

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

NCPC File No. 6361



AMERICAN PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION BUILDING BUILDING IDENTIFICATION SIGNS

2215 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC

Submitted by the American Pharmacists Association

Delegated Action of the Executive Director

January 29, 2009

Pursuant to delegations of authority adopted by the Commission on October 3, 1996 and to the Deed for Exchange of Lands in Square 62 in the District of Columbia dated December 30, 1958, I approve the preliminary and final site development plans for the construction of a granite identification sign in the lawn at the front of the building and bronze sign lettering applied to the building façade at the C Street entrance of the American Pharmacists Association Building at 2215 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC, as shown on NCPC Map File 1.24(38.00)42707.

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The American Pharmacists Association has requested preliminary and final approval of site development plans for three identification signs at its building. The proposal includes the construction of a building identification sign of Milford Pink Granite measuring 2'8" in height and 13'10" in length in the southwest corner of the front lawn near the flag pole and the building entrance of the historic building facing Constitution Avenue, NW. The V-groove engraved lettering with a contrasting lithochrome coating will read "American Pharmacists Association – Founded 1852". The sign will be illuminated at grade by fluorescent lights in linear aluminum fixtures measuring less than five inches in height. The fixtures are designed to limit light spill. The present lawn sign, which is not original, will be removed. On the C Street, NW façade of the building, individual three-inch bronze letters naming the building will be applied on either side of the entrance doors.

The signs are part of a planned comprehensive building identification proposal that may include granite sign pylons near the sidewalks. The rest of the sign program will be submitted to the Commission in future. The U.S. Department of State is the tenant in the recent C Street addition to the historic building. In addition, the applicant has proposed a landscape restoration plan that includes property under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service, which will review the plan prior to submission to the Commission.

The proposal is not inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital, and would not adversely affect any other identified federal interests. The Commission is responsible for environmental and historic preservation compliance for the American Pharmacists Association under the terms of the 1958 Deed cited above. Staff has determined that the project is categorically excluded under the Commission's Environmental Policies and Procedures. The District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer has concurred in my determination of no adverse effect to the historic qualities of the building and site. The property, a notable work by John Russell Pope and part of an ensemble of distinguished historic structures along Constitution Avenue facing West Potomac Park and the Lincoln Memorial, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The project was coordinated by all attending agencies at the January 14, 2009 Coordinating Committee meeting.

Marcel C. Acosta
Executive Director