

## Remarks on the Auditors Building Complex

### Location:

The Auditors Building complex (the Sidney R. Yates Federal Building) is located on Independence Avenue, between Raoul Wallenberg Place and 15<sup>th</sup> Street, SW. The site was first proposed to the Eisenhower Memorial Commission (EMC) in 2002 by the Eisenhower Institute in conjunction with its proposal to create a “living memorial” along with the traditional “physical memorial.”

### Initial Evaluation:

The building was thought to provide easy public access and is prominent not only with regard to its proximity to the Mall and major museums, but also as an important historical building. The site also has relevant thematic associations, including proximity to the Holocaust Museum and the World War II Memorial.

### Further Evaluation:

Upon further study, the site was deemed by the Commission not to be appropriate for its purposes for the following reasons:

- 1) A fully active federal agency is already using all the space in the building. Housing the Memorial here

would require the 300-400 employees of the United States Forest Service to relocate.

- 2) The building is already a memorial. Pursuant to Public Law 105-277, Section 360 (October 21, 1998), the building was dedicated in honor of Sidney R. Yates on January 7, 1999 in a ceremony attended by Representative Yates’ family and other distinguished guests. Yates was the second-longest serving member of the U.S. House of Representatives, and he was instrumental in the development of the Holocaust Museum, which is adjacent to the Auditors Building.

- 3) It is an existing historic building listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A memorial could only be within its interior. There is no precedent for this type of aesthetic decision for a presidential memorial.

### Re-Evaluation:

It was reconsidered in March 2005 after negotiations with the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) were terminated. The reasons for eliminating the site from consideration in 2002 were reaffirmed, and the building was deleted from the list of possible locations.

Site #25  
The Auditors Building  
(Yates Federal Building)  
Independence Ave. &  
14th St., SW



USDA photos by: Ken Hammond







## Remarks on the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) Site

### **USIP Site Location:**

The United States Institute of Peace (USIP) is an independent, nonpartisan federal institution created by Congress to promote the prevention, management, and peaceful resolution of international conflicts. By an act of Congress, USIP has secured a site in Washington, DC for its permanent headquarters. Located at the northwest corner of the National Mall at the intersection of Constitution Avenue and 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, NW, the site faces the Lincoln Memorial and is adjacent to the Korean War and Vietnam Veterans Memorials.

### **Co-Location with USIP:**

Serious discussions and negotiations with USIP began in June 2004 at an Executive Committee meeting. (The Executive Committee is made up of EMC Chairman Rocco C. Siciliano, Senator Daniel K. Inouye, Senator Ted Stevens, and Representative Dennis Moore).

The Commission's Executive Committee met with the leadership and staff of the USIP headquarters. Initial conversations with USIP led to intense activity over a period of 7 months, from June – December 2004.

