



Delegated Action of the Executive Director

PROJECT Interim Ramp Department of the Interior Building 1849 C Street NW Washington, DC	NCPC FILE NUMBER 7410
	NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER 1.35(38.00)43633
SUBMITTED BY United States General Services Administration	ACTION TAKEN Final approval of site development plans
	REVIEW AUTHORITY Approval per 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1) and (d)

The General Services Administration (GSA) has requested preliminary and final approval of site plans for the construction of an interim ramp at the south (main) entrance of the Department of Interior Building located at 1849 C Street, NW. Designed in 1935 by Waddy Wood, the building is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The building has been undergoing a modernization project in a phased construction sequence since 2001 and five of the six wings are complete. As part of the modernization project, NCPC approved a design for a lift enclosed within the building adjacent to the Main Entrance. However, funding for this wing of the modernization has not been secured and the accessibility of the Main Entrance needs to be addressed.

GSA is proposing to install a ramp at the easternmost corner of the Main Entrance along C Street. The interim ramp will meet current accessibility requirements and is designed for a minimum ten year lifespan. The switchback ramp will rest on the granite steps, and will cantilever out over the inside edge of the adjacent sidewalk. The concrete ramp will be supported by steel beams and posts and a guardrail will be used where the ramp is greater than 30 inches above the ground. Rather than handrail pickets, woven wire panels will be used between the posts to provide a guard. These panels have been designed to relate to architectural features on the building and will also be painted grey to blend with the stone. The ramp will be removed once the permanent lift can be constructed; however, GSA does not have an estimate on when funding will be available to complete this work. The ramp is completely reversible and will not cause any permanent impacts to the historic fabric of the building. The design is compatible with the horizontal planes in the building and minimizes diagonal lines which are often a dominant element of ramps.

Pursuant to its regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), GSA determined that this project is covered by its categorical exclusion Section 5.4(b) which pertains to the improvement of an existing facility. NCPC staff has independently reviewed the project information and has determined that the project meets NCPC's categorical exclusion §8(C)(21) of the Commission's Environmental and Historic Preservation Policies and Procedures. Prior to

applying this categorical exclusion, NCPC staff determined that no extraordinary circumstances were present as required by the Commission's NEPA procedures. In accordance with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, GSA and NCPC determined that the project will have no adverse effects on historic properties and the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer concurred with this finding provided that GSA update the DC SHPO within five years on the status of and efforts to secure funding for the permanent lift. With my approval I am requesting that GSA also report back to the Commission within five years on the status of funding for the permanent lift.

The Coordinating Committee reviewed the proposal at its October 10, 2012 meeting and forwarded the proposal to the Commission with the statement that the proposal has been coordinated with all participating agencies. The participating agencies were NCPC; the National Park Service; the General Services Administration; the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority; the District of Columbia Office of Planning; and the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer.

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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 plans for the interim ramp at the south entrance of the Department of Interior Building located at 1849 C Street, NW, as shown on NCPC Map File No. 1.35(38.00)43633, for a period not to exceed ten years and request that GSA update the Commission within five years on the status of funding for the permanent lift.

Marcel Acosta
Executive Director

[Date]