

**EMBASSY OF THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN
ONE-STORY LOUNGE AND CONSULAR LOBBY ADDITION**

3504 International Drive, NW (Lot 6)
Washington, DC

Submitted by the U.S. Department of State

Delegated Action of the Executive Director

April 30, 2009

Pursuant to delegations of authority adopted by the Commission on October 3, 1996, and the International Center Act of 1968, Public Law 90-553 (1968) as amended by Public Law 97-186 (1982), at Section 3, I approve the preliminary and final building plans for the one-story lounge and consular lobby additions for the chancery of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan located at 3504 International Drive, NW, Washington, DC, as shown on NCPC Map File No. 72.10(38.00)42748.

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The U.S. Department of State has requested, on behalf the Embassy of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, preliminary and final approval of building plans for the construction of a one-story lounge room and small consular lobby additions. The proposed improvements will be to the existing chancery building located on Lot 6 of the International Chancery Center (ICC), which is located at Van Ness Street, NW and Connecticut Avenue, NW in Washington, DC. The Proposed Canopy (Porte Cochere) and Proposed Security Gatehouse indicated on the site plan are not part of this application. These elements will be submitted for review by NCPC at the June 4 Commission Meeting. The extent of the proposed improvements is as follows: construction of a one-story lounge room located at the rear of the second floor of the existing chancery (shown in red and labeled as "PROPOSED ONE STORY LOUNGE ROOM OVER EXISTING DECK" on the site plan), and construction of a small consular lobby under the existing front entrance canopy (shown in red and labeled as "PROPOSED CONSULAR LOBBY UNDER EXISTING ENTRANCE" on the site plan).

The proposed improvements have been designed to be consistent with the architectural character of the existing building and will have no adverse impacts on views from areas that surround the site. Visibility of the new one-story lounge room from Tilden Street NW will be minimal given the small scale of the addition, height of the existing parapet wall, abundant vegetative buffer, and difference in elevation between the street and the chancery. Staff has determined that the proposal is consistent with NCPC's *Development Controls for the Chancery Section of the International Center in the District of Columbia*.

The original Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the International Center, prepared jointly by the US Department of State, NCPC, and GSA, included evaluation of the Jordanian Embassy on Lot 6. Since no significant changes to the site are being proposed staff has determined that the EIS is sufficient for the current decision and that no additional environmental review is required for this project.

The applicant has determined, and staff concurs, that proposed actions inside the ICC are not subject to further review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act because the buildings are not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register-listed residential properties to the south of the ICC would not be affected by the proposed project.

The Coordinating Committee reviewed the proposal on April 15, 2009, and forwarded it to the Commission with the statement that the action has been coordinated with all participating agencies. The participating agencies were NCPC; the National Park Service; the General Services Administration; the District of Columbia Office of Planning; the District Department of Transportation and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

Marcel C. Acosta
Executive Director

