



Delegated Action of the Executive Director

PROJECT Netherlands Carillon Rehabilitation Arlington Ridge Park Arlington, Virginia	NCPC FILE NUMBER 7969
SUBMITTED BY United States Department of the Interior National Park Service	NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER 1.61(73.10)44718
	ACTION TAKEN Approve as requested
	REVIEW AUTHORITY Advisory Per 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1)

The National Park Service (NPS) has submitted for Commission review site and building plans for the Netherlands Carillon in Arlington Ridge Park in Arlington, Virginia. The Netherlands Carillon is a 127-foot-tall open steel historic structure that sits within Arlington Ridge Park, near the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery. It was a gift from the people of the Netherlands to the people of the United States in gratitude for American aid during and after World War II, and symbolizes friendship between the two countries, and their common allegiance to the principles of freedom, justice, and democracy. The carillon is cast from a bronze alloy and features 50 bells, each carrying an emblem and verse representing a group within Dutch society.

The original gift of the bells was conceived in 1950, which were completed and shipped to the United States in 1954 and hung in a temporary structure in West Potomac Park. The current structure was constructed in 1960 by Dutch architect Joost W.C. Boks, and is recognized as one of the first modernist monuments constructed in the region. The structure sits within a square plaza, and is flanked by two bronze lion sculptures. To the east of the plaza is a tulip library, also a gift from the Dutch, which was planted in 1964. The tree planting for the park was completed as part of the 1960s National Capital Parks Planting Plan. The carillon is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of Arlington Ridge Park, and the larger setting comprises a cultural landscape.

In the decades since its construction, the carillon has fallen into disrepair. While the plaza is open to public visitation, the tower's steel cladding is showing severe signs of deterioration, and all public access to the tower structure is closed. The NPS is working with the Royal Netherlands Embassy to restore and upgrade the Netherlands Carillon. The NPS is funding repairs to the carillon tower to address ongoing deterioration of the cladding, structure, ceilings, and floorplates from water infiltration and poor drainage, and to provide for safe public access. Structural improvements include the removal, treatment, or replacement of panels and surfaces, treatment of the steel frame, and improvement of passive ventilation. The Netherlands Embassy is restoring and retuning the bells, upgrading the operating system, and adding three bells to make the monument a grand carillon. The NPS will reinforce the structure as part of this project to accommodate the additional bells.

NPS is also pursuing several additional improvements that will:

- Ensure visitor safety, including alterations to the stairs and railings, modification to the guardrails on the observation decks, installation of mesh infill along handrails, and improvements to the stair treads and risers;
- Improve functionality of the clavier room and ensure preservation of the new operating system; and
- Restore the plaza by repairing cracks, replacing stones, replacing joint sealant, and cleaning and waxing the bronze lion sculptures.

The agency seeks to maintain the historic integrity and character of the memorial throughout its rehabilitation. It has generally determined that the proposed project will have beneficial impacts to the structure itself, and that there are no anticipated impacts to the plaza, statuary, or surrounding landscape. Any more significant structural modifications to the tower, such as the stair alterations, will not be visible. NPS plans to prepare a categorical exclusion to meet its requirements to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act, which will be finalized with the completion of its assessment of effect documentation. Section 106 consultation was initiated December 4th, 2017, and is currently underway. NCPC staff has been involved in this process, and does not have any historic preservation concerns at this time.

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Pursuant to delegations of authority adopted by the Commission on October 3, 1996 and per 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1), I approve the preliminary site and building plans for the Netherlands Carillon Rehabilitation at Arlington Ridge Park in Arlington, Virginia.

// Original Signed //

March 29, 2018

Marcel Acosta
Executive Director

Date