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978-1-107-02320-8 - Campus Martius: The Field of Mars in the Life of Ancient Rome

Paul W. Jacobs II and Diane Atnally Conlin

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## CAMPUS MARTIUS

A mosquito-infested and swampy plain lying north of the city walls, Rome's Campus Martius, or Field of Mars, was used for much of the Roman Republic as a military training ground and as a site for celebratory rituals and the occasional political assembly. Initially punctuated with temples vowed by victorious generals, during the imperial era it became filled with extraordinary baths, theaters, porticoes, aqueducts, and other structures – many of which were architectural firsts for the capital. This book explores the myriad factors that contributed to the transformation of the Campus Martius from an occasionally visited space to a crowded center of daily activity. It presents a case study of the repurposing of urban landscape in the Roman world and explores how existing topographical features that fit well with the republic's needs ultimately attracted architecture that forever transformed those features but still resonated with the area's original military and ceremonial traditions.

Paul W. Jacobs II is an independent scholar who focuses on ancient Rome and its topographical development. A graduate of Harvard College and the University of Virginia Law School, and a litigator by training, Jacobs has practiced and published in the area of voting rights, where knowledge of demographics, mapmaking, and geography is essential. He has spent extensive time in Rome and has studied the ancient city and its development for decades.

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*For Fredrika, my bride of forty years, and our family, Jessica, Nick, & Peter*  
*PWJ*

*For Michael*  
*DAC*

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THE FIELD OF MARS IN THE  
LIFE OF ANCIENT ROME

PAUL W. JACOBS II

Independent Scholar

DIANE ATNALLY CONLIN

University of Colorado



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This book is the result of a decade-long journey through Rome’s *centro storico* searching for the evidence of its ancient past. As with any lengthy adventure, it is easy to take a wrong turn, and you are always grateful for the assistance of both passersby and fellow travelers to keep you headed in the right direction. The directions can be detailed or sketchy or just provide encouragement, but without them the trip would be much longer and, perhaps, unfulfilled. Early in the travels, I was able to tap into the formidable sense of direction and jovial support of the late William MacDonald. His scribbled postcard notes are still treasured. At various points as I wandered through the twists and turns of the project, I would reach out to Diane Favro, who was never too busy to provide advice, share source material, and encourage the effort. When the signposts in Latin or Greek were confusing and nuanced, Walt Stephenson at the University of Richmond was always there to prevent mistakes. Occasionally, doors to subterranean Rome were locked, but Angela Federico found the right persons with the keys to let me in and continue the journey. Jeffrey Becker and Ross Twele at the University of North Carolina’s Ancient World Mapping Center provided extraordinary assistance with the maps of the ancient Field of Mars.

