



Commission Action

February 7, 2019

PROJECT National World War I Memorial Pershing Park Pennsylvania Avenue between 14th and 15th Streets, NW Washington, DC	NCPC FILE NUMBER 7682
SUBMITTED BY United States Department of the Interior National Park Service	NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER 1.23(73.10)44854
REVIEW AUTHORITY Commemorative Works per 40 U.S.C. § 8905 and Public Law 113-291	APPLICANT'S REQUEST Approve preliminary site development plans
	ACTION TAKEN Approved preliminary site development plans with comments

The Commission:

Approves the preliminary memorial and site development plans for the National World War I Memorial in Washington, DC, including a freestanding wall with integrated fountain, and a plaza with pool, scrim, and “island” walkway. The east face of the freestanding wall is comprised of monolithic granite and an inscription. The west face consists of a cantilevered sculpture.

Memorial Wall

Finds the proposed treatment of the western face of the memorial wall has improved to include a monolithic granite finish and water feature reminiscent of the original Pershing Park fountain, while a quotation regarding the search for peace will provide a counterpoint to the wartime imagery and narrative found on the eastern face of the wall.

Finds the space created between the western terrace steps and wall can function as a contemplative space when the water feature is operating.

Requests the applicant include a lighting scheme for the memorial that addresses both sides of the wall.

Pool and Walkway

Notes the applicant has submitted two options for the pool and walkway configuration, including the “U”-shaped walkway, and the “island” walkway.

Supports the “island” walkway approach as it reinforces the edge of the original pool and appears as a deliberate and contemporary insertion into the historic park fabric.

Recommends the applicant consider different paving colors and types to help differentiate the scrim area and pedestrian circulation, and to help minimize solar heat gain and reflectivity given the lack of shade.

Notes the applicant has continued to work with NPS to address issues related to safety and fall protection and has provided additional details regarding the walkway and scrim edge conditions to address these issues.

Park Use and Programming

Notes the berms and limited entry points from the southern perimeter of the site create challenges for pedestrian access and visibility.

Supports simple, horizontal signage integrated into the hardscape, along with accent planting, to help highlight and enhance the pedestrian entrances at the southeast and southwest corners of the site.

Supports programming the park for temporary events, both related to the memorial as well as for other park uses that would attract users from the surrounding area.

Reiterates that the commemorative elements should largely be limited to the memorial wall, kiosk area, and existing Pershing Memorial to highlight their importance and to allow for other types of park uses within the site.

Commends the National Park Service for recent improvements to the legibility of the Pershing Memorial walls, consistent with the Commission's previous request.

Julia A. Koster
Secretary to the National Capital Planning Commission

