



## United States Department of the Interior

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



D66 (NCR-NAMA)

February 22, 2013

Mr. David Maloney, State Historic Preservation Officer  
District of Columbia, Office of Planning  
1100 4th Street SW, Suite E650  
Washington D.C. 20024

Subject: Vietnam Veterans Memorial Center- consultation on proposed security measures

Dear Mr. Maloney:

This letter is to satisfy the consultation requirements of Stipulation V of the Memorandum of Agreement among the National Park Service, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the National Capital Planning Commission, and the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer Regarding Construction of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Center (MOA), executed June 25, 2012. The stipulation requires that, after the preliminary design of the Memorial Center is approved by the NCPC, consultation on the Memorial Center design will continue with the Signatories, Invited Signatories, and Consulting Parties regarding design refinements and other measures that could further avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse effects on historic properties. Items requiring additional consultation include further refinement of landscape treatment and night lighting.

The Commission of Fine Arts provided concept approval on February 24, 2012, and the NCPC provided preliminary site and building plan approval on July 12, 2012. See the enclosed for excerpted plan views, as approved.

The stone benches along the elliptical walkway serve as vehicle deterrence. In consultation with park staff, the National Capital Region Fire and Emergency Program Manager, and the US Park Police, the design has team identified the following additional measures as necessary for life safety and errant vehicle protection (see enclosed):

- a) An additional path off the entry walkway would allow for an alternate emergency exit route from the depressed entry plaza, as required by National Fire Protection Association code. This path would be 5 feet wide and curve slightly up the grade from the plaza towards

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Henry Bacon Drive, but would end after approximately 24 feet. Four bands of coated steel edging would extend out in order to retain the terraced lawn around alternate path's treads and to integrate the stairs into the landscape. Emergency lighting would be provided along this egress route. The lights would be in tread, and programmed to illuminate during emergencies only.

- b) Because a portion of the stone bench would need to be eliminated to provide for this access, additional errant vehicle protection would be required. A pair of removable bollards, compatible with the stone walkway, would be placed at the end of the walkway, before it opens up to the entry plaza.

Alternative ways to allow dispersion from the area were evaluated then dismissed as being too far from the public way (the sidewalk and Henry Bacon Drive), too near an overhanging structure, too close to the roof structure, or would have introduced stairwells and railings. The proposed pathway, in our view, provides a code-compliant way to Henry Bacon Drive that is sympathetic to the design guidelines and historic preservation concerns that have previously been considered.

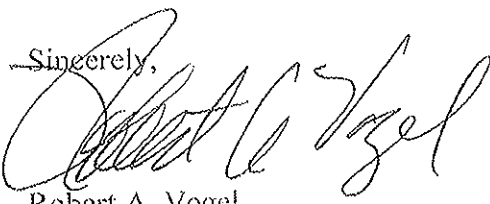
The design principles (Attachment A of the MOA) provide guidelines against which to evaluate these measures. Five of the principles are particularly relevant and are discussed below.

Design Principle	Significance of the proposed measures
1. The Visitor Center will be constructed underground as required by the authorizing legislation for the project with no portion of the building or related building elements visible from any portion of the Lincoln Memorial steps and podium, from Constitution Avenue, and from within the axial viewsheds of 23 <sup>rd</sup> Street, NW and Henry Bacon Drive, NW.	The plaza level will be at approximately elevation 7'(AMSL), with the top of the surrounding slope at approximately elevation 20', so the bollards will be well below grade and hidden from most views surrounding the area. They would be further shielded by trees on all sides, as well as by the existing food kiosk when viewed from the Lincoln Memorial. The stairs would likewise be shielded from view from the south, west, and north, and mostly shielded from the east. They may be visible from the Henry Bacon Drive entrance (e.g., they would be visible around the bend shown in figure 2), however at that point there are other features of the Center that come into view and the impact of the stairs themselves would likely be negligible.
2. The Visitor Center's entrance will be only minimally visible from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to satisfy the project's purpose and need, but in accordance with the authorizing legislation will not interfere with or encroach upon the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.	The proposed measures would not interfere with or encroach upon the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.
4. The Visitor Center will be designed such that light emanating from the Center's interior will not be visible from any portion of the Lincoln Memorial, from Constitution Avenue,	The lighting on the emergency egress would only be illuminated during an emergency.