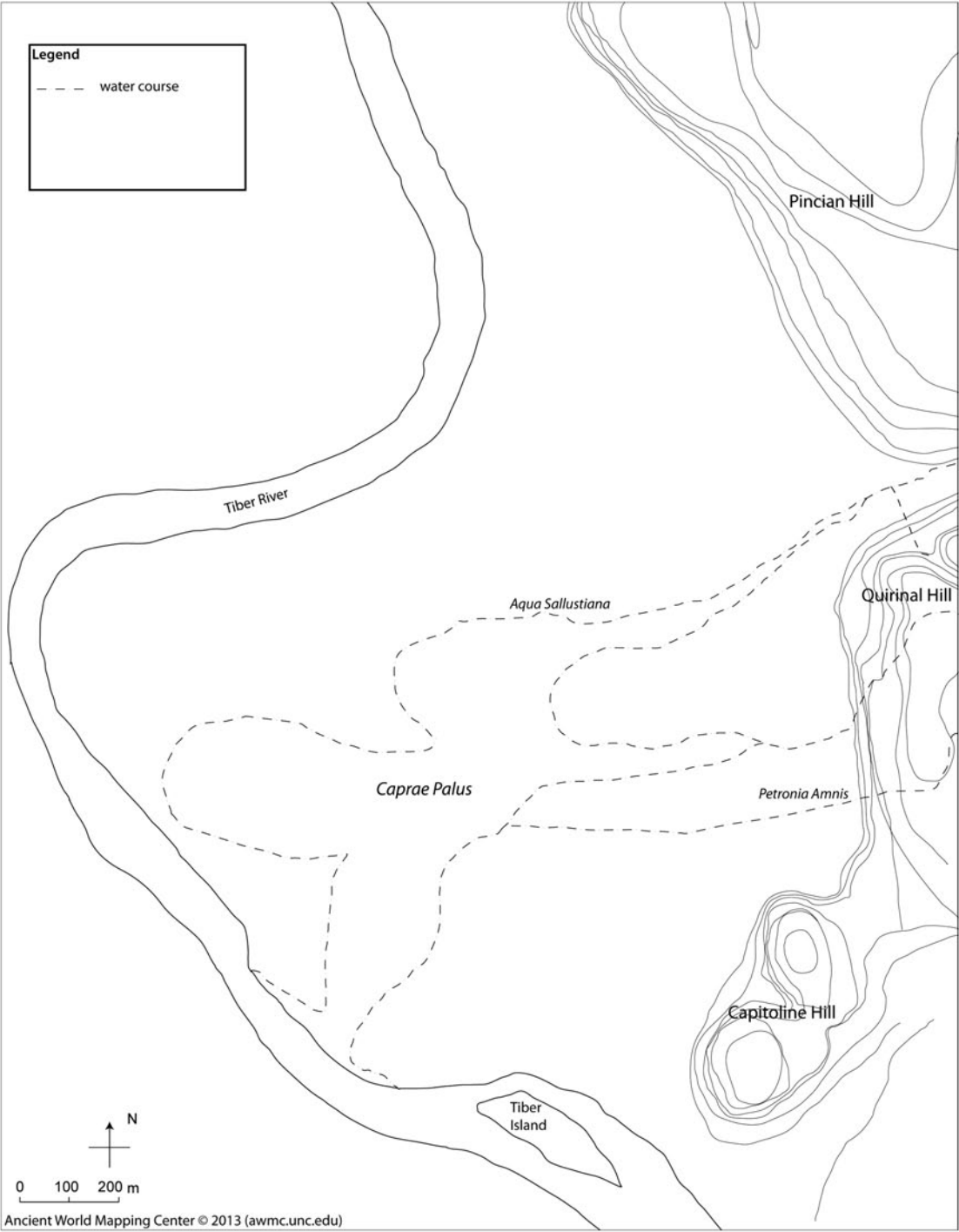
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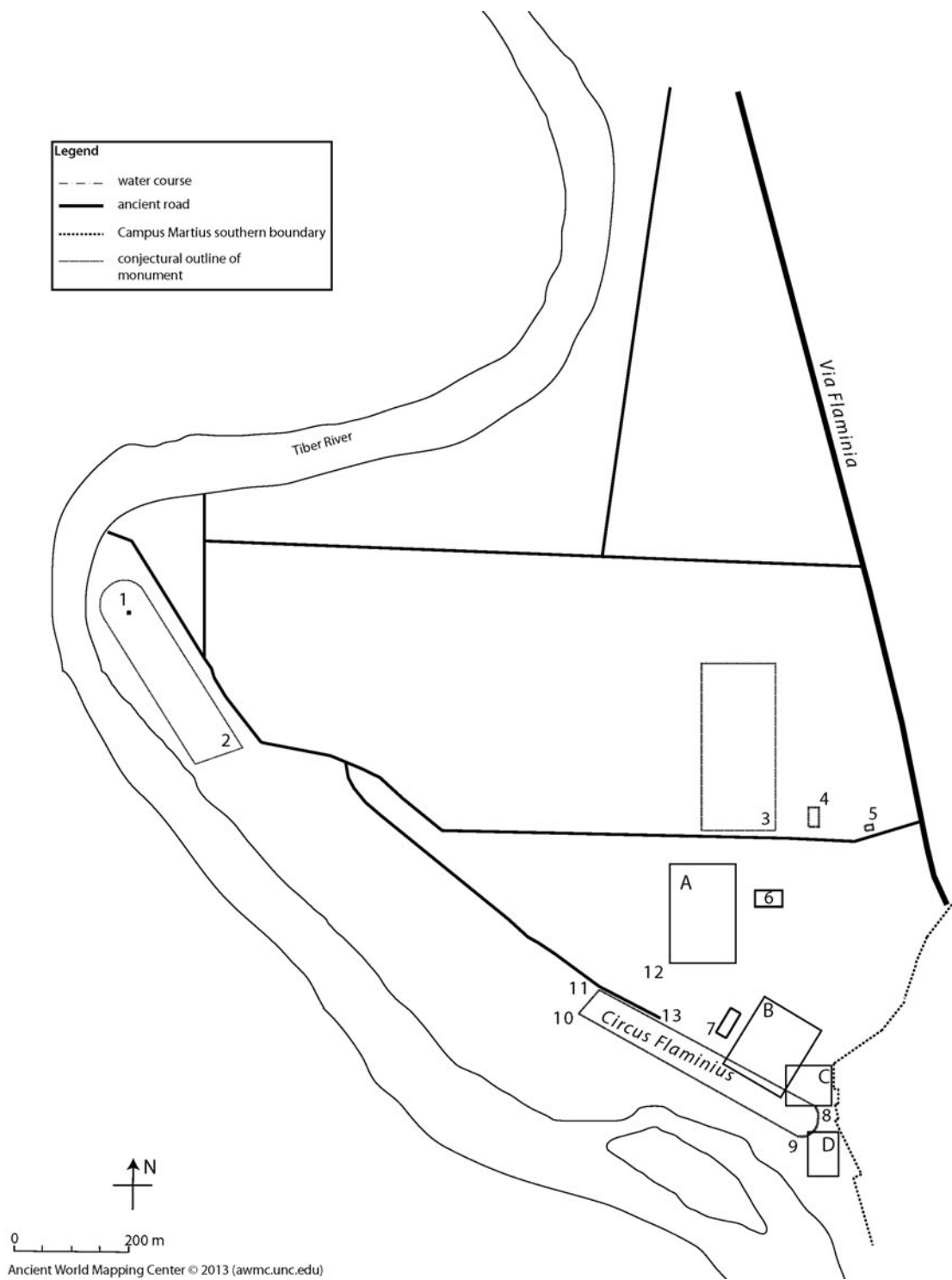
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Paul W. Jacobs II



