



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Mall and Memorial Parks
900 Ohio Drive SW
Washington, DC 20024



May 30, 2018

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

Subject: State Historic Preservation Office Consultation for the Thomas Jefferson Memorial
Accessibility Improvements—Assessment of Effects, National Mall and Memorial Parks,
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. Maloney:

The National Park Service (NPS), National Mall and Memorial Parks (NAMA) wishes to continue consultation with the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office (DC SHPO) under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act regarding accessibility improvements at the Thomas Jefferson Memorial, in accordance with 36 CFR 800.3 of the regulations of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. As detailed in the enclosed Assessment of Effects report, the NPS has determined that the project will have a no adverse effect on historic properties.

The Thomas Jefferson Memorial was dedicated in 1943 by Franklin Delano Roosevelt and designed by Architect John Russell Pope. It was influenced by Jefferson's taste in classical architecture and echoed the style seen in Jefferson's two most famous buildings—Monticello and the University of Virginia Rotunda. The surrounding memorial landscape is a cultural landscape designed by 19th century landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. The views and vistas from the memorial are also significant, with a direct visual line to the White House with additional thought put into its relationship between the Washington Monument and Lincoln Memorial.

The purpose of this project is to make the experiences and facilities of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial accessible to visitors with mobility, sensory, and cognitive disabilities through the application of principles of Universal Design. The visitor experience at the memorial includes arrival at and use of the facilities in and around the memorial (parking spaces, sidewalks, restrooms, information desk, food kiosk, wayfinding and orientation) and utilization of accessible routes to the memorial. This project is being undertaken as part of the Targeted Accessibility Improvement Program, which encourages holistic principles of Universal Design during the visitor experiences and at the memorial facilities. To address the experience/facility holistically, the project must improve both physical and programmatic accessibility from entry to exit for a broad range of disabilities.

The NPS preferred option includes the construction of an 8'0" sloped walkway along the northern elevation of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial. The walkway will be outside of the existing planter with a minimum slope of 4.0%-4.5%. The landscape hedge will remain intact, but the existing terrace wall capstone will be removed. A handrail will be located on the outside edge of the walkway. This option allows for universal access from the Tidal Basin level and significantly reduces the accessible route distance from the Tidal Basin plaza level to the

entrance and the lower level. Furthermore, this option provides minimal visual impacts to the cultural landscape and minimal physical impacts to the historic fabric of the Memorial.

In compliance with 36 CFR Part 800.11(e), the enclosed Assessment of Effects report has been prepared for the proposed accessibility improvements at the Thomas Jefferson Memorial. As described in the Assessment of Effects report, the NPS has determined that the preferred alternative would have a no adverse effect on the historic structure. For questions or clarifications regarding this notice, please do not hesitate to contact Catherine Dewey, Chief of Resource Management, at catherine_dewey@nps.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patricia S. Trap". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Patricia Trap
Acting Superintendent
National Mall and Memorial Parks

Attachment