and from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial so as not to interfere with or encroach upon the Lincoln Memorial or the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.	
5. The Visitor Center will not intrude into the landscape. No protrusions, such as skylights, monitors, light wells, or sunken areaways, will be visible from the sidewalk surrounding the site.	As noted above, the egress route will be only visible as one approaches the Center, as from most perspectives around the vicinity it would be shielded from view by trees, grading, and the food kiosk. The stairs may be visible from some portions of the sidewalk surrounding the site, but in those cases the facility as a whole would be visible and the impact of the stairs themselves would likely be negligible.
14. The Visitor Center will be designed without guardrails or perimeter security elements	There are very few bollards proposed at the site, and they are not placed in such a way as to give the impression of perimeter security. The benches are compatible with the design and provide for a useful function. The design meets the intentions of this design criterion to the extent possible while still providing for errant vehicle protection.

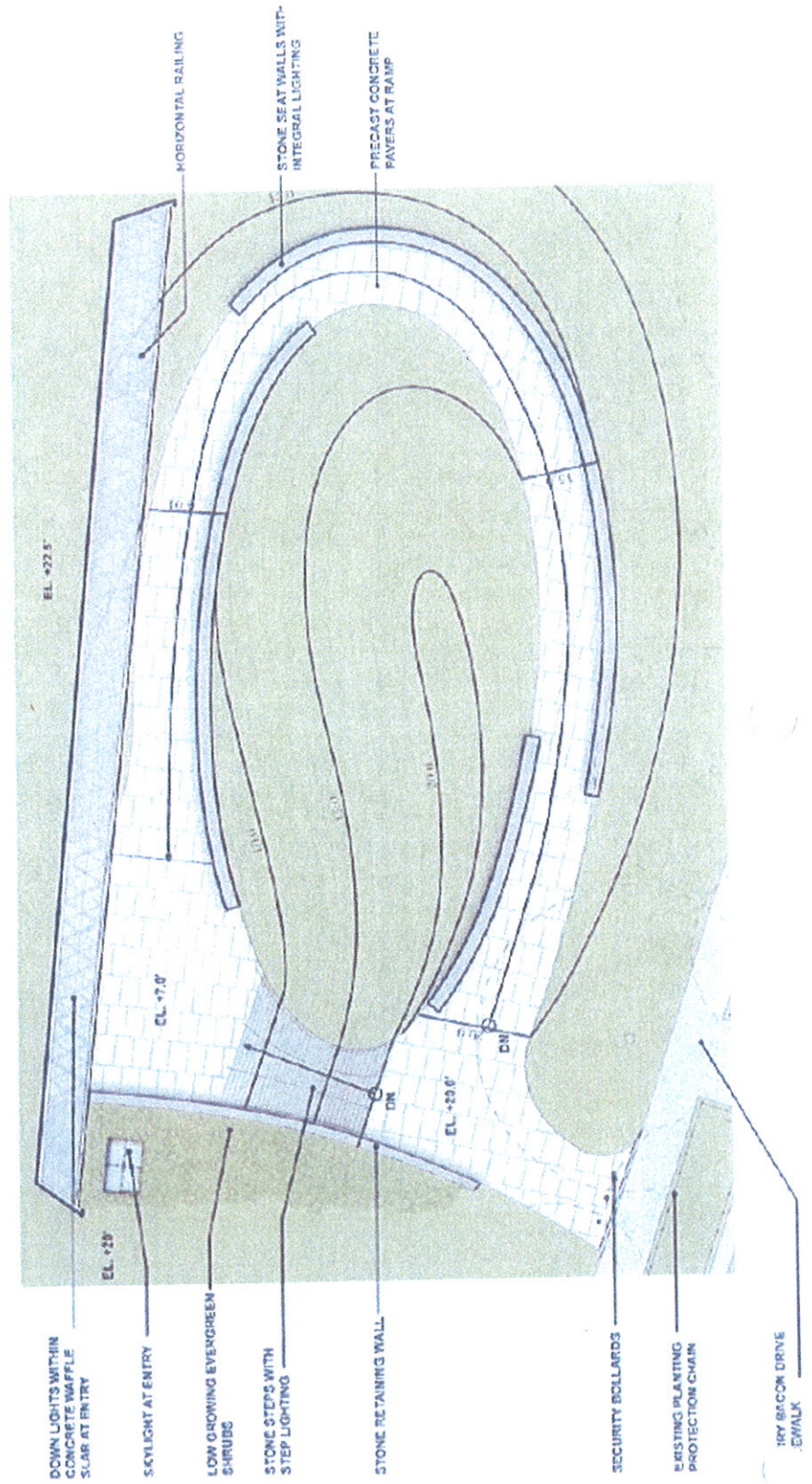
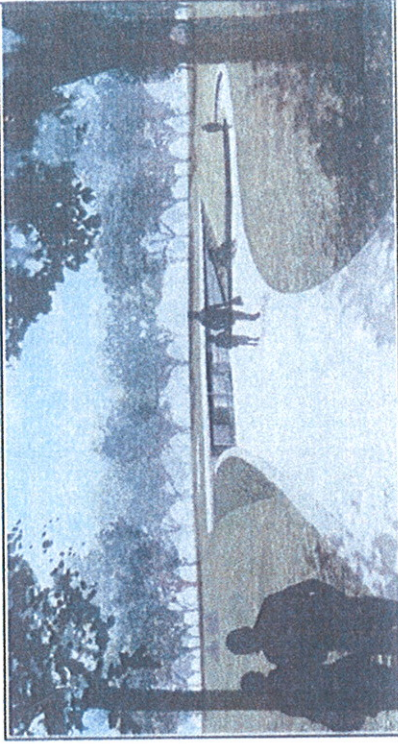
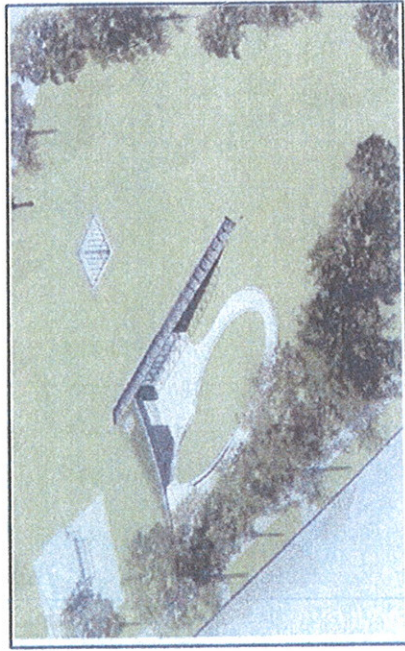
Apart from the design criteria discussed above, you expressed additional concerns prior to the MOA in your March 13, 2012 letter. You were concerned about visual effects on the American Pharmacists Association Building (APHA) and the National Academy of Sciences given that these buildings have been described as a "frame for the Lincoln Memorial" in the APHA National Register nomination and other documents, as well as visual effects from the Three Soldiers statue and other areas adjacent to the memorial itself. The proposed egress and bollards is not expected be visible from these resources, due to the surrounding grading and further shielding by trees.

Therefore, we find that the additional security and safety provisions would not constitute additional adverse impact and seek your concurrence. Please contact James Perry, Chief of Resource Management Division, at 202-245-4711 if you'd like to discuss this proposal.

