



---

**WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL**  
**STONE SELECTION**  
Rainbow Pool, West Potomac Park,  
17<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, between Independence Avenue, SW and Constitution Avenue, NW

Report to the National Park Service and American Battle Monuments Commission

July 3, 2001

---

*Abstract*

While the Commission has previously approved the final design plans for the World War II Memorial (WWII), there are several elements that still require Commission approval. One such item is the final granite selection, which is now submitted for Commission review.

*Authority*

Pursuant to Public Laws 107-11, 103-32 and the Commemorative Works Act, (40 U.S. C. 1001 et. Seq.), as amended.

---

*Commission Action*

The Commission approves the final granite selections for all horizontal and vertical elements of the World War II Memorial, Rainbow Pool, West Potomac Park, 17<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, between Independence Avenue, SW and Constitution Avenue, NW, as shown on NCPC Map File No. 1.43(38.00)-40907.

\* \* \*

## **BACKGROUND AND STAFF EVALUATION**

### *DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL*

The proposal provides for the selection of granite for all horizontal plaza areas and all vertical elements of the WWII Memorial. This would include granite paving for all walkways, the plaza, and the entrance ramps from the north, south, and 17<sup>th</sup> Street. This also includes all granite for the north and south entry arches, vertical walls surrounding the sunken plaza, and the 56 pillars.

The stones that were selected, except for the green paving stones, were chosen from the palette of stones that were part of the submission materials when the Commission approved the final site and building plans. All of the stones are granite, a material characterized by strength and longevity. The memorial's vertical elements will be constructed of "Kershaw" granite, a beige, black, and white stone deemed appropriate for the application of bronze decorative elements, such as the wreaths and the field of stars. The sculptor identified "Kershaw" granite, with its flame finish, as appropriate for inscriptions. The principle horizontal "field" paver will be "Green County" granite which is a beige and black stone with a rough finish that provides necessary traction. The primary accent paver will be "Rio Verde," a medium green stone placed in the Memorial Plaza as shown in the final site and building plans. "Moss Green," a dark green paver, will be used as a border around the Rio Verde paver.

Stones have also been identified for the reconstructed Rainbow Pool. "Mount Airy," a light grey granite will be used to replace the coping around the reconstructed pool. "Academy Black," a black/dark grey granite will be used on the sloping sides of the base of the pool.

### *PREVIOUS COMMISSION ACTION*

At its December 14, 2000 meeting the Commission approved the final site and building plans for the ancillary elements (roadway, contemplative area, information pavilion/ranger station, and comfort station) of the WWII Memorial.

### *CONSULTATION*

The National Park Service (NPS) and the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) and their design team have continuously coordinated the design development of the memorial with the staff and have provided numerous opportunities for members of the Commission to review progress. At the time the Commission approved both the final design plans and the ancillary elements of the memorial, NPS and ABMC indicated that they would continue this process as they brought artistic elements, such as the granite selections, to the Commission for review.

## *EVALUATION*

Staff recommends approval of the granite selections for the WWII Memorial. ABMC has identified a quarry that has the desired quantity and quality of the preferred stone. The selected granite is consistent with the overall design of the proposed memorial.

## *COORDINATION*

### Commission of Fine Arts

At its June 21, 2000 meeting, the Commission of Fine Arts approved the final stone selection for the vertical and horizontal elements of the WWII Memorial.

## *CONFORMANCE*

### Comprehensive Plan

The final granite selection for the World War II Memorial is consistent with Comprehensive Plan policies previously identified in Commission actions approving the memorial site and design.

### National Environmental Policy Act

In conformance with the National Environmental Policy Act, NPS completed a Finding of No Significant Impact for the memorial in late June 1998.

### National Historic Preservation Act

NPS concluded its Section 106 responsibilities for the World War II Memorial prior to the Commission's final review of the memorial in September 2000.