

COMMISSION ACTION

NCPC File No. 6479



**PATENT OFFICE BUILDING
COURTYARD ENCLOSURE**
7th and F Streets, NW
Washington, DC

Submission by the Smithsonian Institution

November 4, 2004

Commission Action Requested by Applicant

Approval of preliminary site and building plans pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 8722(d) and Section 5 of the National Capital Planning Act (40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1)).

Commission Action

The Commission:

Approves the preliminary site and building plans for the revised canopy, except for the cooling tower and the heating, ventilation and air conditioning protrusions in the courtyard, as shown on NCPC Map File No. 21.10(38.00)41474.

Finds that the reconstruction of the stairs on the south façade would strengthen the presence of the Patent Office at street level, assist the Smithsonian in working toward the Commission's direction to "preserve the appearance of the Patent Office in the 8th Street viewshed" by balancing the view of the building's façade and the canopy, and provide mitigation commensurate with the proposed enclosure of the courtyard; and, therefore **requires** the Smithsonian to consult through the Section 106 process and submit a *concept design* to the Commission for the south stair reconstruction prior to submission of final site and building plans for the courtyard enclosure.

Notes that the Smithsonian has submitted plans and elevations for handicapped ramps on the north facade at the Commission's request, but **defers** action on these necessary but significant structures so that the Smithsonian can undertake Section 106 consultation and demonstrate that it has considered alternatives to the proposed pair of ramps.

Notes that the Commission also requested plans and elevations for other proposed alterations to the courtyard in order to ascertain the scope of the courtyard enclosure project and review the elements under its jurisdiction, but **defers** action on these elements so that the Smithsonian can undertake Section 106 consultation and make a submission sufficient for the Commission to review proposed physical alterations in the courtyard and to the courtyard facades.

Deborah B. Young
Secretary to the National Capital Planning Commission