



Delegated Action of the Executive Director

PROJECT

New Guard Booth, Pergola, and Site Improvements at the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates

International Chancery Center
3522 International Court, NW
Washington, DC

SUBMITTED BY

United States Department of State

NCPC FILE NUMBER

7953

NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER

72.10(38.00)44685

ACTION TAKEN

Approve preliminary and final site and building plans

REVIEW AUTHORITY

Approval of Projects at the International Center

Per Section 4 of the International Center Act (Public Law 90-553, amended by Public Law 97-186)

The Department of State (DOS) has submitted preliminary and final site and building plans for a new guard booth, pergola and related site improvements at the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), located in northwest Washington, at 3522 International Court. Constructed in 2001, the UAE Embassy occupies Lot 19 in the northwest quadrant of the International Chancery Center (ICC). The site is bounded by the Austrian Embassy to the north, the Embassy of Brunei to the south, International Court to the east and 36th Street to the west. The Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and the Embassy of the Slovak Republic are located to the east across International Court.

The guard booth and pergola will be constructed within the building front yard along International Court, adjacent to the existing vehicular entrance sliding gate. The proposed guard booth is designed as part of a pergola, and will occupy 35 percent of the pergola. The proposed guard booth will be located on top of an existing paved surface parking space, within the entry plaza. The pergola will cover the two remaining parking spaces immediately to the north of the guard booth. The total project area is approximately 400 square feet, comprising of a 135-square-foot guard booth, a 225-square-foot pergola and a 54-square-foot paved area. The guard booth will accommodate security personnel, and will include air conditioning, telephone, security camera and a gate control device.

The existing buildings on Lot 19 occupy approximately 38 percent of the site. The proposed guard booth will minimally increase the site coverage to 38.29 percent. At its June 26, 1997 meeting, the Commission approved several amendments to the ICC *Development Controls* for Lot No. 19 to facilitate the expanded program needs for the new UAE Chancery. Among other things, the amendments included an increase in lot coverage from 30 percent to 35 percent. Given the existing building coverage of 38 percent, any additional lot coverage in the future will require an additional amendment.

Overall, the proposed design is consistent with the existing architectural vocabulary of the Embassy. The design and height of the proposed pergola will match the existing courtyard pergola, located to the north. The proposed guard booth materials will match the existing Embassy materials, including insulated vision glass, white granite piers, and stainless steel screens. The new guard booth roof will match the existing Security Annex Building roof, which was approved by the Commission in June, 2012.

In addition to the guard booth and pergola, the project entails the following related site improvements:

- Modifying a section of the existing decorative security fence to provide a new pedestrian gate for security staff. The gate will match the existing fence.
- Removing a 54-square-foot planting bed outside the security fence, and replacing it with a paved area to allow pedestrian access.
- Providing new stone clad piers to match the existing white granite cladding to support the pergola.
- Providing a green screen wall along International Court.

The project will not impact any existing trees. The existing vegetated buffer between the paved plaza and the security fence will be retained.



Figure 1 View looking west toward the proposed guard booth, pergola, and paved area along International Court

Both DOS and NCPC have a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) responsibility for this project. DOS and NCPC have independently determined that the project is consistent with the *Development Controls* for the ICC, which were adopted by the Commission in 1971 and analyzed in the associated 1976 and 1981 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) documents. Therefore, staff has determined that no additional environmental review is required for this project.

The Department of State has determined that the proposed project is not subject to further review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) because the buildings within the ICC are not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, as documented in the previous EIS documents. Due to its approval authority over the project, NCPC has an

independent responsibility to comply with Section 106. On February 8, 2018, NCPC initiated consultation with the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer (DC SHPO) regarding the proposed guard booth, pergola and site improvements at the Embassy of the UAE. NCPC determined that no identified historic properties would be affected by the proposed project because there are no identified historic properties within the Area of Potential Effect (APE). In addition, the guard booth and pergola have been designed in a manner to compliment the architecture of the Embassy of the UAE. On February 12, 2018, the DC SHPO concurred with NCPC's delineation of the APE and its determination of no effect to historic properties. Therefore, no further DC SHPO review or comment is necessary.

The ICC site has the potential to yield unidentified archeological resources, related to history or prehistory, because of its geographic location, as well as being the site of the former National Bureau of Standards (NBS), constructed in the early 1900s. Moving forward, the DC SHPO is requiring that the DOS prepare an archeological assessment with a GIS analysis, and an evaluation of the above ground built resources. Both of these components (below and above ground resources) will inform the Determination of Eligibility (DOE) for the entire ICC campus to be submitted to the DCSHPO. The goal of obtaining the DOE concurrence by the DCSHPO is to streamline the review process for any future projects within the ICC.

The Coordinating Committee reviewed the project on February 7, 2018. The Committee forwarded the proposed preliminary and final site and building plans to the Commission with the statement that the proposal has been coordinated with all participating agencies. The participating agencies were the NCPC; the National Park Service; the General Services Administration; the District of Columbia Office of Planning; the District of Columbia Department of Transportation; the District Department of Energy and Environment; and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. The State Historic Preservation Office noted that they had not been contacted regarding this project and consequently could not coordinate. As stated above, NCPC has since initiated consultation and received concurrence from the DC SHPO.

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Pursuant to delegations of authority adopted by the Commission on October 3, 1996 and per Section 4 of the International Center Act (Public Law 90-553, amended by Public Law 97-186), I approve the preliminary and final site and building plans for the New Guard Booth, Pergola, and Site Improvements at the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates on Lot 19, located at the International Chancery Center, at 3522 International Court, NW, Washington, DC 20008.

// Original Signed //

February 22, 2018

Marcel Acosta
Executive Director

Date