

**U.S. POSTAL SERVICE JOESPH CURSEEN JR.-THOMAS MORRIS JR.  
PROCESSING AND DISTRIBUTION CENTER  
MAIL SANITIZATION FACILITY  
900 Brentwood Road, NE  
Washington, D.C.**

**Delegated Action of the Executive Director**

February 25, 2005

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 Mail Sanitization Facility at the U.S. Postal Service Joseph Curseen Jr.-Thomas Morris Jr. Processing and Distribution Center, 900 Brentwood Road, NE, as depicted on NCPC Map File No. 52.00(38.00)-41547.

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The United States Postal Service (USPS) has submitted preliminary and final site and building plans for construction of a Mail Sanitization Facility at the main mail Processing and Distribution Center in Washington, D.C. The new building has been developed by the USPS for screening mail and treatment of contaminated mail when necessary. This facility is a one-story split-face concrete masonry structure which occupies an inconspicuous location within the existing 38-acre Post Office property.

The planned structure is small (25,854 square-feet) and would serve to conduct mail screening and potential treatment of mail for biological contamination that necessitates three special handling operations: pre-treatment, treatment (irradiation), and post treatment. Currently, potentially contaminated federal government mail undergoes irradiation treatment at a Postal Service contractor facility outside of the National Capital area. Significant inefficiencies and delays are encountered with that existing mail handling method, which is costly to the USPS.

The new local mail screening facility would house the operation of an electron beam (e-beam) and x-ray mail sanitization system. The structure itself has an interesting utilitarian form with minimal windows to reduce the number potential exposure pathways from the building in the event of an unforeseen contamination episode. Metal fascia panels, light beige in color, are used on the exterior mechanical area elevations to screen the large equipment located above the main building floor.

No additional truck traffic is generated by the establishment of the facility since the mail process involves the existing mail distribution flow that is normally brought to the Center. Approximately

twelve new employees, plus intermittent contractors/vendors and service personnel are on-site at the Mail Sanitization Facility, with parking provided to these individuals. Six bulk-mail trailer truck spaces are furnished in the design along with five loading dock spaces. These site areas accommodate the mail as it is moved between the sanitization building and the main distribution center.

Staff has found no major issues with the proposal, and its planning process has been well presented to the local community by the USPS. A Community Meeting on the planned project was hosted by ANC Ward 5B on May 26, 2004. The ANC distributed over 600 information flyers about the project. Ward 5B Commissioner James provided a letter of confidence in support of the project to the USPS. Ward 5C held an additional project meeting in June 2004 and participants at that meeting expressed some limited concerns, none major. At the Ward 5C Meeting, a DC Office of Planning representative spoke in support of the facility. Ward 5A also supports the proposal.

The Coordinating Committee reviewed the proposal on February 9, 2005, forwarding the proposal to the Commission with the statement that the project has been coordinated.

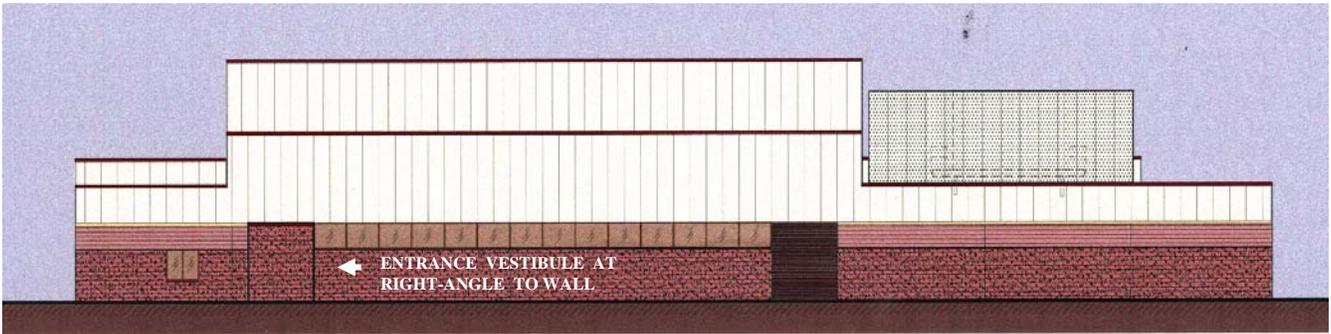
The Postal Service implemented a project review process in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The DC Historic Preservation Office (DC SHPO) responded with a review of the project in June 2004 concluding the proposal and its construction would have no adverse effect on historic resources.

USPS National Environmental Policy Act review was achieved through development of an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact completed in August 2004. NCPC was a cooperating agency in the development of the EA and adopted the document in February 2005. The health and safety issues related to the proposal were addressed in the EA document that was publicly distributed to interested parties, including the District Council. Various agencies (Center for Disease Control, Sandia Laboratories at the Department of Energy, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Drug Administration, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation) were involved in the identification of data, evaluation, and selection of the sanitization technology. Numerous options were considered prior to the selection of the preferred screening process.