Plan 1 Campus Martius, eighth century B.C.E. Ancient World Mapping Center © 2013 (<http://awmc.unc.edu>). Used by permission.



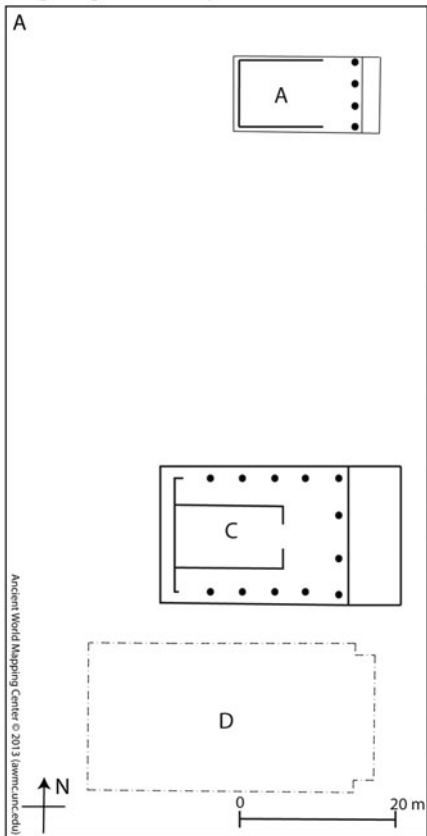
Plan 2 Campus Martius Monuments, 146 B.C.E. Ancient World Mapping Center © 2013 (<http://awmc.unc.edu>). Used by permission.