Sincerely,  
  
 Robert A. Vogel  
 Superintendent  
 National Mall and Memorial Parks

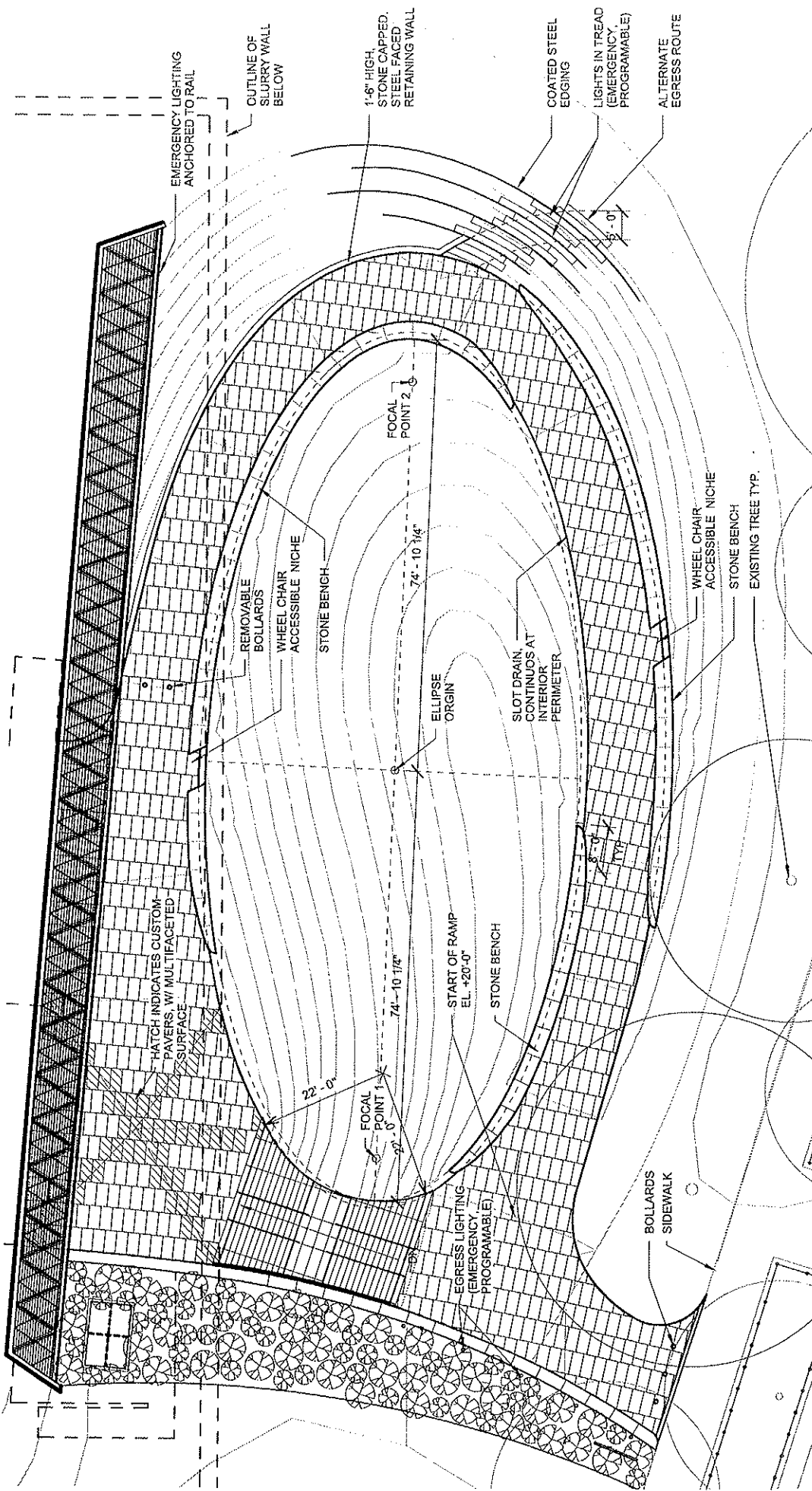
Enclosed: figures depicting the Center as approved and with the additional security and life safety measures

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Center, as preliminarily approved by the commissions in 2012:









Project Title: <b>Education Center at the Wall</b>		Sheet Title: <b>Stone Tread Path w/ Retaining</b>	
Architect: <b>ENSO ARCHITECTS, LLP</b> 300 West 12th Street Chicago, IL 60604-3171 312.267.5171 FAX 312.267.2917 FAX		Date: <b>1/16" = 1'-0"</b> Project No: <b>0922</b> Sheet No: <b>SKD-138A.2</b>	
No. _____ Issue Name _____ Date <b>2013-01-28</b>		No. _____ Issue Name _____ Date _____	

