



Delegated Action of the Chairman

PROJECT

Transfer of Jurisdiction of U.S. Reservation 104 from the National Park Service to the U.S. Department of State

Virginia Avenue and 21st Street, NW
Washington, DC

SUBMITTED BY

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NCPC FILE NUMBER

7771

NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER

1.34(63.00)44322

ACTION TAKEN

Approve as requested

REVIEW AUTHORITY

Approval
per 40 U.S.C. § 8124(a)

The National Park Service (NPS) proposes to transfer the jurisdiction of Reservation 104 to the U.S. Department of State (DOS) for physical site security purposes. The reservation is a 980-square-foot triangular piece of land, located along Virginia Avenue at 21st Street, NW, Washington, DC near the northeast corner of the Harry S Truman (HST) Building. The HST Building is the headquarters for the DOS, located at 2201 C Street, NW. The purpose of the transfer is to satisfy HST site security requirements related to building setback and enable construction of a truck inspection screening facility on D Street, NW adjacent to Reservation 104. This transfer will allow vehicular access through Reservation 104 and relocation of the existing truck inspection station from 21st Street to D Street, NW. This relocation will enhance physical site security, while improving pedestrian and vehicular circulation along 21st Street, NW. The proposed transfer of jurisdiction conforms to the HST perimeter security improvements preliminary site and building plans approved by the Commission at its October 1, 2015 meeting.

Reservation 104, a small parcel consisting of planted grass and trees, is located within a larger triangle, adjacent to Square 83, Lot 810 and has historically functioned as part of the Virginia Avenue sidewalk system. Since 2001, the General Service Administration (GSA) has used the property to house construction trailers and other equipment concealed from view by temporary construction fencing. The transfer would change administrative control of the property and would result in future changes to the use of the property. Of the total land area of approximately 979.25 square feet, 235.5 square feet would be preserved as green space. An additional 417.25 square feet would serve as publicly-accessible sidewalk space, while the remaining 308.5 square feet would be converted to a paved area utilized for truck inspection activities. These changes constitute a loss of green space from historical conditions on the property; however, based on current conditions, the proposed action would return over two-thirds of the property to publicly-accessible open space and sidewalk. The DOS will maintain the area and provide for the public's use while pursuing the Selected Alternative analyzed in the Environmental Assessment (EA).

NCPC and NPS each have an independent responsibility to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). NCPC and NPS designated DOS as lead federal agency to fulfill their obligation for NEPA and Section 106 consultation. DOS prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the HST Building Perimeter

Security Improvements and concluded its compliance with NEPA with a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), issued on August 27, 2015. The selected alternative included relocating the truck inspection station to D Street, NW and Reservation 104. NCPC staff has reviewed the EA and FONSI and determined that the information and analysis meets the standards as set forth in NCPC's Environmental and Historic Preservation Policies and Procedures.

The applicant's NHPA Section 106 obligation for the project is complete pursuant to the Programmatic of Agreement (PA) executed on December 22, 2015 among the DOS, GSA, the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office (DC SHPO), the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), NCPC and NPS. The PA includes stipulations regarding the relocation of the truck inspection activities from 21st Street to the proposed location at D Street in accordance with NEPA which requires a Transfer of Jurisdiction and Declaration of Covenants for the use of Reservation 104 between DOS and NPS.

The proposed project would not be inconsistent with the *Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital*. Relocating the truck inspection area to D Street, NW would benefit traffic flow on 21st Street, NW while providing better organization and control of the security screening of delivery trucks. The transfer of jurisdiction would also enable removal of the existing temporary barriers on 21st Street and Virginia Avenue, restore views through the property, and identify a productive use for Reservation 104 that preserves some of the property's original functions.

The Coordinating Committee reviewed the proposal on April 13, 2016 and forwarded it to the Commission with the statement that the project has been coordinated with all participating agencies. The participating agencies were NCPC, the General Services Administration, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, the National Park Service, the District of Columbia Office of Planning, and the District Department of Transportation.

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Pursuant to delegations of authority adopted by the Commission on December 14, 1977 and per 40 U.S.C. § 8124(a), I approve the transfer of jurisdiction of Reservation 104 from the National Park Service to the U.S. Department of State, located along Virginia Avenue and 21st Street, NW Washington, DC near the northeast corner of the Harry S Truman (HST) Building. The transfer includes a 980 square-foot (0.02 acres) parcel for the relocation of the existing truck inspection station from 21st Street to D Street, NW.

//Original Signed//

L. Preston Bryant
Chairman

Date