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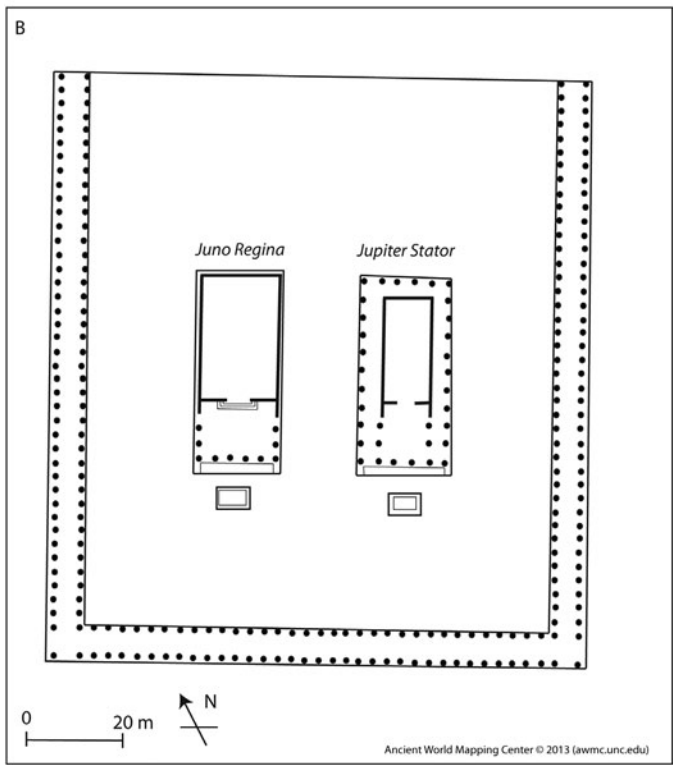
Inset A: Sacred Area of Largo Argentina  
Inset B: Area of the Porticus Metelli  
Inset C: Area of Temple of Apollo  
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Plan 2 (*continued*)

