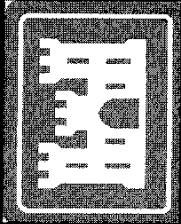


**US Army Corps of Engineers**  
**Baltimore District**

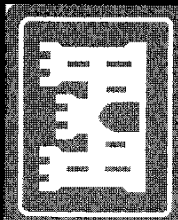
# **Washington, D.C. Local Flood Protection Project**



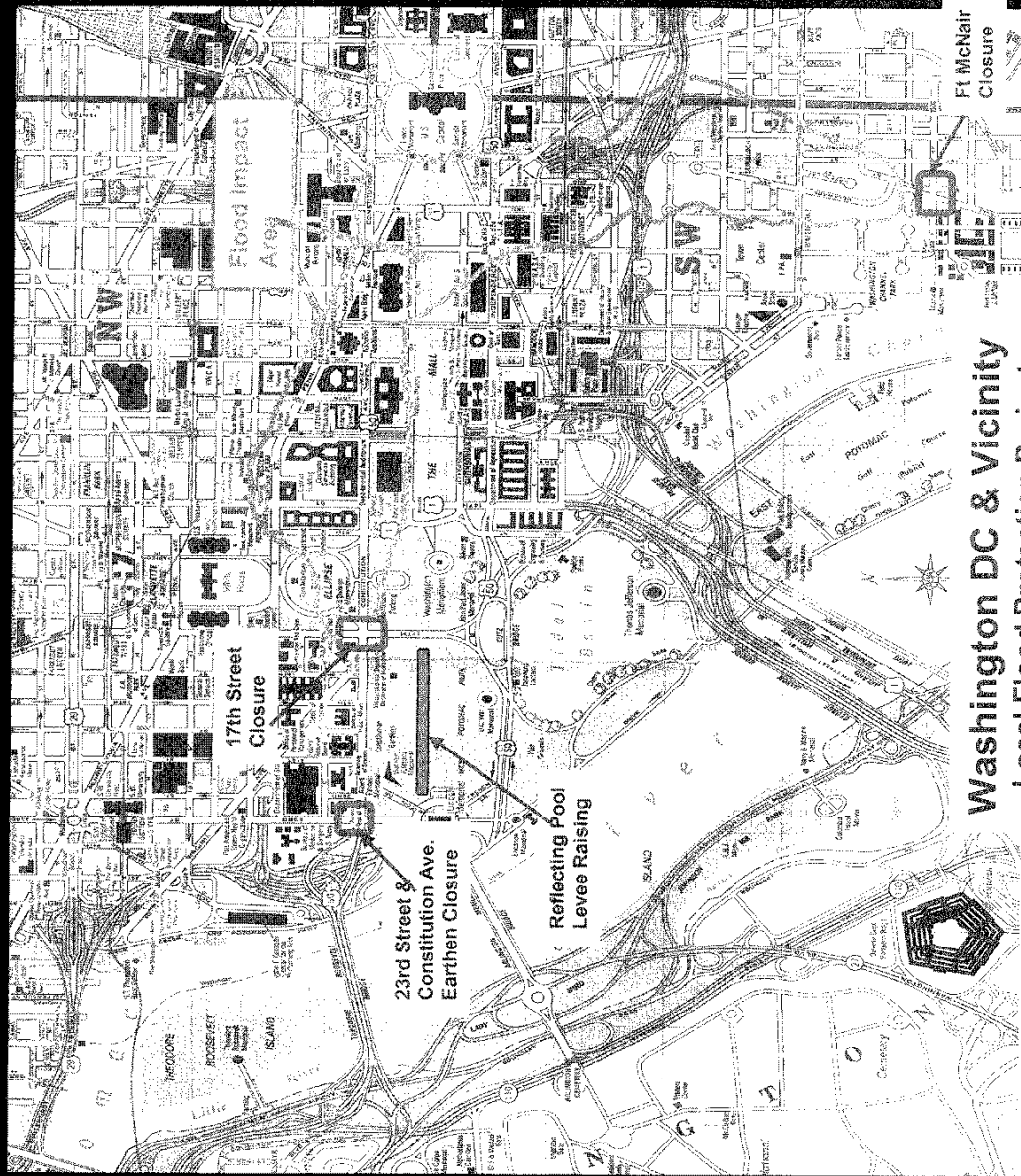
# Existing Project

- Built in 1939.
- Levee between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument – *Potomac Park Levee*
- Temporary closures:
  - Constitution Ave west of 23<sup>rd</sup> Street
  - 17<sup>th</sup> Street south of Constitution Ave
  - Canal and P Streets – Fort McNair

