
**NATIONAL BUILDING MUSEUM
FENCE ENCLOSURE FOR COOLING TOWERS**
401 F Street, NW
Washington, D.C.

Delegated Action of the Executive Director

October 28, 2004

Pursuant to delegations of authority adopted by the Commission on October 3, 1996, I approve the preliminary and final site and building plans for a fence enclosure for the cooling towers at the National Building Museum, 401 F Street, NW, as shown on NCPC Map File No. 1.22(38.40)41476.

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The General Services Administration (GSA) has submitted a proposal for a fence enclosure around the existing cooling towers at the National Building Museum (Pension Building). The National Building Museum site comprises the entire block between G Street on the north, F Street on the south, 4th Street on the east, and 5th Street on the west. The cooling towers are located in the lawn area at the northwest corner of the site. The proposal is being initiated to secure the cooling towers from homeless persons seeking warmth and refuge on the towers. This activity causes the building's heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system to malfunction because blankets and other materials are placed on top of the towers, blocking the air flow. The proposed cooling towers enclosure would consist of a six-foot, three-inch-high black decorative steel fence, surrounding the towers. This fence is similar to the fence that surrounds the cooling towers at the District Court of Appeals building located south of the Pension Building.

The Coordinating Committee coordinated this project at its October 13, 2004 meeting. NCPC staff has reviewed the submission materials and found the proposal qualifies as a Categorical Exclusion pursuant to NCPC's Environmental Procedures, at Section 8. GSA further advises that it has determined the proposal would have no adverse effect on the Pension Building, and the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer has concurred with this determination.

Patricia E. Gallagher, AICP
Executive Director