



E. BARRETT PRETTYMAN UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE ANNEX
REVISED SIDEWALK DESIGN AT THIRD STREET ENTRANCE
333 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C.

Delegated Action of the Executive Director

July 28, 2005

Pursuant to delegations of authority adopted by the Commission on October 3, 1996, I approve the preliminary and final site development plans for the revised sidewalk design at the 3rd Street entrance of the E. Barrett Prettyman United States Courthouse Annex, as shown on NCPC Map File No. 1.21(38.00)-41645.

* * *

This project will correct a design error discovered during construction that resulted in differences in elevation between the ground floor level inside the 3rd Street entrance to the Courthouse Annex and the sidewalk immediately outside of the entrance doors. If left uncorrected, the Annex entrance would not be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Revisions to the sidewalk design consist of shortening the ramped area along the curb line between the sidewalk and the vehicle drop-off lane, and constructing several shallow steps along an adjacent portion of the curb. These modifications along the curb line are necessary to avoid severe changes in sidewalk slopes between the building and curb, as well as along the path of sidewalk travel. The stepped area sits outside of the pedestrian path of travel along the sidewalk, and within the bollard line.

This revision does not alter the design, height, spacing, or placement of the pre-approved perimeter security devices near the curb line. Although the solution is not ideal, it is the only practical solution given the near completion of the construction project and the desire for the correction to not adversely affect pedestrian travel along the sidewalk. Because the correction occurs within the bollard line, it should not be visible to passers-by. GSA held several consultation meetings with both NCPC and CFA staff to refine the design prior to submission, and has consulted with the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) on the design.

The General Services Administration (GSA) has determined that the project qualifies as a categorical exclusion under its National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance procedures at GSA Order PBS 1095.4C and the GSA NEPA Compliance Guide. GSA has consulted with the D.C. State Historic Preservation Office and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation from 1998 through 2001 on the design of the Prettyman Courthouse. The bollard line was shown on the final set of drawings on which the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was based. The consultation and the stipulations of the MOA focused primarily on the proposed interior alterations to the historic courthouse, the opening of the east wall of the building, the design and footprint of the addition, and the alterations to the setting. GSA has completed its Section 106 responsibilities.

Patricia E. Gallagher, AICP
Executive Director