

**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, J. EDGAR HOOVER BUILDING**

Installation of a Temporary Fence

935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington D.C.

**Delegated Action of the Executive Director**

Pursuant to delegations of authority adopted by the Commission on October 3, 1996, I approve the preliminary and final site and building plans for the installation of a temporary fence at the Federal Bureau of Investigation, J. Edgar Hoover Building at 935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, as shown on NCPC Map File No. 1.25(38.40)42412 for a period not to exceed two years.

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The General Services Administration has requested preliminary and final approval of site plans for the installation of a temporary fence at the Federal Bureau of Investigation's J. Edgar Hoover Building at 935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. The purpose of the fence is to serve as a protective barrier around the front of the building to guide pedestrians away from falling debris due to failure of the formed in place concrete façade. GSA proposes to take this action as a temporary emergency measure for up to two years until funding can be secured for façade repairs.

The fence would be installed on Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, and around the corners of 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Streets, NW, to the end of the brown pavers (which delineate the Pennsylvania Avenue Historic District). See Figure 1 on the following page. The fence will have gates at the building entrances on the corners of 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Streets, NW. The fence will be built in a zigzag formation adjacent to the row of trees closest to the building façade. It will be 48" high and the fence posts will each sit on an aluminum base that will not be fastened to the sidewalk.

Pennsylvania Avenue is within the Pennsylvania Avenue Historic District. The National Park Service, which has jurisdictional control over this area, concurs with the placement of the temporary fence, but has noted that a special use permit from NPS will be required. NPS will continue to work with the applicant in coordinating the installation of the fence.

GSA has determined that the project is an automatic categorical exclusion per GSA's regulations. NCPC staff has evaluated the project and determined that it qualifies as a

categorical exclusion under section (C)2 of the Commission's environmental and historic preservation procedures which covers routine installation of components such as fences from the NEPA process.

Figure 1

GSA has concluded Section 106 consultation with the D.C. State Historic Preservation Office (DC SHPO). The Historic Preservation Office concurred with GSA's determination that the proposed temporary fence (for a period not to exceed two years) will have no adverse effect upon the qualities which qualify the Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Site for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Coordinating Committee reviewed the proposal at its December 12, 2007 meeting and forwarded it to the Commission with the statement that the project had been coordinating with all agencies represented. The participating agencies were NCPC, the District of Columbia Office of Planning, the District Department of Transportation and the General Services Administration.

The Commission of Fine Arts reviewed the project at its November 14, 2007 meeting, and found that while the temporary fence detracted from the nature of Pennsylvania Avenue, it was necessary for safety precautions until a long term solution could be developed.

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Marcel C. Acosta  
Acting Executive Director