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER



March 22, 2013

Mr. Robert A. Vogel, Superintendent  
National Mall and Memorial Parks  
National Park Service  
900 Ohio Drive, SW  
Washington, DC 20024-2000

RE: Vietnam Veterans Memorial Center; Proposed Installation of Additional Egress Path & Security Bollards

Dear Mr. Vogel:

Thank you for consulting with the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in accordance with the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that was executed on June 25, 2012 for the above-referenced undertaking. As you are aware, Stipulation V of the MOA requires additional consultation among the signatories to determine if design refinements or other measures can be implemented to further avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse effects on historic properties. Following this consultation, Stipulation VI requires the NPS to evaluate the proposed final design to determine whether any new or intensified adverse effects may have resulted from revisions to the preliminary plans.

Based upon your recent letter and on-going conversations with NPS staff, we understand that two such revisions have been proposed by the NPS. These revisions, which are intended to address safety concerns that were only recently identified, include: 1.) an additional emergency egress path off the entry walkway that would include bands of coated steel edging along the path's treads; and 2.) a pair of removable bollards that would be inserted at the end of the walkway.

Although the NPS has determined that these revisions will not constitute a new or intensified adverse effect, we are unable to concur with the NPS determination at this time. We understand that a meeting was held to discuss the proposed revisions with CFA and NCPC on March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Unfortunately, we were unable to attend but have been informed by NPS staff that the proposed revisions were not favorably received. As a result, the project architects have been charged with making refinements that will better integrate the new egress path and bollards into the overall design. We strongly encourage the NPS to also ensure that the newly proposed elements will not be visible from the Lincoln Memorial or from other historic properties within the APE.

Please contact me at [andrew.lewis@dc.gov](mailto:andrew.lewis@dc.gov) or 202-442-8841 if you should have any questions or comments regarding this matter. Otherwise, we look forward to reviewing the revised designs when they become available and to finalizing the plans in a manner that will avoid and minimize adverse effects on historic properties to the maximum extent possible

Sincerely,

C. Andrew Lewis  
Senior Historic Preservation Specialist  
State Historic Preservation Office

12-061

cc: Jennifer Hirsh, NCPC  
Katty Harris, ACHP

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER



January 16, 2014

Mr. Robert A. Vogel, Superintendent  
National Mall and Memorial Parks  
National Park Service  
900 Ohio Drive, SW  
Washington, DC 20024-2000

RE: Vietnam Veterans Memorial Center; Revised Design for Proposed Installation of Additional  
Egress Path & Security Bollards

Dear Mr. Vogel:

Thank you for providing the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) with the revised designs for the additional egress path proposed for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Center as required by the project Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that was executed on June 25, 2012.

As you may recall, we wrote to you on March 22, 2013 to express our initial concerns about the proposed designs and to notify you that we were unable to concur with the NPS determination that the additional egress path would result in no new or intensified adverse effect on historic properties. However, based upon our review of the revised plans (see image to the right), we are now able to concur with that determination. As such, no further consultation with our office will be necessary regarding this particular aspect of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Center.



If you should have any questions or comments regarding this matter, please contact me at [andrew.lewis@dc.gov](mailto:andrew.lewis@dc.gov) or 202-442-8841. Otherwise, thank you for providing this additional opportunity to review and comment.

Sincerely,

C. Andrew Lewis  
Senior Historic Preservation Specialist  
State Historic Preservation Office

12-061

cc: Jennifer Hirsh, NCPC  
Katy Harris, ACHP





# United States Department of the Interior



## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

National Mall and Memorial Parks

900 Ohio Drive, S.W.

Washington, D.C. 20024-2000

September 18, 2014

Mr. David Maloney  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
District of Columbia, Office of Planning  
1100 4th Street SW, Suite E650  
Washington D.C. 20024

Subject: Vietnam Veterans Memorial Center- Annual Update

Dear <sup>David</sup>Mr. Maloney:

This letter is to respond to the consultation requirements of Stipulation V and IX of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) among the National Park Service, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC), and the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer regarding construction of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Center.

The MOA, executed June 25, 2012, requires an annual update on the undertaking. Additionally, after the preliminary design of the Memorial Center is approved by the NCPC, consultation on the Memorial Center design will continue with the Signatories, Invited Signatories, and Consulting Parties regarding design refinements and other measures that could further avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse effects on historic properties.