Largo Argentina Temples



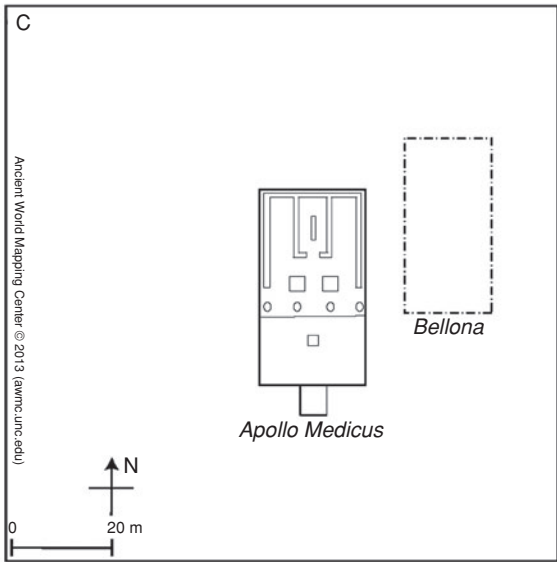
Area of the *Porticus Metelli*



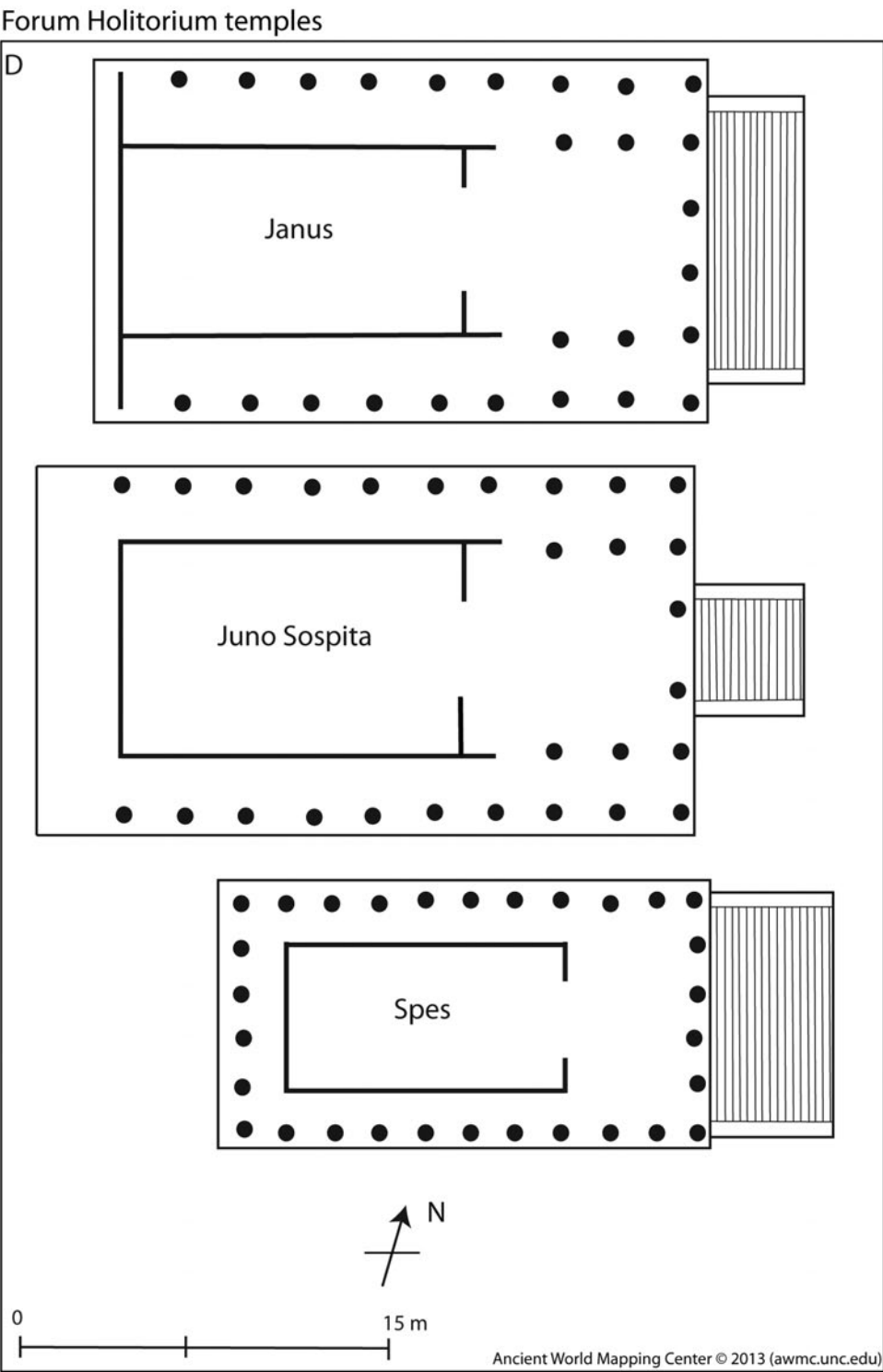
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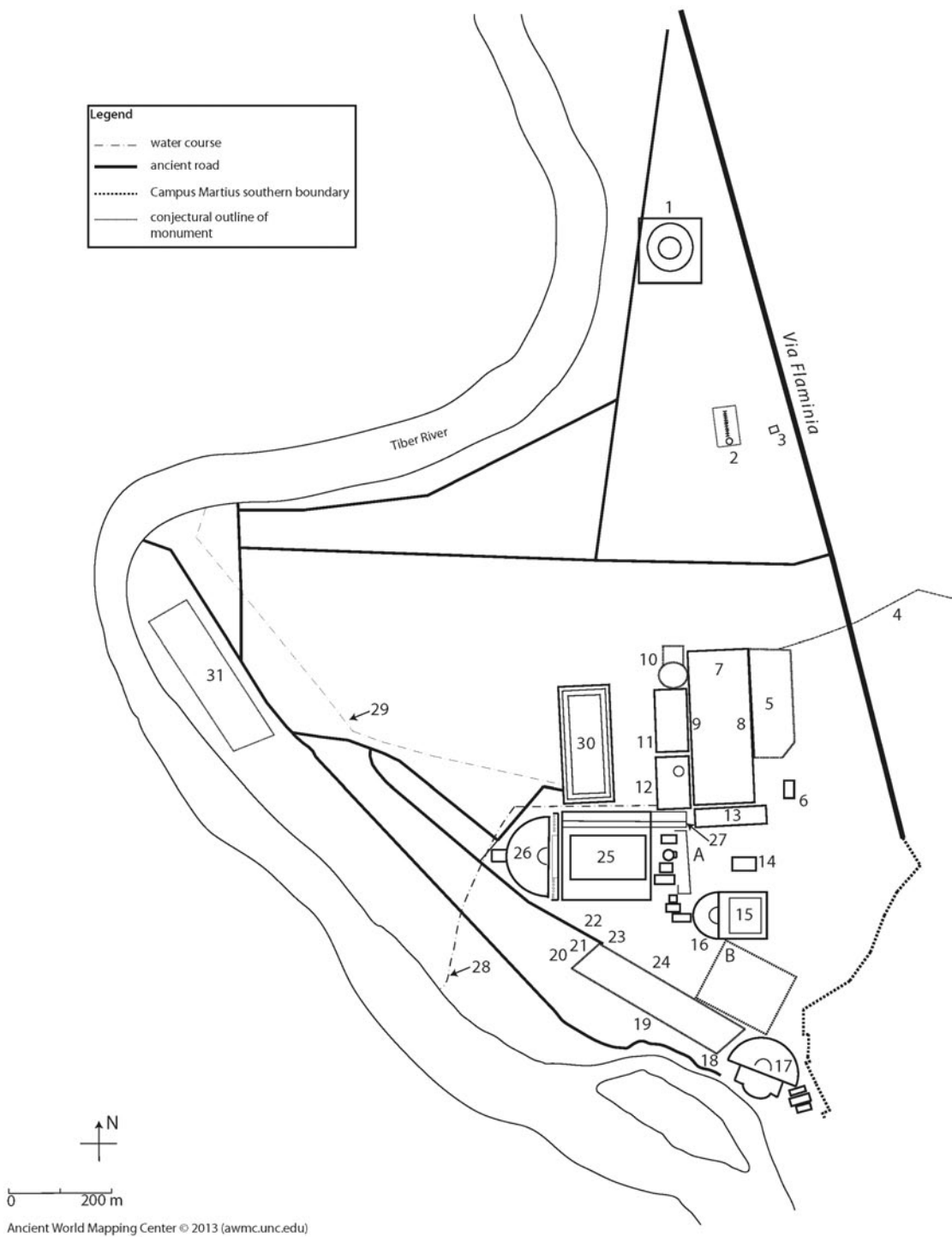
Area of the Temple of Apollo



