

**UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS BARRACKS
PERIMETER SECURITY – COMMANDANT’S HOUSE, QUARTERS 6**

G Street, SE between 8th and 9th Streets, SE
Washington, DC

Finding of No Significant Impact

APR 30 2010

Pursuant to Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act, the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR, Parts 1500-1508), and the National Capital Planning Commission’s Environmental and Historic Preservation Policies and Procedures, I have evaluated the preliminary and final site and building plans for perimeter security at the United States Marine Corps Commandant’s house, located on G Street, SE between 8th and 9th Streets, SE in Washington, DC, as shown on NCPC Map File No. 41.00(38.40)42857; the April 2010 environmental assessment (EA) prepared by the Department of the Navy; and the Department of the Navy’s April 5, 2010 Finding of No Significant Impact, and I have determined that the perimeter security at the Marine Corps Commandant’s residence, Quarters 6, as proposed will not have a significant impact on the human environment.

Proposed Action

The Department of the Navy proposes a perimeter security project for the United States Marine Corps Commandant’s house, Quarters 6, on G Street, SE in the Capitol Hill neighborhood. This historic residence is a two and one-half story house built for the Marine Corps Commandant in 1806. The goal of the project is to increase security in several ways: by reducing vehicular threats, by prohibiting pedestrians from climbing the fence and by providing shelter for guards patrolling the front of the residence. The design also mitigates impacts of the project on public space by incorporating new landscaped areas along G Street, SE as well as aesthetic improvements to a portion of the barracks wall along 8th Street, SE.

In its EA, the Navy evaluated multiple build alternatives and the potential impacts from each. The Navy also evaluated a no action alternative. The proposed action is a novel approach to site security as it incorporates parked vehicles into the barrier system instead of relying only on a fixed barrier for the entire perimeter. Fixed project elements include bollards at either end of the property, two guardhouses, a fence along the garden in front of the residence and an expanded garden area.

The build alternatives evaluated how altering specific project design elements would minimize impacts to public space. These alternative designs included bollards along the curb, an approximately eight foot high fence, the use of fortified planters, the closure of G Street, and the relocation of the Commandant’s residence. These alternatives were dismissed by the Navy either because they resulted in unacceptable public space impacts, because they did not achieve an

appropriate balance between security needs and historic preservation, or because they were impractical.

The resulting design consists of twelve bollards on the western end of the property extending from the existing wall to G Street, SE. Ten bollards will be installed on the eastern end of the property also extending from the existing wall to G Street, SE. A portion of the existing garden fence will be relocated to the eastern and western portions of the site and will be installed in front of the bollards. Two guardhouses will be installed in new garden areas that will flank the existing garden area on the east and west. The guardhouses will be wooden with flat roofs and be primarily used by the guards as shelter during inclement weather. Along 8th Street, SE an existing chain link fence that is located on the brick perimeter wall will be removed and replaced with a decorative metal fence similar to the fence being installed along G Street, SE to maintain design consistency. The proposed design effectively mitigates impacts that would otherwise result from the project.

Standard for evaluation

Under NEPA, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations, and NCPC Environmental and Historic Preservation Policies and Procedures, an EA is sufficient and an Environmental Impact Statement need not be prepared if the EA supports the finding that the federal action will not significantly affect the human environment. The EA for this project was prepared in accordance with these standards.

Potential Impacts

There will be no significant environmental impacts as a result of the proposed action. The EA found that the project would provide a long-term beneficial impact by adding residential parking spaces along G Street, SE as part of the security barrier. There would be negligible long-term impacts to cultural resources from adverse effects associated with adding bollards, fences and guardhouses in the public space adjacent to a historic resource.

As the adverse effects primarily concern historic preservation, these issues have been discussed during the Section 106 consultation meetings and minimized to the extent possible. The local Advisory Neighborhood Council 6B voted to unanimously approve the proposed design at its meeting on February 23, 2010. In addition, the District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office issued a positive recommendation for the project from the Historic Preservation Review Board following the Navy's determination of no adverse effect; NCPC concurs in this determination.



Marcel C. Acosta
Executive Director