



# United States Department of the Interior

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

National Capital Region

1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.

Washington, D.C. 20242

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
D20 (NCR-LRP)

JUL 1 2010

Thomas Luebke, AIA  
Secretary  
Commission of Fine Arts  
441 F Street, N.W., Suite 312  
Washington, D.C. 20001-2728

Dear Mr. Luebke:

We are writing to request a combined concept/final review for the Petersen House Rear Porch Rehabilitation at the Commission of Fine Art's July 15, 2010 hearing.

In 1896, the Petersen House became one of the first historic house museums to be purchased and operated by the Federal government. It is significant because it is the location where President Abraham Lincoln was transported and eventually died after his assassination at Ford's Theatre on the night of April 14, 1865. Over the years, visitation as well as moisture damage from water intrusion and from temperature and humidity fluctuations stemming from the absence of climate control have directly impacted the historic fabric and interior conditions overall. As a result, the NPS plans to undertake preservation repairs, systems upgrades, as well as make enhancements to improve universal accessibility.

Accessibility improvements have become feasible recently due to the physical connection which will be made between the rear porch of the Petersen House and the Ford's Theatre Society Center for Education and Leadership, a new museum being built by an NPS partner, within their existing building at 514 10th Street, N.W. The Center will offer a wide array of programs that will provide visitors the opportunity to learn about the life, legacy, and lessons in the leadership of President Abraham Lincoln. The connection will consist of an opening through the side wall of the Center which will link the rear porch with an elevator vestibule within the Center. In order to take advantage of the elevator for accessibility needs within the Petersen House and to better coordinate visitor circulation between the house and the new facility, the NPS is proposing to rehabilitate the porch and reconfigure the existing porch stair.

If you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Peter May, Associate Regional Director for Lands, Resources and Planning at (202) 619-7025.

Sincerely,

*Peggy O'Dell*

Regional Director, National Capital Region