

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER



March 25, 2015

Ms. Catherine Dewey
Acting Chief of Resource Management
National Mall and Memorial Parks
National Park Service
900 Ohio Drive, SW
Washington, DC 20242-2000

RE: Eisenhower Memorial, Section 106 Consultation December 9, 2014: Comment Responses March 2, 2015

Dear Ms. Dewey:

Thank you for continuing Section 106 consultation on the Eisenhower Memorial in accordance with Stipulation 10 of the 2012 Memorandum of Agreement among the National Park Service, National Capital Planning Commission, the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Eisenhower Memorial Commission regarding the establishment of the Eisenhower Memorial (MOA). We appreciate that the NPS provided opportunities to comment on the most recent memorial designs during a meeting late last year and subsequently informed the signatories and consulting parties of the outcome of consultation by circulating an electronic report entitled *Eisenhower Memorial, Section 106 Consultation December 9, 2014: Comment Responses March 2, 2015*. We have reviewed the report and the most recent consulting party responses and are writing to provide additional comments regarding effects on historic properties for your consideration.

As documented in the report and previously circulated letters, the design of the Eisenhower Memorial has been improved when compared to the 2011 plans that were incorporated into the MOA for reference. For example, reducing the dimensions of the south tapestry and substituting two freestanding columns for the originally proposed east and west tapestries has minimized the adverse visual effects on the L'Enfant Plan and the historic Cohen, Johnson and Wright Buildings. Similarly, shifting the memorial south of the façades of the Cohen and Wright Buildings has improved sightlines along Independence Avenue while incorporating a granite curb into the ground plane has improved recognition of Maryland Avenue's cartway. We are pleased that these and other revisions to the memorial designs have helped to avoid/minimize adverse effects and to enhance historic properties.

However, we believe that at least one of the additional minimization measures suggested during the December 19, 2014 consulting parties meeting warrants further consideration. The meeting notes suggest that eliminating the easternmost and westernmost bays of the tapestry (but retaining the columns) had been considered by the design team in the past, but the notes also establish the importance that the consulting parties placed on seeing and evaluating fully developed renderings of this approach. We echo the National Civic Art Society's request to be provided with such illustrations and we ask the NPS and Eisenhower Memorial Commission to consult and consider the implications of this potential design modification prior to finalizing the memorial plans.

Eliminating the easternmost and westernmost bays of the tapestry will not completely avoid adverse effects because the southwestern column will remain visible within the Maryland Avenue viewshed and a considerable portion of the Johnson Building will continue to be covered by the tapestry, but the adverse visual effects will be minimized by reducing the overall opacity and degree of visual impediments. This may be more apparent at night since the proposed lighting plan may cause the tapestry to appear denser than it will in daylight. Regardless, it is our opinion that the potential for reduced adverse effects merits consideration prior to finalizing the memorial plans.

We are not aware of any other consulting party responses but we would appreciate being copied on any additional comments that may be submitted in the near future. We would also appreciate being copied on the NPS response to the other issues raised in the National Civic Art Society's letter of March 20, 2015.

We look forward to receiving the NPS concluding comments before, or as part of the final determination of effect review process required by Stipulation 11 of the MOA. If you should have any questions or comments regarding these matters, please contact me at 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
DC State Historic Preservation Office

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cc: David Levy, NCPC
Justin Shubow, NCAS