

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

NCPC File No. 6920



NATIONAL ARCHIVES BUILDING Perimeter Signage

700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C.

Submitted by National Archives and Records Administration

Delegated Action of the Executive Director

March 26, 2009

Pursuant to delegations of authority adopted by the Commission on October 3, 1996 and 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1) and (d), I approve the preliminary and final site development plans for perimeter signage at the National Archives Building in Washington, D.C., as shown on NCPC Map File No. 1.25(38.00)42726.

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The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) has requested preliminary and final approval of site development plans for the installation of perimeter signage at the National Archives Building, located at 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, in Washington D.C.

The proposed project includes the installation of three free-standing signs and six wall-mounted signs at the National Archives Building. The three free-standing signs will identify the building entrance and provide visitor information. The first sign will be located at the public exhibition entrance ramp near the corner of 9th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW. The second sign will be located at the public exhibition exit ramp near the corner of 7th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW. The third sign will be located at the entrance on Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. The six wall-mounted signs will be located within the panels of the existing stone wall along the public exhibition entrance ramp near the corner of 9th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW. The wall-mounted signs will display information about the exhibits and will be viewed by visitors as they wait in line to enter the building. All of the signs will be located within the property line.

The new signs will replace two vertical signs dating from 1985 and six temporary free-standing pylons installed in 2003. Both the free-standing and wall-mounted sign structures will be fabricated from bronze extrusions and bars with a dark oxidized statuary bronze finish. The free-standing signs will sit on granite bases and will be approximately six and a half feet tall. The wall-mounted signs will mount into existing wall mortar joints. All of the sign structures will hold 1/4" aluminum sandwich panels with lettering and graphic backgrounds printed with a long lasting direct UV resistant digital process.

NCPC has approval authority and independent responsibility under the National Environmental Policy Act and the National Historic Preservation Act for Federal projects in the District of Columbia. NCPC has determined that this project qualifies as categorical exclusion 8.C (2) under its environmental policies and procedures.



Free-standing sign near the corner of 9th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW.

The District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office has reviewed the project in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and generally concurs that the undertaking will have “no adverse effect” upon the National Archives Building provided that NARA complies with the following: 1) Works with CFA to reduce the visual impact of the six wall-mounted signs by altering the graphics; 2) Consults with the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office staff prior to installation of the Pennsylvania Avenue entrance sign to ensure that it does not visually block the bas relief sculptural elements on either side of the door. NCPC staff concurs with these findings.

The Coordinating Committee reviewed the proposal on March 11, 2009 and forwarded it to the Commission with the statement that the project has been coordinated with all participating agencies. The participating agencies were NCPC; the District of Columbia Office of Planning, the District Department of Transportation; the Department of Housing and Community Development; the National Park Service; the General Services Administration; and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.



Six wall-mounted signs along the public exhibition entrance ramp.

Marcel C. Acosta
Executive Director