



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)

April 12, 2010

Mr. Reid Nelson
Director
Office of Federal Agency Programs
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Suite 803
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Mr. Nelson:

The National Park Service (NPS) has initiated consultation with the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer (DCSHPO) regarding the establishment of a national memorial to Dwight D. Eisenhower, an undertaking which will have an effect upon historic properties under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

The NPS and the Eisenhower Memorial Commission (the Commission) propose to establish the memorial on a site located at Maryland and Independence Avenues, and 4th and 6th Streets in southwest Washington, DC. The site includes portions of Reservation 5 adjacent to the National Mall and affords views of the U.S. Capitol Building. Congress authorized the proposed memorial to be "an appropriate permanent memorial to Dwight D. Eisenhower to perpetuate his memory and his contributions to the United States." The National Memorial to Dwight D. Eisenhower is an undertaking, in accordance with 36 CFR 800.3 of the regulations of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP).

The Commission, created in October 1999 by Public Law 106-79, is charged with memorializing Dwight D. Eisenhower's military achievements, presidential accomplishments, and lifetime of public service. Congress directed the Commission to consider and formulate plans for a permanent memorial, "including its nature, design, construction and location."

The establishment of the Eisenhower Memorial was the subject of Section 106 consultation and an environmental assessment (EA) in 2006. The EA resulted in the selection and approval of the site for the memorial. The site is located on land administered by the NPS, the lead federal agency for this project, and on land administered by the General Services Administration (GSA), as well as the District of Columbia.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the NPS and the Commission are currently preparing an EA on the development of the preferred memorial design. The GSA is a cooperating agency in this process. The NPS and the Commission intend to coordinate Section 106 consultation and review with NEPA per ACHP regulations (36 CFR 800.8). (NEPA). The NPS plans to consult the public per 800.3(e) in public meetings and through our Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website – www.parkplanning/nps.gov. It is anticipated that these outreach efforts will

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accommodate both NEPA and the 106 process. The first meeting open to the public will be a public scoping meeting to be held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 22, 2010 in Room M09, of the Old Post Office Building, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W., Washington, DC 20004.

Conceptual design for the memorial are in the early stages of development. The Commission's design team, lead by Gehry Partners, intend to explore various concept alternatives, including the potential for closure of a segment of Maryland Avenue to vehicular traffic and the removal of limited structures on the site. The alternative designs will also address the constraints of the site, including adjacent building heights, setbacks from the perimeter streets and the Lyndon Baines Johnson Department of Education Building, and the preservation of the Maryland Avenue view corridor alignment with the U.S. Capitol Building.

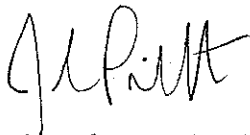
The NPS and the Commission acknowledge that construction and operation of the memorial could adversely affect historic resources. Key issues include the alignment of Maryland Avenue as envisioned in the L'Enfant Plan, the Maryland Avenue vista and historic cartway, the historic building lines on Independence Avenue, 4th Street, and 6th Street, the west elevation of the Department of Education Building, and the historic character of the Independence Avenue side of the National Mall.

We have enclosed a working list of consulting parties and a copy of the Area of Potential Effect information prepared in 2006 for your information. Both items are intended as a basis of discussion, subject to modification, so as to expedite the consultation process. We also anticipate that a Phase 1a and, if necessary, a Phase 1b archeological review of the site will be undertaken by the Commission to determine if archeological resources might be impacted by the design and construction of a the proposed alternatives.

At this conceptual design stage, the NPS is not prepared to make a formal determination of effect for the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial project, but looks forward to consultation with the (DCSHPO) on this and other steps in the process.

Because of the sensitive nature of the project site, and the potential for adverse effects, we are happy to invite the active participation of the Council in the Section 106 process. Please indicate whether you wish to do so or have any other questions about the undertaking by contacting me or Mark Isaksen, Chief, Resource Management, National Mall and Memorial Parks at (202) 245-4711.

Sincerely,



Superintendent, National Mall and Memorial Parks

Enclosure

cc:

Mr. Reid Nelson
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

Ms. Nancy Witherell
National Capital Planning Commission

Bcc:

NAMA-Files

NAMA-Chrono

NAMA-Talken-Spaulding

NAMA-Lorenzetti

NAMA-Piltzecker

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