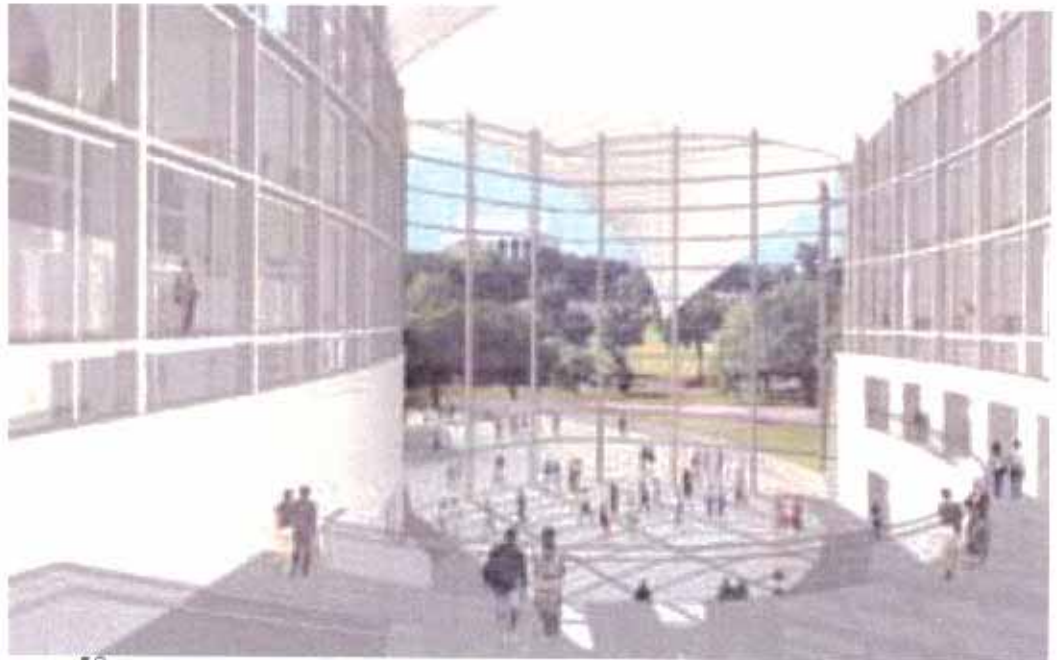
During this time, the parties engaged in hundreds of hours of discussions and meetings, including a meeting between the Commission and USIP's architect, Moshe Safdie, and its exhibit designer, Ralph Applebaum. This meeting resulted in concept sketches for envisioning how the two institutions could collaborate on use of the site. USIP was supportive of the effort, and its President, Richard Solomon, Board Chairman J. Robinson West, and their staff met with EMC Chairman Rocco C. Siciliano in both Washington, DC and in Los Angeles. These efforts resulted in a draft memorandum of understanding.

### **Evaluation:**

After seven months of intense negotiations, conversations were terminated because USIP was funded to proceed independently.



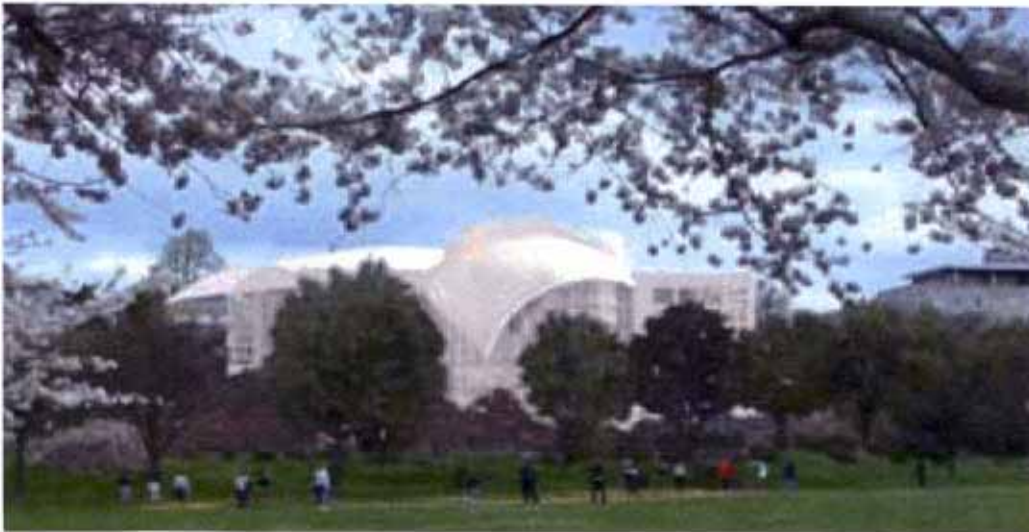
Site #26  
United States Institute of Peace  
(USIP)  
Constitution Ave. & 23rd St., NW



Photos from USIP website:  
[www.usip.org/building/pressphotos.html](http://www.usip.org/building/pressphotos.html)



Location of USIP headquarter's site.



Photos from USIP website:  
[www.usip.org/building/pressphotos.html](http://www.usip.org/building/pressphotos.html)