

**Notes from Consultation Meeting
Benjamin Franklin Life and Legacy Project
Rehabilitation of Franklin Court
March 23, 2010
1p.m. – 3p.m.**

C= Comment

Q/E = Quinn/Evans response

Sustainability

C Will project be rated under LEED system?

Q/E Working for standards comparable to LEED silver rating. NPS does not apply for LEED ratings.

Circulation, Views/Vistas

C Miniature bosque and raised planters are impediment for visitors seeking the entrance to the underground museum. Many people enter the courtyard space, but never venture into the museum, possibly because they don't notice the entrance – possibly because the planters containing trees partially obscure the entrance. How could the museum entrance be designed so that it is more noticeable? Is there any historical significance to the planters? Could they be removed to make the entrance more noticeable? Could the entrance be shifted further to the north to make it more noticeable?

Q/E Good points regarding the trees, but beyond the scope of their project. The designers feel that the glass structure would allow visitors to see into the museum space and realize there is more to see on the inside. A visitor would be able to see other visitors and park staff through the glass signifying that area as another public space. The glass wall should not distract from the ghost house as the tinting of the glass would differentiate/diminish the glass wall from the ghost structure.

Impact of pavilion design on character defining feature

C Reconfigured entrance and transparency are acceptable. Visitors must recognize the entrance but not confuse it with the expression of the ghost house.

New pavilion should be more recessive. Recommend making its members the color of masonry, not gray like the ghost structure. Don't confuse the addition with the ghost structure.

C The wall, a major element, is a hard perimeter providing protection from the exterior world. The new pavilion design penetrates the wall and diminishes its protection.

Q/E We're gaining but losing. The shop canopy softened the edge. The new entrance is a harder edge. There will still be two expanses of unbroken wall north and south of the new pavilion.

C Will the glass pavilion be too bright and hot in the morning? This is a time when school groups arrive and will congregate in the glass- enclosed lobby.

Q/E Morning light will be a great time to see the museum. The design was developed to admit light to the lobby and down the stairs.

Design and Materials, character-defining features

C VSB employed a vocabulary of eighteenth-century forms and materials in the landscape design. The ghost structure is deliberately set apart through its use of twentieth-century materials. Please rethink the color and form of the canopy on the new pavilion. It competes with the VSB program of elements.

Q/E Scoops into the archeology area are also modern materials. They are part of the ghost house.

Superintendent: We need to consider this comment.

C How is the [new glass] canopy influenced by the site?

Q/E The beams on the new canopy reference the former post elements of the VSB design. Q/E has incorporated twenty-first century technology into its design. It is possible VSB would have used an expanded entrance had their budget been larger.

C Are the beams on the canopy necessary? Pure glazing without the posts would allow one to see the wall, making the design "more palatable".

Q/E It is technically possible to create a canopy without the posts, but it is not possible within this budget.

New shop

C Concern for "merchandise in the courtyard." Shop must be visible to visitors, but its merchandise should not dominate or intrude upon the courtyard area.

Q/E The shop is actually behind two layers of glass. Its contents won't compete with the courtyard. Q/E acknowledged the problem of visibility of merchandise.

C Agree with not allowing the merchandise to interfere with the courtyard experience. How will NPS draw people in and get them to pay admissions as well as spend at the shop.

Q/E It will be possible to visit the shop without paying admission.

C Would the shop be visible from the courtyard?

Q/E No, the shop is tucked behind a wall, but the doorway into the shop would be visible from the courtyard.

C What is the size of the new shop?

Q/E 900 sq.

Superintendent The shop will be larger than the current shop in Market Street, but a marketing study suggests that the shop will not generate enough money to fully support the museum.

C Is it a bookstore or a gift shop?

Superintendent: It will be Eastern National or Eastern National-like, that is, a bit of both.

Admissions area

C Where will the admissions area be?

Q/E Preferred place is inside the entrance door, near the stairs. Location not definite at this time.

Income opportunities

C Will NPS make the below-ground, multi-purpose room available for rentals?

Superintendent: No. We will not permit food or drink in the underground area.

Rehabilitation of court yard

C Does the project include funds to rehabilitate some of the courtyard elements?

Superintendent: No.