Plan 2 (continued)



Plan 2 (continued)



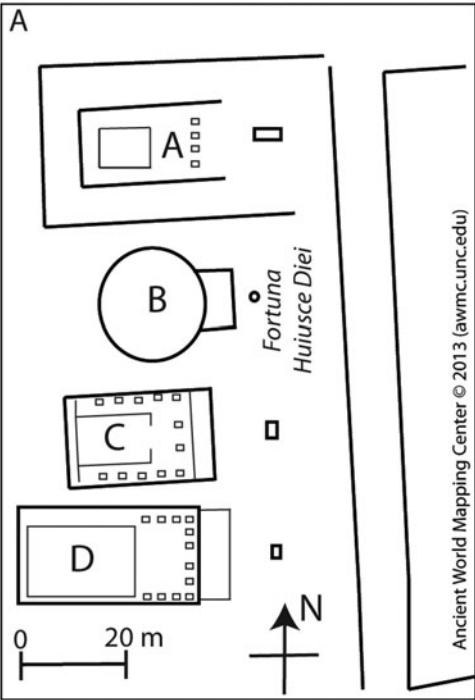
Plan 3 Campus Martius Monuments, 14 C.E. Ancient World Mapping Center © 2013 (<http://awmc.unc.edu>). Used by permission.

- 1. Mausoleum of Augustus
- 2. Horologium of Augustus
- 3. Ara Pacis
- 4. Aqua Virgo
- 5. Temples of Isis and Serapis
- 6. Pavilion in Villa Publica
- 7. Saepta Julia
- 8. Porticus Meleagri
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- 30. Stagnum Agrippae
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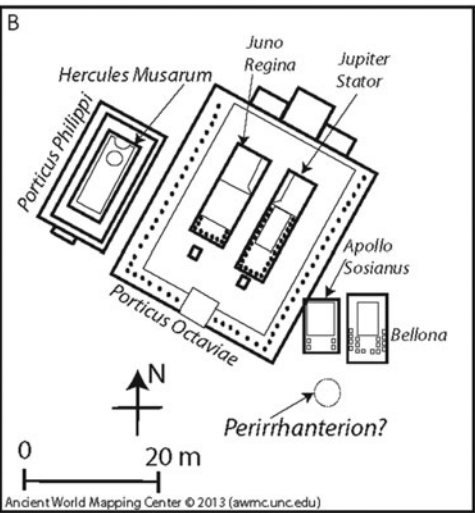
Inset A: Largo Argentina temples in the Augustan period  
Inset B: Area of the Porticus Octaviae

