



**MERIDIAN HILL PARK
REHABILITATION OF LODGE
Washington, D.C.**

Delegated Action of the Executive Director
January 30, 2004

Pursuant to delegations of authority adopted by the Commission on October 3, 1996, I approve preliminary and final site and building plans for the rehabilitation of the lodge at Meridian Hill Park near 16th Street, NW, as shown on NCPC Map File No. 32(38.00)41294.

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The National Park Service (NPS) proposes the rehabilitation of the lodge in the northeast corner of Meridian Hill Park. The lodge is a contributing historic structure in Meridian Hill Park, which is one of the nation's most notable neoclassical park landscapes. Designed by Horace Peaslee and built from 1915 into the early 1920s, the park features the patented concrete technology of John Joseph Earley. Meridian Hill Park is a National Historic Landmark. The lodge was built by 1923 and was subsequently altered several times by the removal of interior rooms and ultimately by the removal of the exterior walls. Only the concrete piers are extant. NPS has written a Cultural Landscape Report for Meridian Hill Park to guide present and future maintenance of the park, including the lodge. The proposed rehabilitation reflects the original design of the lodge as well as the alterations conducted in the 1930s. The brick walls within the concrete piers will be rebuilt and the original lattice will be replaced, this time in coated steel rather than wood. The historic concrete members will be repaired and the extended wood lookouts below the gutter will be restored in Eastern White Cedar. A pre-patented copper standing seam roof will be placed on the structure. The lodge will be rehabilitated in order to further the presence of NPS in the park. The enclosed rooms in the lodge will be used as a park ranger's office and as a police sub-station. In addition, two handicapped-accessible public restrooms will be installed inside the structure. A new concrete floor will be scored to match the historic pattern. The project was coordinated at the Coordinating Committee meeting of January 14, 2004. NPS has determined that the project is categorically excluded from further review under its procedures pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. The D.C. State Historic Preservation Officer has concurred with NPS that this project will have no adverse effects on the qualities that qualify the park for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The rehabilitated lodge will restore much of the original character of the lodge, improve the appearance of the park, and allow NPS to manage the historic park more effectively.

Patricia E. Gallagher, AICP
Executive Director