The Commission of Fine Arts (CFA), at its April 2014 meeting requested further study of the entry experience to the memorial center. In response, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund consulted with the design team and presented an amended study to the Commission of Fine Arts at its July 2014 meeting. The study was well received and has resulted in the removal of the wall along the entrance way, the removal of yet another skylight portal, and the simplification of the ground plane planting. Since July, we have coordinated the revised entry scheme to meet access and security concerns, the result of which has been the adjusted location of one tree within the historic tree planting plan. We have enclosed a graphic presentation that shows the current state of the project to fulfill the responsibilities of the 2012 MOA.

We find that the amendments would not constitute additional adverse impact and seek your concurrence. We are hopeful of your favorable review as we hope to submit this amended design for consideration by the National Capital Planning Commission in December 2014.

Please contact Catherine Dewey, Acting Chief of Resource Management Division, at 202-245-4711 if you would like to discuss this amendment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Bob', written over a faint rectangular stamp.

Robert A. Vogel  
Superintendent  
National Mall and Memorial Parks

Attachment

# RECONSIDERED DESIGN: Site Plan



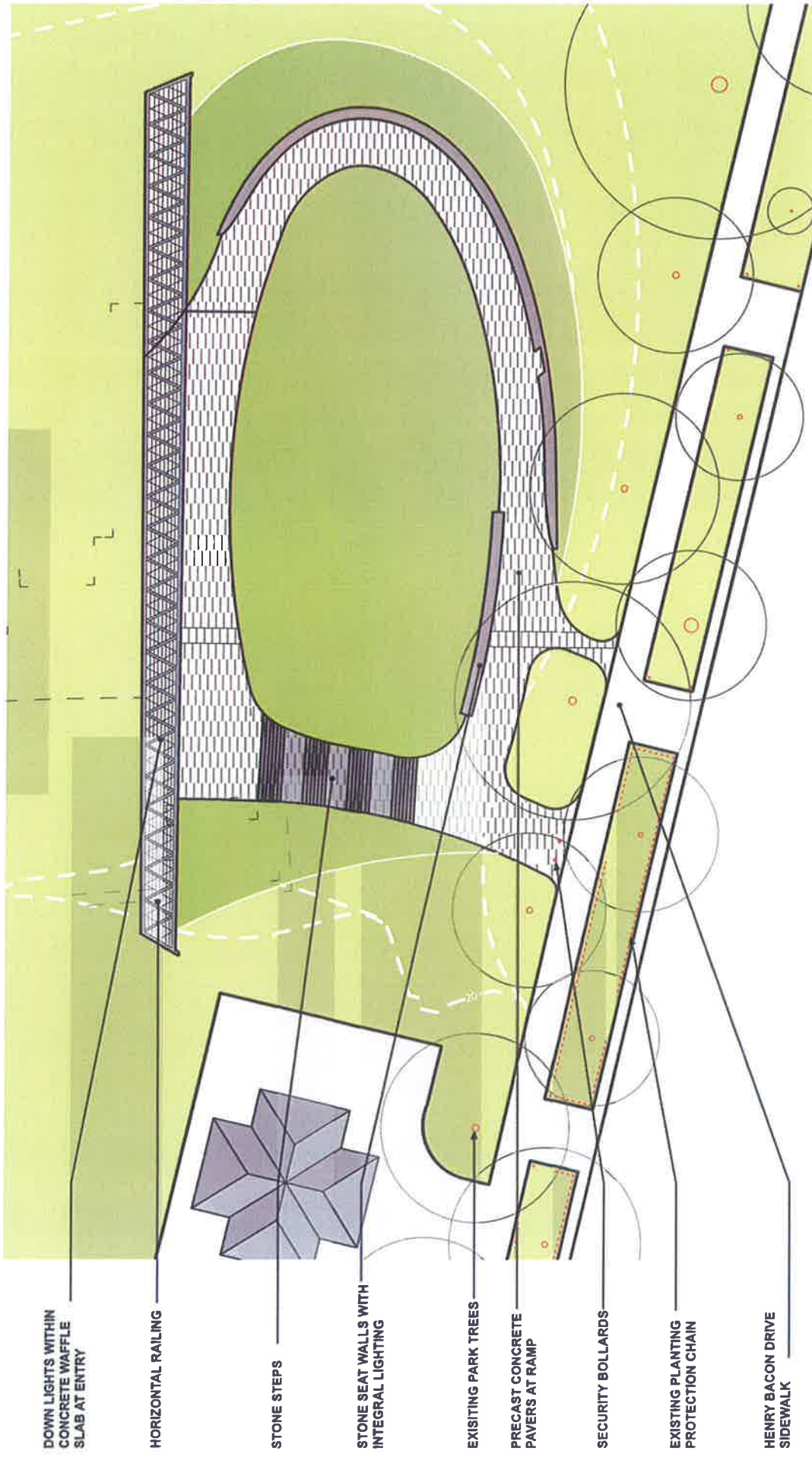
**RECONSIDERED DESIGN: Aerial View from North East**