Plan 3 (*continued*)

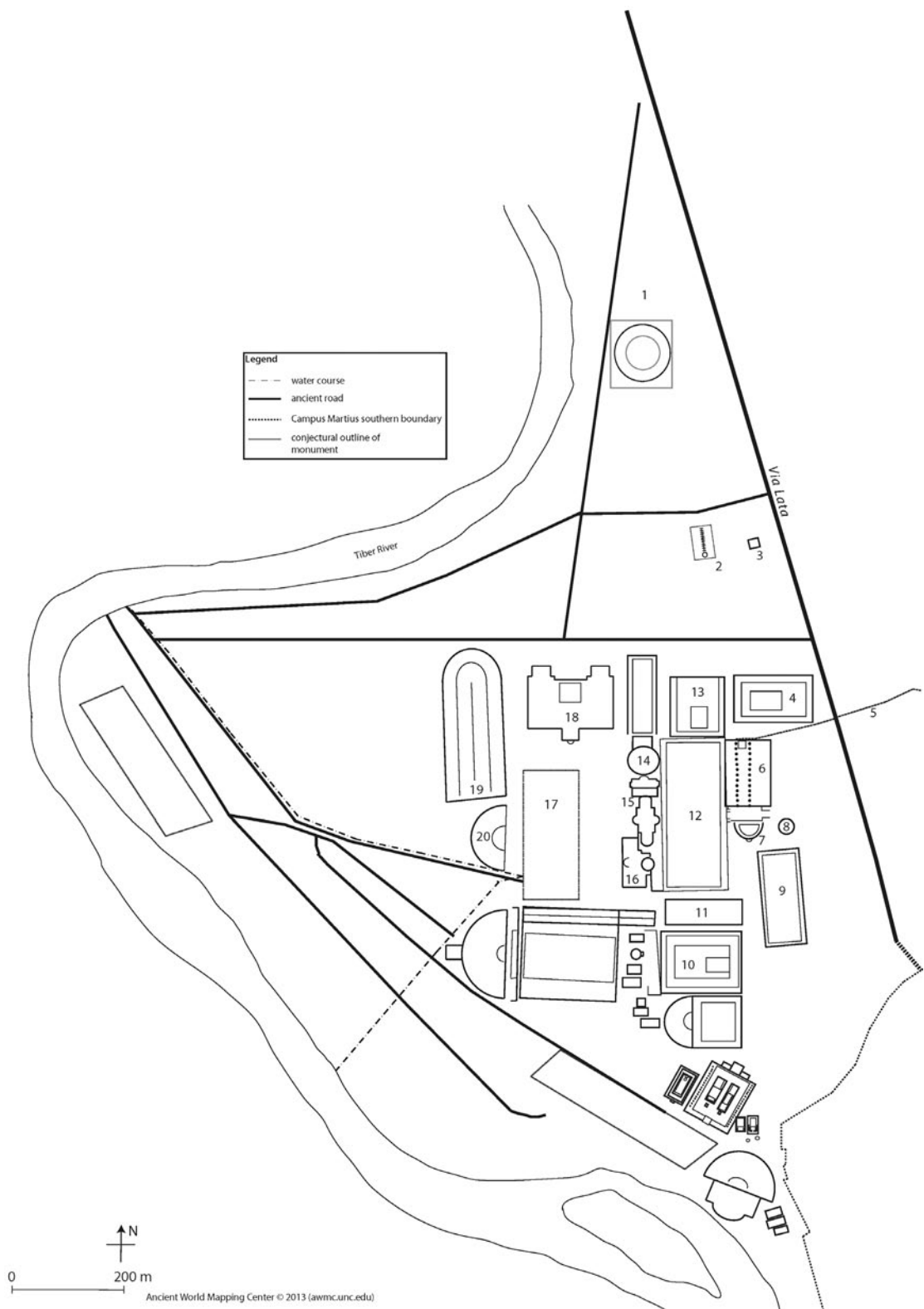
Largo Argentina Temples in the Augustan Period