The project is consistent with the Commission's delegated project review criteria of less than 50,000 square feet of building space area, and would have no adverse impact on land uses or environmental resources of the general site. The building and all site development is designed in an inconspicuous fashion and low key. The project landscape plan screens the building site, which is well removed from the New York Avenue corridor, and is not visible from that area. The simple and uncomplicated appearance of the building is appropriate to its function as a non-publicly accessible structure.

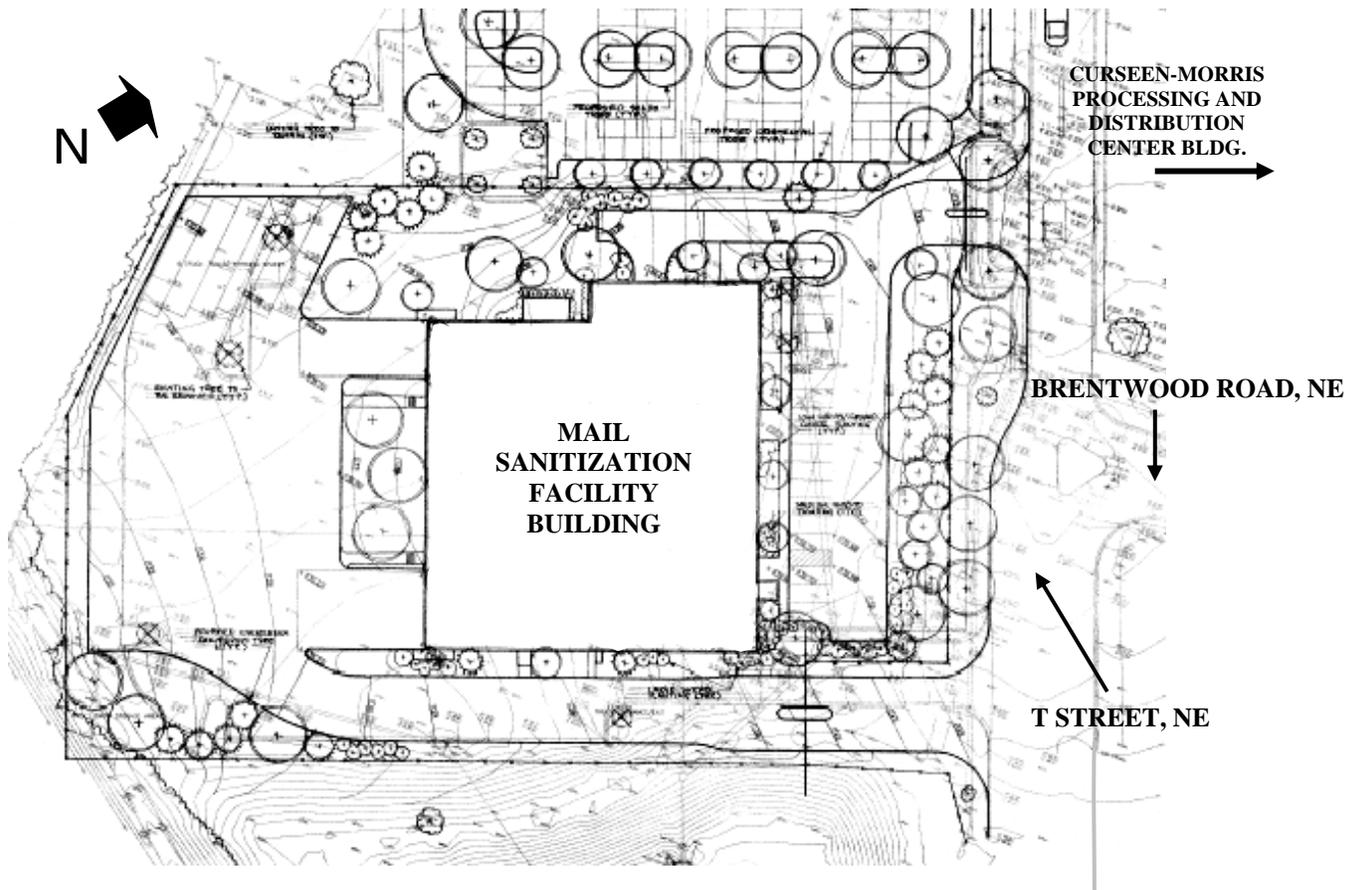
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Patricia E. Gallagher, AICP  
Executive Director



NORTH ELEVATION

**PROPOSED MAIL SANITIZATION FACILITY T STREET, NE  
ELEVATION**



**PROPOSED MAIL SANITIZATION FACILITY SITE PLAN**