



**H. CARL MOULTRIE I COURTHOUSE  
RECONFIGURATION OF MAIN ENTRANCE  
500 Indiana Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C.**

**Delegated Action of the Executive Director**

April 27, 2006

Pursuant to delegations of authority adopted by the Commission on October 3, 1996, I comment favorably on the concept design for the reconfiguration of the main entrance to the H. Carl Moultrie I Courthouse at 500 Indiana Avenue, NW, in Washington, DC, as shown on NCPC Map File No. 1.20(38.00)42017.

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The District of Columbia Courts has submitted a concept design for the reconfiguration of the entrance to the H. Carl Moultrie I Courthouse. The entrance vestibule will be increased in size from 174 square feet to 1690 square feet, with most of that space reconfigured from the present interior lobby adjacent to the vestibule. However, 640 square feet of the exterior plaza in front of the entrance will be incorporated in the new vestibule. The proposed entrance façade is a two-story, slightly bowed glass wall across the entrance doors that will improve the appearance and presence of the courthouse from 5<sup>th</sup> Street and from Indiana Avenue, NW. A fourth door will be added. Two doors will be dedicated to employees, who will be screened separately with biometric scanners. Visitors and jurors will enter through two redesigned center doors, under a modestly projecting steel canopy, and will be able to queue inside more readily than at present. The lettered name of the courthouse will remain in approximately the same second-story location as at present, but the steel letters will be affixed to the new glass wall.

The proposed new entrance will greatly improve the presence and appearance of the courthouse. The replacement of the low and recessed entrance with a transparent two-story entrance will affirm the significance and meaning of the courthouse to the citizens of the District of Columbia. I commend the District of Columbia Courts for the proposed reconfiguration of the courthouse entrance.

The project was coordinated by all agencies present at the April 12, 2006 meeting of the Coordinating Committee. The District of Columbia Courts, as a joint lead agency with the National Capital Planning Commission, prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Master Plan and its associated projects at Judiciary Square. The H. Carl Moultrie Courthouse improvements are actions that were discussed and analyzed within the EA. The EA was distributed to the public and local, state, and federal agencies on June 25, 2003 for a 30-day review and comment

period. On July 30, 2003, the Executive Director completed a Finding of No Significant Impact, in accordance with the Commission's procedures, determining that no environmental resources were significantly impacted by the Plan or its implementation actions. Staff has reviewed the current submission and the EA and has determined the analysis and conclusions of the FONSI remain valid and applicable regarding the applicant's proposal and that no significant environmental effects are attributable to the planned improvements.

NCPC served as the lead federal agency for the Judiciary Square Master Plan pursuant to Section 106 and Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The Memorandum of Agreement, which included the anticipated improvements and alterations to the Moultrie Courthouse entrance, was executed by the signatories in April and May, 2005. The District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer has been consulted in the subsequent development of the concept design.

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Patricia E. Gallagher, AICP  
Executive Director