



## United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
National Mall & Memorial Parks  
900 Ohio Drive, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20024-2000



July 6, 2012

Mr. David Maloney  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
DC State Historic Preservation Office  
1100 4<sup>th</sup> St., SW  
Suite E650  
Washington, DC 20024

Subject: Section 106 Consultation – Repair Earthquake Damage to the Washington Monument

Dear Mr. Maloney,

The National Park Service (NPS) wishes to formally initiate consultation with the District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) on the project to Repair Earthquake Damage to the Washington Monument. This is an undertaking, in accordance with 36 CFR 800.3 of the regulations of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP). The area of potential effect includes the Washington Monument and grounds from Independence Avenue on the south, between 17th and 15th Streets, NW, and Constitution Avenue on the north. The Washington Monument and grounds are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

A magnitude 5.8 earthquake occurred on August 23, 2011, which had an epicenter near the town of Mineral, Virginia. The earthquake caused significant damage to the interior and exterior masonry of the Washington Monument, the lightning protection system, and the elevator. Following extensive investigation and engineering, a repair plan was developed. On the exterior pyramidion and Monument shaft, the proposed project will: remove loose stone fragments; secure loose pieces of stone with small drilled anchors; seal cracked panels via sealant and/or epoxy injection; complete stone patching via Dutchman and/or mortar patches; repoint mortar joints; and remove/reinstall lightning protection system. On the interior, the proposed project will complete: structural repair of cracked stone panels, rib bearing haunches, cracked tie beams, and displaced rib stones; seal cracked panels via sealant and/or epoxy injection and repoint mortar joints.

Repairs may require the removal of the existing granite plaza, some flagpoles and some marble benches surrounding the Washington Monument in order to install exterior scaffolding. Removed features will be labeled, protected during construction, and reinstalled. Construction staging for the project will be located on the south grounds near the Sylvan Theater. A temporary road will be installed to bridge the existing security wall to provide secure construction access to the plaza level of the Monument. East-west pedestrian access across the south Monument

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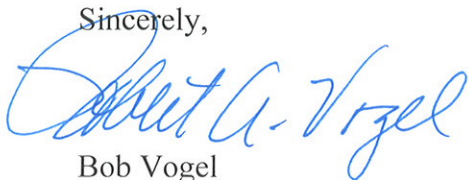
grounds will be re-directed to the existing sidewalk along Independence Ave. The Washington Monument will remain closed to the public during repairs. The nature of the damage and repairs requires simultaneous interior and exterior work. Repairs on the interior pyramidion level require complex staging above the 500 ft. level to access locations for masonry repair. The project is expected to last 12- 18 months.

The footers for the scaffolding will need to be installed at a depth below plaza-grade to provide stability. This depth will not reach the level of intact historic soil as documented in the Geoarcheological Report, 2011. There will be temporary visual and physical impacts during the project due to the staging area on the south Monument grounds and the temporary access road bridging the security wall. Landscape (turf) will be restored as needed at the conclusion of the project. Repairs will be made according to the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Treatment of Historic Properties.

The NPS intends to complete consultation for Section 106 of the NHPA concurrently with the National Environmental Policy Act review. The NPS will post information regarding the repair project and invite public comment through our Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website – [www.parkplanning/nps.gov](http://www.parkplanning/nps.gov). The NPS now also uses social media (Facebook and Twitter) to announce projects available for public review on PEPC.

If you have any questions, please contact James Perry, Chief of Resource Management, at (202)245-4711.

Sincerely,



Bob Vogel  
Superintendent  
National Mall and Memorial Parks

Enclosure:  
Washington Monument Earthquake Damage Repair (.pdf)