

COMMISSION ACTION

NCPC File No. 6479



PATENT OFFICE BUILDING
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
F STREET STAIR RECONSTRUCTION, LANDSCAPE PLAN, SECURITY, AND SIGNS
G, F, 7th and 9th Streets, NW
Washington, D.C.

Submitted by the Smithsonian Institution

November 1, 2007

Commission Action Requested by Applicant

Approval of the preliminary and final site and building plans pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1) and (d).

Commission Action

The Commission:

The Commission, relative to NCPC Map File No. 21.00(38.40)42179:

Commends the Smithsonian Institution for enhancing the Patent Office Building's façade and reservation, and for reconsidering its security requirements and removing proposed barriers from public space.

Approves:

- The rehabilitation of the reservation landscape plan.
- The reconstruction of the F Street Stair.
- The security elements, consisting of a raised granite wall supporting the historic cast iron fence around the reservation, and the installation of two guard booths and six retractable bollards at the entrances to the service drive.
- The installation of a segment of one of the courtyard cast iron fountains and an urn in the exhibit on the building's construction and architectural fabric.

Disapproves:

- The fifteen installed and proposed information and program signs for the Smithsonian American Art Museum and the National Portrait Gallery, on the sidewalks and attached to the cast iron fence.
- The installed building identification lettering on the north and south entrances of the building as being overscaled and misplaced on the building.

Requires that the Smithsonian consult through the Section 106 process on the installed and proposed signs and lettering and formally submit the proposal to the Commission, as requested at the April 2007 meeting.

Deborah B. Young
Secretary to the National Capital Planning Commission