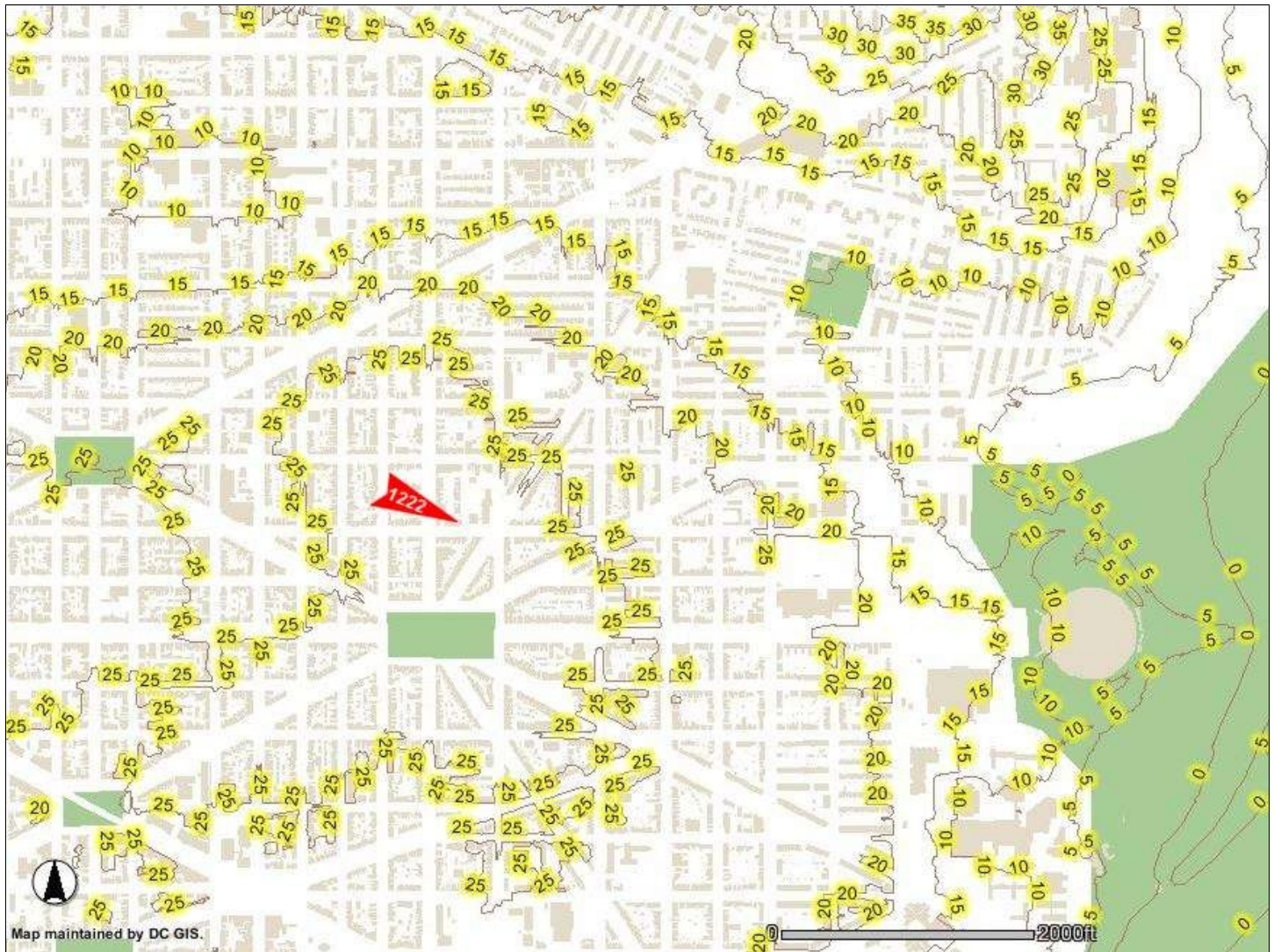


Elevations in the area around 1222 Constitution Avenue NE

From http://dcatlas.dcgis.dc.gov/dcgis_allservices/viewer.htm?Title=DC%20Atlas

General Area

This diagram shows topographic lines in 5m increments with our house and the area around Lincoln Park inside the 25m line and forming the top of a shallow hill.



Detail

I assembled the contour map on the following page from 6 screenshots which shows spot elevations in meters (1m = 3.28 ft) and contour lines every 2 ft. Then I colored the land lower than us in green and land higher than us in shades of red getting darker at each 2 ft contour. Zoom in to see the detail. Our house at the corner of 12th Place and Constitution is at an elevation of 26.1m (85.6 ft).

Readings in Lincoln Park, a large open space where we might expect infiltration, vary from 25.9m (lower) at the north-west corner to 27.5m (higher) at the east end and around the memorial. The contours suggest it will drain to the west. Indeed, from the northern edge of the park, 12 Street goes uphill toward Constitution so it seems unlikely that water from the park flows underground in our direction.

However the land slopes uphill to the north-west from our house, peaking at 29.7m in the block bounded by 10th, 11th, C and D Streets. This area has substantial impermeable surfaces (roads, roofs, paths) but it is at least possible that some rain water falling there might drain through the soil in our direction.

Against this, our near-neighbors at #1208 and #1210 Constitution Ave both have basements and if there is substantial drainage from the higher ground to us, they should be similarly affected but they are not. The owner at #1210 told us his sump pump on runs during very heavy rainfall; at #1208 there is no pump at all. Their houses are dry which suggests that the water problem we have are from a leaking pipe somewhere nearby.

