



Delegated Action of the Executive Director

PROJECT American Red Cross Site and Building Improvements 2025 E Street, NW Washington, DC	NCPC FILE NUMBER 7837
SUBMITTED BY American Red Cross	NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER 23.00(38.00)44462
	ACTION TAKEN Approve as requested
	REVIEW AUTHORITY Approval Per Public Law 100-637

The American Red Cross has submitted preliminary and final site and building plans to remove Red Cross branded icons from its building, located at 2025 E Street, NW. The American Red Cross currently has a surplus of real estate in the Washington area and is currently in negotiations with the US General Services Administration (GSA) for the sale of the building.

The Greek red cross symbol is one of the emblems used by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement under the Geneva Conventions to mark humanitarian medical vehicles, buildings, and personnel carrying out humanitarian work to protect them from military attack on the battlefield. Due to the international protections associated with this symbol, and the provisions for neutrality required by the International Committee of the Red Cross, all images protected under the Geneva Conventions must be removed from the building and site prior to its sale.

The red cross symbol adorns the building in several locations including at the main entrance and at the plaza at the southeast corner of the site. At the main entrance the metal spandrel panel bearing the 1951 DC Chapter Emblem above the doorway will be removed and replaced with a cast metal panel to match the existing rosette spandrel panels located on either side of the emblem. A metal panel will be installed over the incised text "American Red Cross" and "National Headquarters" above the main entrance. Directly adjacent to the main entrance, the stone sign will be removed. However, the granite based and lighting will remain for potential reuse. At the plaza, the history panels will be removed and a stone cap that matches the existing wall will be installed in their place. The red cross monument located on the plaza will also be removed and pavers will be installed to match the existing paving pattern.

The American Red Cross does not have a responsibility to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). NCPC has approval authority over the project and therefore has a NEPA responsibility for the project. Staff has determined that this project qualifies for a categorical exclusion pursuant to NCPC's Environmental and Historic Preservation Guidelines. The specific categorical exclusion that applies is located within Section 8(c)(2) of NCPC Environmental and Historic Preservation Guidelines, which covers the repair, replacement, and routine installation of components such as windows, doors, roofs; and site elements such as site or

building identification signs. Prior to applying this categorical exclusion, NCPC staff determined that no extraordinary circumstances were present.

NCPC has approval authority over the project and is required to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). In 1999, NCPC, GSA, the American Red Cross and the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer (DC SHPO) executed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) regarding the construction of a building at 2025 E Street, NW. In order to account for effects of the current project, NCPC, GSA, the American Red Cross, and DC SHPO agreed to amend the 1999 MOA. The amended MOA specifies the scope of the project and includes a stipulation that the 1951 DC Chapter Emblem will be relocated to Red Cross Square on 17th Street and displayed at either the 17th Street Building or in the original DC Chapter Building at 1730 E Street, NW.

The Coordinating Committee reviewed the proposed preliminary and final building plans on November 9, 2016, and forwarded the proposal to the Commission with the statement that the proposal has been coordinated with all participating agencies. The participating agencies are: NCPC; the District of Columbia Office of Planning; the District Department of Transportation; the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office; the General Services Administration; the National Park Service; and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. The DC SHPO noted that coordination was contingent on the completion of Section 106 consultation and the amendment of the 1999 MOA.

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Pursuant to delegations of authority adopted by the Commission on October 3, 1996 and per Public Law 100-637, I approve the preliminary and final site and building plans at the American Red Cross Building, located at 2025 E Street, NW in Washington, DC.

// Original Signed //

December 29, 2016

Marcel Acosta
Executive Director

Date