Education Center at The Wall  
ENNEAD ARCHITECTS  
09.09.14



## RECONSIDERED DESIGN: Partial Site Plan at Approach





**RECONSIDERED DESIGN: View from Bottom of Entry Ramp**



Education Center at The Wall  
ENNEAD ARCHITECTS  
09.09.14

RECONSIDERED DESIGN: View from Henry Bacon Sidewalk



Education Center at The Wall  
ENNEAD ARCHITECTS  
09.09.14



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER



October 6, 2014

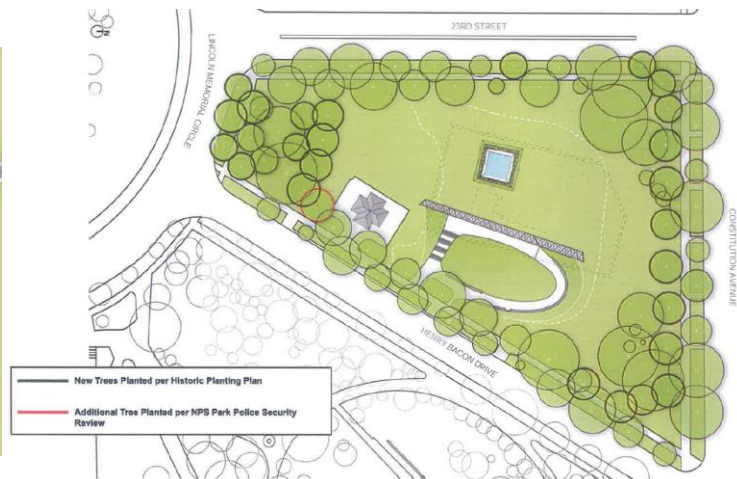
Mr. Robert A. Vogel, Superintendent  
National Mall and Memorial Parks  
National Park Service  
900 Ohio Drive, SW  
Washington, DC 20024-2000

RE: Vietnam Veterans Memorial Center; Revised Design to Eliminate Entryway Wall, Eliminate an Additional Skylight, Simplify Ground Plane Planting & Relocate One Tree

Dear Mr. Vogel:

Thank you for continuing to consult with the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) regarding the additional revisions proposed for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Center as required by the project Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that was executed on June 25, 2012.

Based upon our review of the most recent plans, we understand that designs which we commented upon on January 16, 2014 (image below on the left) have been revised so that the wall along the entryway and one additional skylight will be removed, the ground plane planting plan will be simplified and one additional tree will be planted for security reasons (image below on the right). As before, we concur with the NPS determination that these additional revisions will not result in any new or intensified adverse effect on historic properties. Therefore, no further consultation with our office will be necessary regarding the revised designs.



If you should have any questions or comments regarding this matter, please contact me at [andrew.lewis@dc.gov](mailto:andrew.lewis@dc.gov) or 202-442-8841. Otherwise, thank you for providing this additional opportunity to review and comment.

Sincerely,

C. Andrew Lewis  
Senior Historic Preservation Specialist  
State Historic Preservation Office

12-061

cc: Jennifer Hirsh, NCPC