

**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, J. EDGAR HOOVER BUILDING
RELOCATION OF VENTILATION INTAKES**

935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C.

Delegated Action of the Executive Director

April 27, 2007

Pursuant to delegations of authority adopted by the Commission on October 3, 1996 and to 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1) and (d), I approve the final site and building plans for Ventilation Intake Shafts, Federal Bureau of Investigation, J. Edgar Hoover Building, 935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington D.C., as shown on NCPC Map File No. 1.25(38.40)42221.

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The General Services Administration (GSA) has submitted final site and building plans to construct two ventilation intake shafts over the existing garage intakes at the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) J. Edgar Hoover Building at 935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. The existing intakes, located at the northeast and northwest corners of the building, have been temporarily closed off since September 11, 2001. As a result of the FBI security assessment, the accessible locations of these intakes were deemed a security risk vulnerable to a chemical attack.

Preliminary site and building plans for the ventilation intake shafts were approved by the Commission in August 2005, and the final design differs slightly from the previously approved design. The revised design modifies the top surface of the new shafts from sloped- to flat-roofed, and increases the height from a maximum of 28 feet to approximately 35 feet above the adjacent sidewalk level. Plan dimensions and materials are relatively unchanged; the shafts measure approximately 24 by 27 feet in plan and are clad in pre-cast concrete panels and bronze-painted aluminum grilles that will match the exterior of the building. The Coordinating Committee reviewed and coordinated the previous proposal at its July 13, 2005 meeting.

At its meeting on April 19, 2007, the Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) did not approve the final design of the intake shafts. While CFA was accepting of the overall dimensions of the shafts, dictated primarily by security and engineering requirements, the Commissioners requested that the applicant revise the surface treatment of the side panels to be of a higher aesthetic value. Recommendations included the use of bas relief/sculpture, lighting, and/or other architectural

treatments. I do not find that a change to the side panels will affect our approval, but recommend the applicant continue to work with CFA to finalize the exterior appearance of the shafts.



**ARCHITECT'S RENDERING
PRELIMINARY DESIGN (APPROVED)**



**ARCHITECT'S RENDERING
PROPOSED FINAL DESIGN**

GSA has determined that the proposal is a qualified action under their agency's Categorical Exclusions. NCPC staff has determined that the project also adheres to provisions as a categorical exclusion pursuant to the NCPC Environmental and Historic Preservation Policies and Procedures at §8(C)(21).

The applicant has also determined that no historic property would be affected and therefore no further Section 106 review is required; NCPC concurs with this determination.

Patricia E. Gallagher, AICP
Executive Director