



Delegated Action of the Executive Director

PROJECT Exterior Signage at the James V. Forrestal Building - Department of Energy Headquarters and the US Tax Court Various locations Washington, DC	NCPC FILE NUMBER 7869
SUBMITTED BY United States General Services Administration	NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER 00:00(38.00)44529
	ACTION TAKEN Approve as requested
	REVIEW AUTHORITY Approval Per 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1) and (d)

The United States General Services Administration (GSA) has submitted preliminary and final site development plans for the installation of three building identification and wayfinding signs at two different federal buildings in Northwest, Washington, DC. The sites are the James V. Forrestal Building, Department of Energy Headquarters, and the United States Tax Court. At both buildings, GSA proposes replacing the existing signs with new building identification and wayfinding signs. The new signs will conform to the design that was previously approved by NCPC for use at federal buildings in the Federal Triangle at the September 1, 2011 Commission meeting, with the new signs having a height of nine feet and a width of two-and-a-half feet. The new signs have face and back panels painted dark bronze, with the copy painted in gold metallic. The proposed new signs will be installed in the same locations as the existing signs.

Staff finds that the project is not inconsistent with the policies in the Federal Workplace, Preservation and Historic Features and Visitor Elements of the Comprehensive Plan as it provides a unified system for identifying both historic and modern federal buildings in the city.

As a project located in the District of Columbia, NCPC has an independent responsibility under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The General Services Administration submitted a categorical exclusion under NEPA for this project, Section 5.3(j) of the Public Buildings Service NEPA Desk Guide, which reads:

“Repair and alteration projects involving, but not adversely affecting, properties listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, when there is no evidence of community controversy or other environmental issues.”

Staff finds that this project conforms to the categorical exclusion 8(c)(2) under NCPC’s Environmental and Historic Preservation Policies and Procedures, which reads:

“Repair, replacement and routine installation of components such as windows, doors, roofs; and site elements such as site or building identification signs, sidewalks, patios, fences, retaining walls, curbs, or gates.”

