NASM Revitalization Section 106 Consulting Parties Meeting – June 8, 2017

Summary of Comments

SI/NCPC held an open house type meeting from 4-6pm at the mock-up located at the northeast corner of NASM’s terrace. There was no formal presentation given, but SI/NCPC were present to answer any questions and to take comments. A handout was supplied on the mock-up materials, which was also included as an attachment to the meeting invitation. Additional samples of Colonial Rose granite with more tonal variety and banding to reflect the full range of the material should be installed at the mock-up by June 15, 2017.

Consulting Parties/Agencies in attendance:

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation – Chris Wilson
Commission of Fine Arts – Tom Luebke
Architect of the Capitol – Nancy Skinkle
Smithsonian Institution – Nancy Bechtol, Debbie Nauta-Rodriguez, Jane Passman, Ann Trowbridge, Sharon Park, Carly Bond, Mike Henry
Quinn Evans Architects – Colin MacKilop

Summary of comments:

Tom Luebke, CFA – Can accept that granite may be most suitable material for the building’s construction, and indicated that he is aware of risks in procurement of Tennessee Pink marble. Concerned that Colonial Rose granite appears monochromatic, and is interested in seeing the forthcoming additional samples. Indicated a preference for Echo Lake granite.

Matt Flis, NCPC – Indicated that Colonial Rose granite appears too monochromatic and will result in monolithic facades if selected. The stone cladding needs variety to subtly articulate the facades. NCPC staff is not in support of Echo Lake granite.

Chris Wilson, ACHP – Did not comment on the stones, requested additional information on the Section 106 background of the project.

Nancy Skinkle, Architect of the Capitol – AOC senior staff have indicated that their preference for a preservation approach is the Tennessee Pink marble. Acknowledged issues with the material, and there is potential for Colonial Rose granite but that the mock-up did not have enough samples to fully review the full range of material, and is interested to review the additional samples. Indicated that when reviewing from the Capitol or a distance, you only see the overall color which should be a warm if not pink cast. Some AOC staff liked the Echo Lake granite as a “different” interpretation of the building. Indicated that the St. Clair limestone shows promising veining, but noted the cold color and absorption of moisture at the base of the mock-up.