

IN REPLY REFER TO:
NCPC FILE No. 7532

July 19, 2017

Mr. John M. Fowler
Executive Director
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
401 F Street, NW, Suite 308
Washington, DC 20001-2637

RE: Notification of Adverse Effect Determination for the Rehabilitation and Modernization of the Carnegie Library

Dear Mr. Fowler:

On behalf of the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) and in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), I am writing to document our determination of adverse effect for the rehabilitation and modernization of the Carnegie Library, located at 801 K Street, NW in Washington, DC. Events DC, an independent instrumentality of the District of Columbia Government, is proposing the project and will submit plans for NCPC's review in fall of 2017. The project is subject to the review of NCPC under the National Capital Planning Act of 1952. The project is an undertaking, and an approval action by NCPC is subject to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended, 54 USC § 300101 and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR § 800. Therefore, NCPC is responsible for Section 106 compliance for the proposed project as the District of Columbia government is not a federal agency and is not independently required to fulfill the requirements of Section 106 consultation. We are forwarding our determination of effect and the documentation required by 36 CFR § 800.11(e) for your review and comment. The documentation has also been submitted to the DC State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and posted on NCPC's website for the consulting parties to review.

Constructed in 1899-1902, the Carnegie Library was listed in the District of Columbia Inventory of Historic Sites in 1964 and on the National Register of Historic Places in 1969 as the Central Public Library. The nomination recognized the building's significance as one of many buildings given to American cities by industrialist and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie to promote free library systems. It also reflects the growth of the DC Public Library (DCPL) system from humble beginnings in rented quarters to a Beaux-Arts edifice on Mount Vernon Square. Mount Vernon Square is a contributing resource to the Plan of the City of Washington. Since its completion, the Carnegie Library has undergone several small-scale and large-scale renovations. The Carnegie Library operated as the Central Public Library for the District of Columbia until 1971, when those operations were transferred to the newly constructed Downtown Central Library, subsequently named the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library. The building's two later tenants, the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) (1977-1990s), and the Historic Society of Washington (HSW) (1999-present) each completed major rehabilitations on the building.

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The purpose of the proposed project is to rehabilitate and modernize the Carnegie Library to become a retail and education facility, where the community can come to learn, be entertained, and collaborate. The building will be leased jointly by HSW and a retail tenant. The project would include a full restoration of the building exterior, including the repair and cleaning of the exterior stone, repair and retrofit the original windows, repair and retrofit the original skylight frames, and repair the copper roof cladding. On the north side, the non-original stairs and awnings will be removed and replaced with a new stair, to improve access to the building. Windows on this elevation, modified during the UDC and HSW projects, will be replaced or retrofitted. The interior of the building will be rehabilitated, including removing the non-historic infill construction that was added in 2003. A new interior atrium will be added, and enclosed with a flat skylight positioned below the existing roofline to obscure its visibility from the surrounding streetscape. Additionally, HVAC and other systems will be upgraded or replaced. The project is generally limited to the building itself, but minor alterations are proposed to site landscape and hardscape elements to comply with universal accessibility and other code requirements.

NCPC initiated consultation with the DCSHPO and other consulting parties regarding the Carnegie Library project on April 21, 2017. NCPC hosted a consulting parties meeting on May 17, 2017 to discuss the project and its potential to cause effects on historic properties within the identified Area of Potential Effect (APE). Details of the meeting and consulting party comments are described in the enclosed report. Based on the consultation, as well as the analysis in the enclosed assessment of effects reports, NCPC has determined that the rehabilitation and modernization of the Carnegie Library will have an adverse effect on historic properties, specifically the Carnegie Library. NCPC has determined that there would be no adverse effect to all other historic properties located in the APE. In accordance with 36 CFR §800.6(a)(1), we are notifying you of our adverse effect determination and request that the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation determine its participation in the development of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to resolve adverse effects to historic properties. NCPC plans to work with Events DC, DCSHPO, and the consulting parties to identify minimization and mitigation measures to include in the MOA.

Thank you for your assistance in the Section 106 consultation and we look forward to receiving your response. If you have any questions, please contact Lee Webb at (202)482-7240 or lee.webb@ncpc.gov.

Sincerely,

// Original Signed //

Marcel C. Acosta
Executive Director

Enclosures

cc: Will Leibner, Events DC
David Maloney, District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office
Emily Eig, Traceries