



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
HARRY S TRUMAN BUILDING, PHASE IB MODERNIZATION

2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC

Submitted by the General Services Administration

Delegated Action of the Executive Director
December 31, 2008

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 and building plans for the exterior alterations, primarily the replacement of windows to improve security, associated with the Phase IB Modernization of the U.S. Department of State's Harry S Truman Building in Washington, DC, as shown on NCPC Map File No. 1.34(38.40)42677.

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The General Services Administration (GSA) has requested preliminary and final approval of site and building plans for the Phase IB Modernization of the Harry S Truman Building, the headquarters of the U.S. Department of State. This phase of modernization addresses the north central portion of the building. Exterior alterations include the replacement of the windows with structurally integrated windows with blast-resistant glass in order to harden the façade of the building. The fenestration pattern of this portion of the building, which dates to the early 1960s, features both punched masonry window openings and ribbon windows. The replacement windows closely match the original windows. A pronounced feature of the north façade is the full-height curtain wall that lights an interior stair. A new curtain wall, closely matching the existing in appearance, will be constructed of blast-resistant glass. In order to preserve the interior fabric of the stairwell, the new curtain wall assembly, which will be heavier and thicker, will project ten inches farther from the building façade. This alteration should not be readily apparent from the sidewalk. An additional means of egress is needed for this portion of the building, and will be accommodated by a door in the first floor of the stairway. A new path will lead from the egress door to the driveway through adjacent shrubbery.

In a future phase of construction, the original entrance canopy at the north entrance will be replaced with an entrance pavilion for security apparatus now housed in the north entrance lobby. In the current phase, as an interim measure until the pavilion is constructed, the large panes of glass around the entrance will be replaced with blast-resistant glass. Due to the weight of the glass, the panes will be made smaller. With the eventual construction of the pavilion on the north façade of the building, the interim configuration of doors and surrounding glass will become an interior feature of the building. The proposed configuration of the doors and glass surround take into account the dimensions of the future pavilion.

The proposal is consistent with the concept design for perimeter security at the Truman Building, which the Commission reviewed favorably at its December 2, 2004 meeting. The concept design included site and landscape plans for perimeter security, and early proposed designs for the construction of security pavilions at building entrances. The future hardening of the building was anticipated. The frames for the new windows will become integral to the structure of the building, in the manner of similar federal building-hardening projects, perhaps most notably the Pentagon.

The project is categorically excluded, consistent with the Commission's Categorical Exclusion #2. GSA has met its Section 106 responsibilities for this Undertaking. A Programmatic Agreement was executed on May 13, 2008 for the future review of the modernization program at the Truman Building. A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was executed on December 4, 2008 for Phase IB. The specifications for the replacement windows and doors were approved by the signatories: GSA, the U.S. Department of State, the D.C. State Historic Preservation Office, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. Staff participated in the Section 106 consultation. I concur with the stipulations of the MOA to avoid, minimize and mitigate the identified adverse effects. The project was coordinated by all participating agencies at the December 17, 2008 meeting of the Coordinating Committee.

Marcel C. Acosta
Executive Director