



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(38.00)44870
	ACTION TAKEN Approved final site and building plans as requested
	REVIEW AUTHORITY Federal Projects in the Environs Per 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1)

The National Park Service (NPS) has submitted for Commission review final site and building plans for the Netherlands Carillon in Arlington Ridge Park in Arlington, Virginia. The preliminary site and building plans were reviewed and approved by NCPC in April 2018. 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 structure, while the Kingdom of the Netherlands plans to restore and retune the bells, upgrade the operating system, and add three bells to elevate the structure to a "grand carillon." Structural improvements include the removal, treatment, or replacement of panels and surfaces, treatment of the steel frame, improvement of passive ventilation, and reinforcement of structural columns for code compliance with wind loads. The NPS had considered modifications to allow public access

to the observation deck in the preliminary plans for the rehabilitation project, though these plans have been scaled back due to funding and operational constraints. Public access is no longer included as a goal of the project.

In addition to these structural modifications, the applicant has indicated that other planned improvements will:

- Restore stair railings and guardrails and replace stair treads and landings;
- Improve functionality of the clavier room and ensure the preservation of the upgraded operating system; and
- Restore and repair the perimeter site wall, plaza, and bronze lion sculptures.

The agency seeks to maintain the historic integrity and character of the memorial throughout its rehabilitation. To meet its Section 106 responsibility under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the NPS has 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 will not be visible. The Virginia State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurs with a finding of no adverse effect, conditional on the inclusion of a small plaque outside or in the clavier room that indicates the addition of the three new bells and outlines the rehabilitation effort. NPS has prepared a categorical exclusion to meet its requirements to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Because it has an advisory authority in the environs, NCPC does not have an independent responsibility to comply with NHPA or NEPA.

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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 final site and building plans for the Netherlands Carillon Rehabilitation at Arlington Ridge Park in Arlington, Virginia.

// Original Signed //	March 1, 2019
_____ Marcel Acosta	_____ Date