

**U.S. NAVAL DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
INSTALL SECURITY BARRIERS AT THE MAIN AND GILLIS AVENUE GATES**  
Naval Observatory, 34<sup>th</sup> Street and Massachusetts Avenue, NW

**Delegated Action of the Executive Director**

February 26, 2004

Pursuant to delegations of authority adopted by the Commission on October 3, 1996, I approve the preliminary and final site development plans for the installation of security barriers at the Main and Gillis gates, Naval Observatory, 34<sup>th</sup> Street and Massachusetts Avenue, NW, as shown on NCPC Map File No. 71.20(05.17)41323.

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The Department of the Navy has submitted preliminary and final site development plans for the installation of vehicle security barriers at the Main and Gillis gates of the Naval Observatory. The Naval Observatory is located at 34<sup>th</sup> Street and Massachusetts Avenue NW and serves as the residence for the Vice President of the United States of America. The Observatory generally lies between Massachusetts Avenue on the east and Wisconsin Avenue on the west. The Dumbarton Oaks Park borders the site on the south and a residential community borders the area on the north. The purpose of the project is to comply with new security criteria determined by the Department of State. The proposed barriers at the Main Gate would flank the existing circular planter immediately outside of the ornamental iron gates at this location. The barriers would be painted a subdued white to match the circular planter. The barriers at the Gillis gate would be the same as those to be installed at the Main Gate. In both installations, the barriers would have the word "stop" written on their face in conjunction with low stop lights incorporated into the barrier structure. Staff has reviewed the security requirements of this facility with the applicant, and has concluded that this solution is appropriate.

The Coordinating Committee reviewed this project at its February 11, 2004 meeting, and all participating agencies have agreed to coordinate this project. The Navy has determined that the proposal qualifies as a Categorical Exclusion under its procedures to implement the National Environmental Policy Act. The Navy further advises that the proposal will have no adverse effect upon National Register of Historic Places resources. The District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer has concurred with this determination.

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Patricia E. Gallagher, AICP  
Executive Director