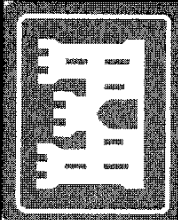




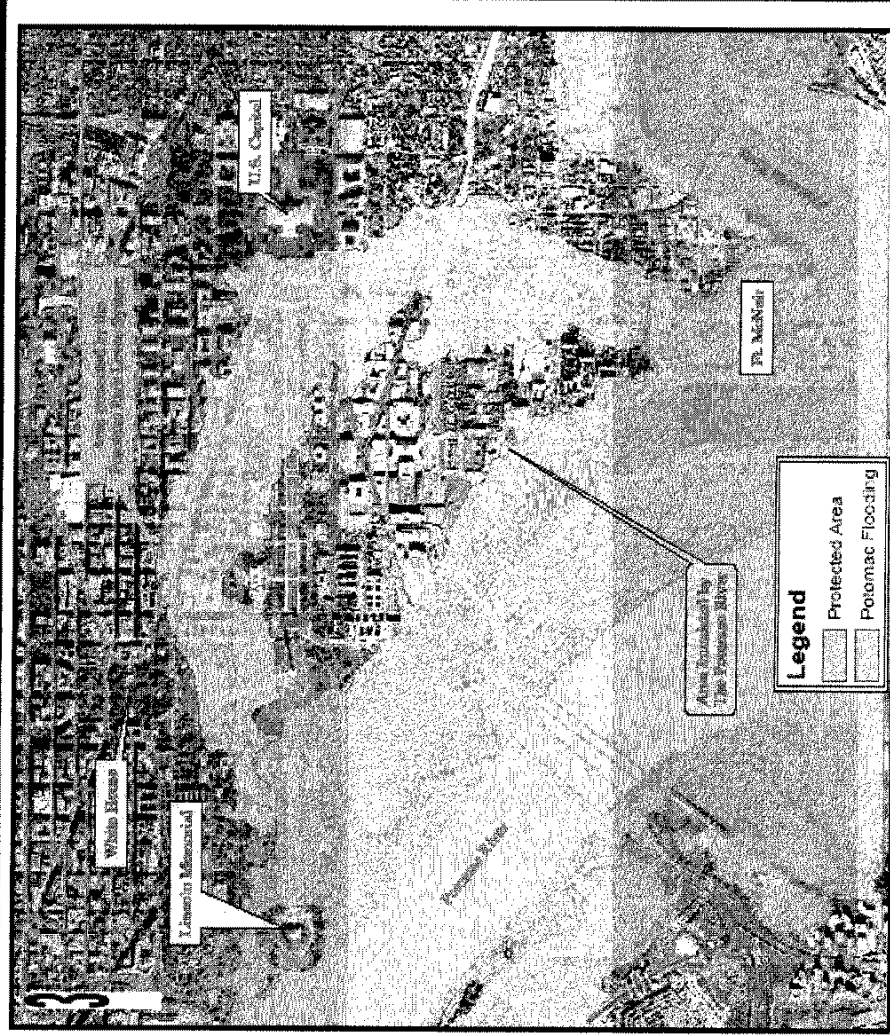
## Location of the temporary closures.



**Washington DC & Vicinity**  
Local Flood Protection Project



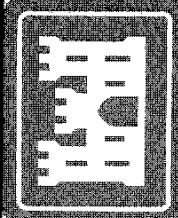
The Project is designed to protect the Mall area from the 100-year flood.



### Approximate Areas of Inundation by Potomac River Flooding Washington D.C. and Vicinity

POTOMAC RIVER FLOODING REPRESENTED  
IS THE 100 YEAR EVENT  
AS DETERMINED BY FEMA

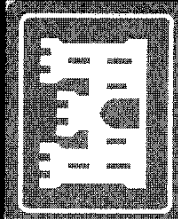
JUNE 2004 U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS BALTIMORE DISTRICT



# DC Flood Emergency Manual

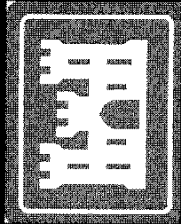
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- Updated about every 10 years by the Baltimore District.
- Construction of the 17<sup>th</sup> Street temporary closure:
  - Phase I (sand bags, jersey barriers, & plastic sheeting) triggered when the Potomac River at the Wisconsin Avenue gage is predicted to reach a height of 7 feet.
  - Phase II (temporary earth levee) triggered when the river is predicted to reach a height of 10 feet.
  - Construction of this closure is extremely time consuming and has the most potential for failure.
- National Park Service (NPS) is responsible for constructing the temporary closure at 17<sup>th</sup> and at 23<sup>rd</sup> Street.
- The DC Emergency Management Agency is responsible for the sandbag closure at Canal and P Streets.



**Phase I - Temporary  
Sandbag & Jersey  
Barrier Closure at 17<sup>th</sup>  
Street constructed by  
the NPS in preparation  
for Tropical Storm  
Isabel.**

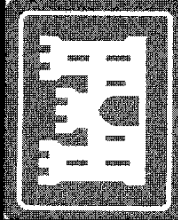




## Project Modifications

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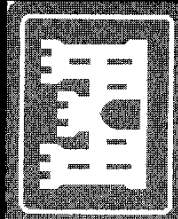
- Flood Control Act of 1946.
- Water Resources Development Act of 1996.
- The modifications mostly address construction of the temporary closures.
- Construction of the temporary closures is labor intensive and may not be constructed in time to prevent flooding.
- Fill-in low spots along the top of the Potomac Park Levee.
- In the absence of the temporary closures it is estimated that damages would total over \$200 million in the downtown area (Smithsonian, National Archives, office buildings, art galleries).