Area of the Porticus Octaviae

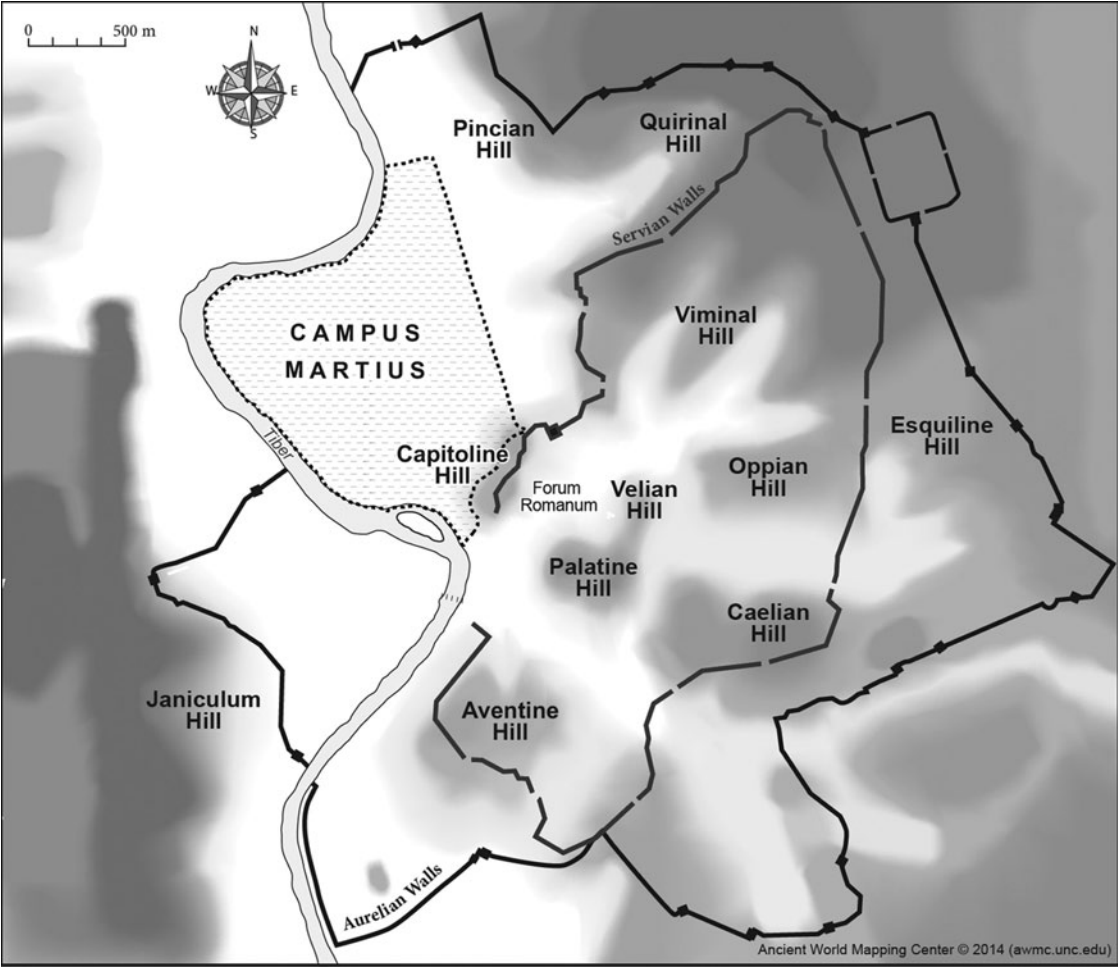


Plan 3 (continued)



- 1. Mausoleum of Augustus
- 2. Horologium of Augustus
- 3. Ara Pacis
- 4. Temple of Divine Hadrian
- 5. Aqua Virgo
- 6. Temple of Serapis
- 7. Temple of Isis
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Plan 4 (*continued*)



Plan 5 Campus Martius in relation to Servian and Aurelian walls. Ancient World Mapping Center © 2013 (<http://awmc.unc.edu>). Used by permission.