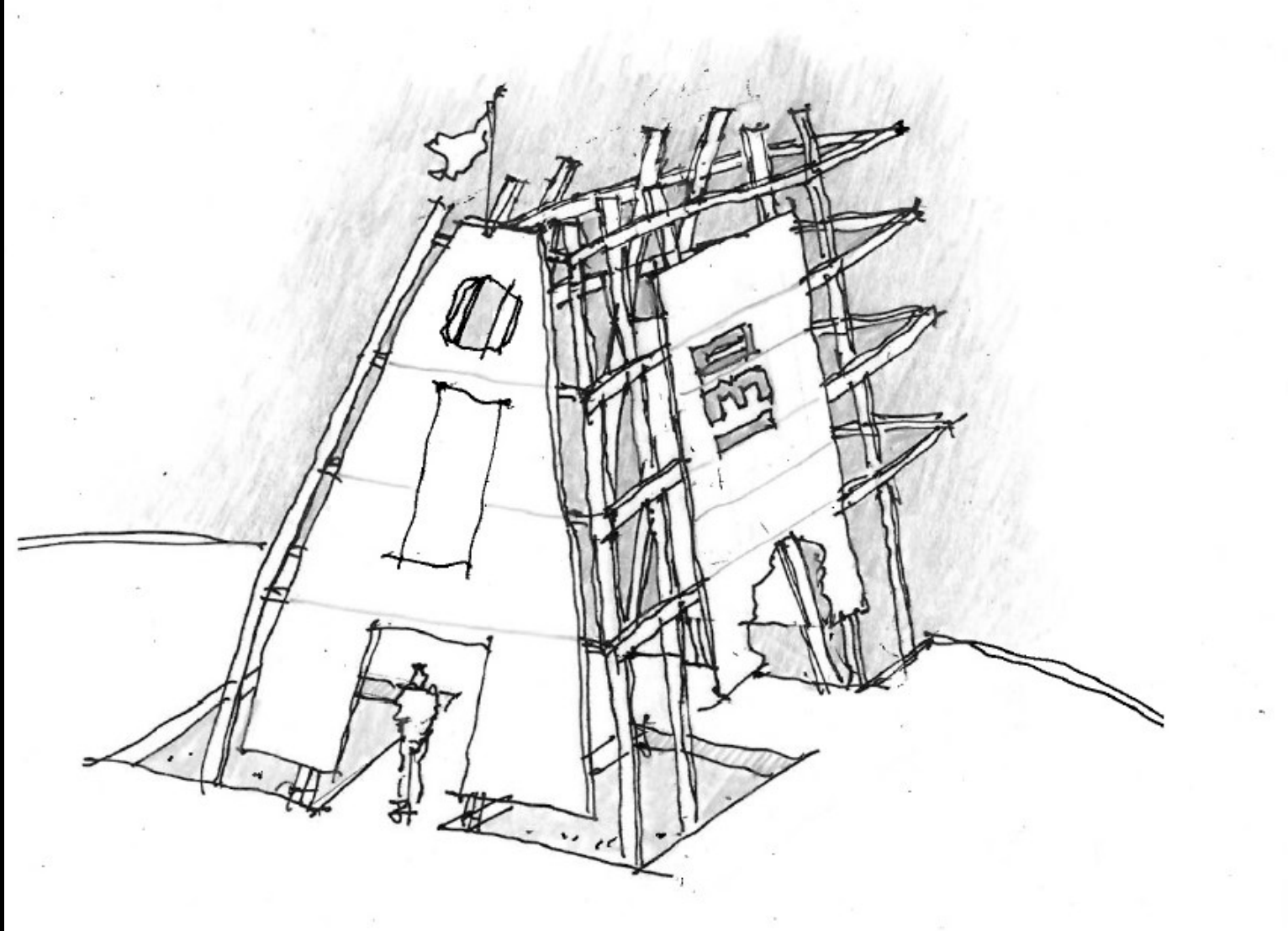
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## Site-Mounted Plaque (Draft)

To the 131 sailors who perished off Cape May on February 28, 1942 when their ship, the US naval vessel, the Jacob Jones 130, was the first to be attacked and sunk by a U-boat off our shores after war was declared by Germany on December 11, 1941, and to the hundreds of their brethren who fell defending our precious freedom during the “Battle of the Atlantic”- 1939-1945