## Project Status

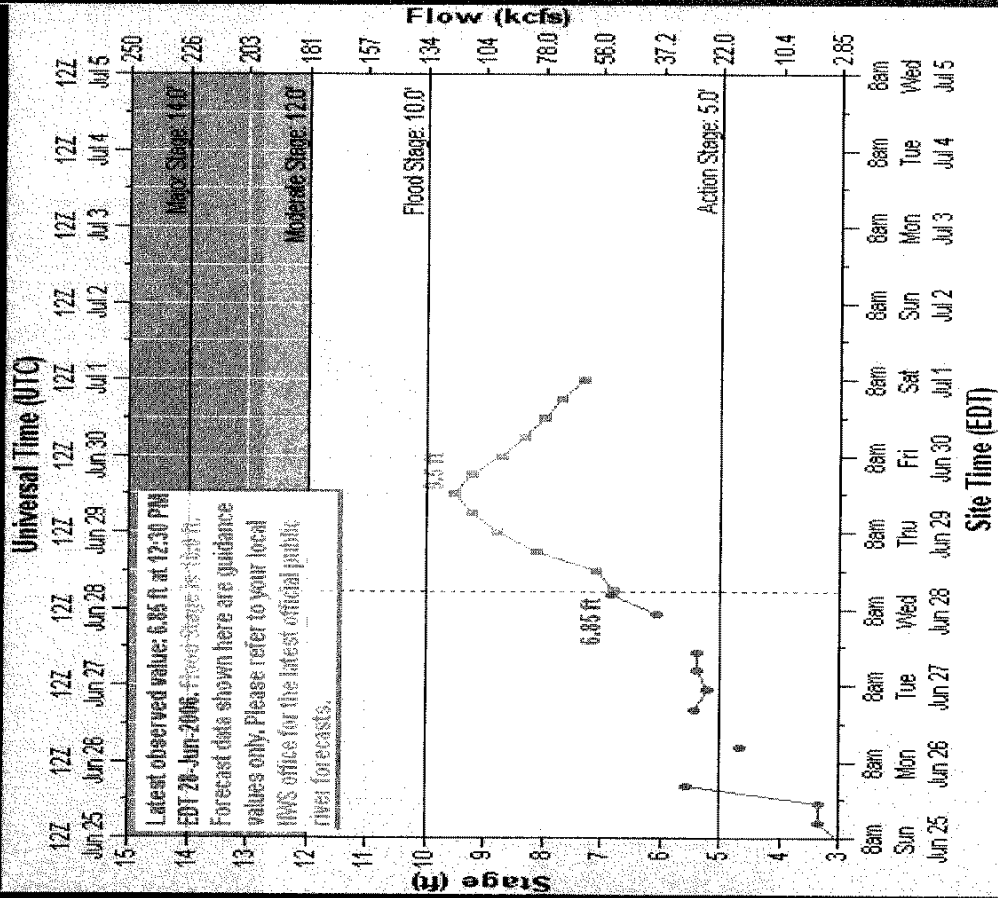
- **The Baltimore District has prepared preliminary plans and a decision matrix for the closure options at 17<sup>th</sup> Street; however, completion of this work is on hold pending availability of funding from Congress.**
- **Funding was last provided in FY 2004.**
- **Future funding is uncertain – 100% Federal cost.**
- **Estimated construction cost: \$3 M**
- **Complete design and present Corps' recommendations to the various stakeholders (National Park Service, District of Columbia, Fort McNair, National Capital Planning Commission, Commission of Fine Arts).**





- The June 2006 flooding in the Washington Mall area was caused by interior drainage problems.
- The flooding was not caused by overflow from the Potomac River, which crested at 9.5 feet at the Little Falls Stream gage.

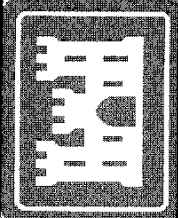
## POTOMAC RIVER AT LITTLE FALLS



.... Graph Created (1:26pm Jun 28, 2006) --+-- Observed --+-- Forecast (issued 10:22am Jun 28)

BRK142 (plotting HSRFP) "Gage 0" Datum: 38.0'

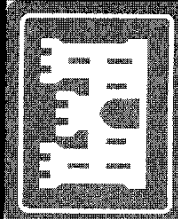
Observations courtesy of the US Geological Survey



# Interior Flooding

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- During high flows on the river or local streams, stormwater can not discharge from local storm drain systems.
- As a result, stormwater backs up onto the streets causing interior flooding and leaving many government buildings with flooded basements, e.g., National Archives.



- While the June 2006 flood was certainly a nuisance, it could have been much worse.
- If the storm had stalled a mere 50 miles west of Washington, DC, the swollen Potomac River would have overtopped its banks and caused extensive flood damage to government buildings, monuments, and other national treasures.

