



Corrected Commission Action

April 3, 2014

PROJECT

Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial

National Mall and Memorial Parks
Bound by Independence Avenue, 4th Street, and
6th Streets, SW, and by the
Lyndon B. Johnson – Department of Education
Headquarters Building
Washington, DC

NCPC FILE NUMBER

6694

NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER

1.71(73.10)43508

APPLICANT'S REQUEST

Preliminary approval of site and
building plans

SUBMITTED BY

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service on behalf of the Dwight D.
Eisenhower Memorial Commission

ACTION TAKEN

Disapprove and provide comments on
preliminary site and building plans

REVIEW AUTHORITY

Per 40 U.S.C. 8903, 40 U.S.C. § 8905,
40 U.S.C. 8711(a), and 40 U.S.C. §
8722(b)1) and (d)

The Commission:

Disapproves the preliminary site and building plans for the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial on account of the proposed scale and configuration of the tapestries.

Finds the project inconsistent with the purposes of the National Capital Planning Act and the Commemorative Works Act, and with the design principles adopted by the Commission as part of its 2006 site approval, specifically the following three principles:

- Preserve reciprocal views to and from the U.S. Capitol along Maryland Avenue, SW.
- Respect the building lines of the surrounding rights-of-way and the alignment of trees along Maryland Avenue.
- Reflect L'Enfant Plan principles by shaping the Memorial site as a separate and distinct public space that complements the Department of Education Headquarters and other surrounding buildings.

Notes the Commission's continued support for a modern and innovative approach to commemorate President Dwight D. Eisenhower, including the possible use of the stainless steel tapestries, although not as currently proposed. The Commission therefore **requests** that the applicant modify the design, however necessary, to fulfill the purposes of the National Capital Planning Act and Commemorative Works Act, and to meet the design principles, and **directs** the applicant to return every two months beginning in June 2014 as a standing item on the Commission's agenda for updates on the design modifications.

Notes that the adopted site selection design principles are included as required mitigation in NCPC's Finding of No Significant Impact, issued in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, for approval of the site, and are appended to the Memorandum of Agreement established pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for the Memorial design.

Comments on general planning-related issues:

Requests the applicant to modify the Memorial design to address:

- Pedestrian circulation: The proposed circulation is too narrowly focused on providing access from the site corners to the Memorial core and needs to take into consideration likely circulation patterns along Maryland Avenue and midblock from Independence Avenue.
- Perimeter security: The proposed bollards along LBJ Promenade should be eliminated, particularly those located at the base of the Memorial overlook, or modified in design and spacing to maintain the openness of the Promenade and avoid unnecessary obstructions to pedestrian circulation.
- Lighting: As a commemorative work located within the urban fabric of the city, the design of the Memorial lighting should be informed by lighting at other similarly situated public spaces and must not diminish the nighttime prominence of the U.S. Capitol Building along the Maryland Avenue viewshed.
- Public Space: The program and landscape plan should delineate areas primarily intended to serve the commemorative experience, and areas that contribute to broader public open space use.
- **Memorial Information Center: The program should remove the Memorial Information Center from the site as it is inconsistent with site guidelines considered for this specific site as set forth in the Memorials and Museums Master Plan.**

Commemorative Works Act durability criteria:

Notes that the Commemorative Works Act requires the National Capital Planning Commission, the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, and the Secretary of the Interior to be guided by a specific set of decision criteria when considering design proposals, including whether a commemorative work will be built of durable materials.

Notes that due to the untested complexity of the Memorial tapestries, and to ensure that its actions are consistent with its responsibilities under the Commemorative Works Act, NCPC has engaged experts from the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the United States Department of Defense, and the Smithsonian Institution to assist in evaluating the results of the applicant's numerous durability tests.

Finds that the results of the durability tests show that the stainless steel alloy proposed for the tapestry panels has exhibited resistance to corrosion and the proposed tapestry panel welds are

