



Delegated Action of the Executive Director

PROJECT Howard T. Markey National Courts Building ABA Ramp Project 717 Madison Place, NW Washington, DC	NCPC FILE NUMBER 8183
	NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER 1.32(38.00)45141
SUBMITTED BY United States General Services Administration	ACTION TAKEN Approved preliminary and final site development plans
	REVIEW AUTHORITY Approval Per 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1) and (d)

The General Service Administration (GSA) has submitted an application to the Commission for preliminary and final site development plans for accessibility upgrades consisting of two ramps installed in the courtyard of the Howard T. Markey National Courts Building Complex located at 717 Madison Place, NW, adjacent to Lafayette Square, in Washington, DC.

The Howard T. Markey Courts Building Complex includes the Courts Building to the east south and the Benjamin Ogle Tayloe House, the former Cosmos Club building, and the Dolly Madison House on the west and north. The complex creates a courtyard oriented north south that is accessible from all the buildings in the block. The main entrance to the courtyard is from the south through the Markey Courts Building. This upper courtyard connects via a walkway and granite stairs down to a lower part of the courtyard. A covered gallery walkway extends along the side of the Markey Courts side of the courtyard. The lower courtyard is not currently accessible through the upper courtyard or from the Tayloe Building exit.

GSA is proposing to first add an accessible ramp tucked into the south-east corner of the lower courtyard. The ramp will be accessed from the covered gallery, along the side of a raised planter bed and connect at the base of the granite stairs. The ramp will be poured concrete and will have a steel railing with an aged bronze finish. The second ramp is proposed at the Tayloe rear entrance threshold. The rise is only four inches, so the proposal is for short concrete ramp running north-south along the building wall and a low granite curb around the door landing. No railing is needed.

The Coordinating Committee reviewed the project on June 17, 2020. Without objection, the Committee forwarded the proposed preliminary and final 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; GSA; the District of Columbia Office of Planning; the District Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE); the State Historic Preservation Office; and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. DOEE noted that the project will need to apply for a building permit that includes erosion and sediment control review.

GSA and NCPC have independent responsibilities under NEPA and Section 106 for this project. GSA has submitted a Categorical Exclusion J. *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.* GSA has also determined there is no adverse effect

of the project as part of their Section 106 responsibility. The DC SHPO has concurred with the no adverse effect finding. NCPC also has an independent NEPA and Section 106 responsibility for this project. NCPC staff determined that this project does not have any extraordinary circumstances and meets the categorical exclusion in Section D 601.12 (a)(2) of the NCPC NEPA regulations which relate to "...the approval of the installation or restoration of minor site elements, such as but not limited to identification signs, sidewalks, patios, fences, curbs, retaining walls, landscaping, and trail or stream improvements." NCPC also concurs with GSA and the DC SHPO no adverse effect determination regarding its Section 106 responsibilities.

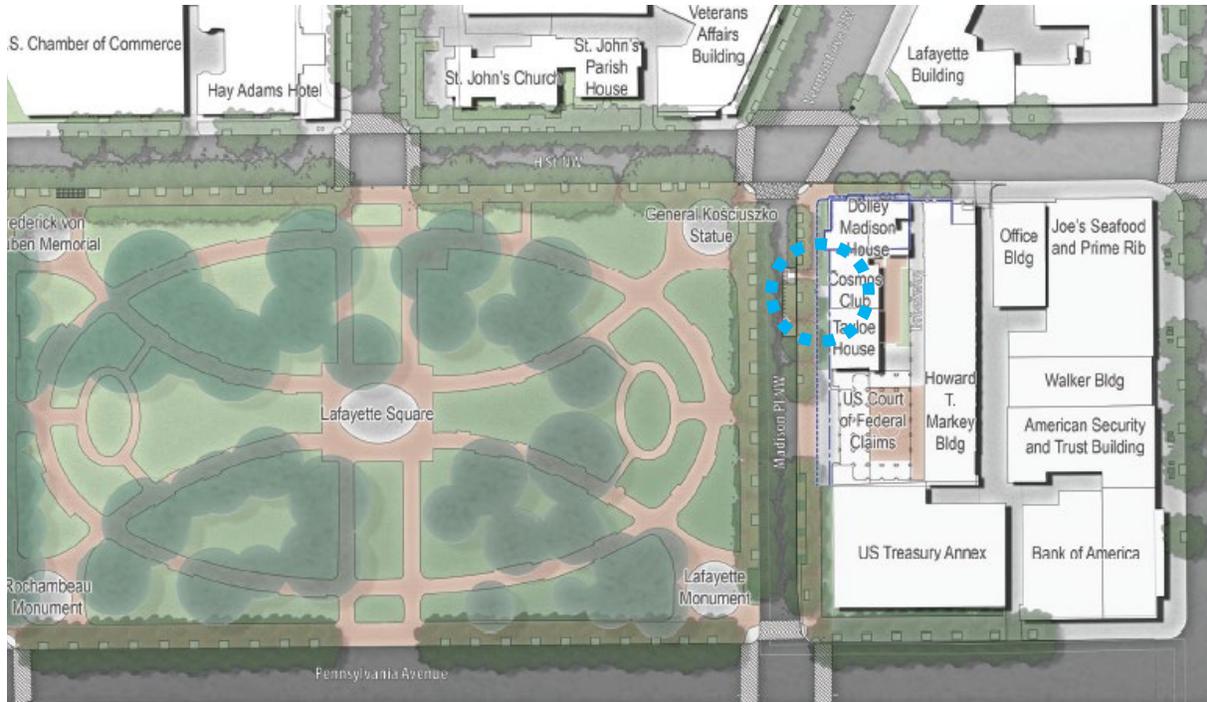


Figure 1 Markey National Courts Building Complex and Courtyards



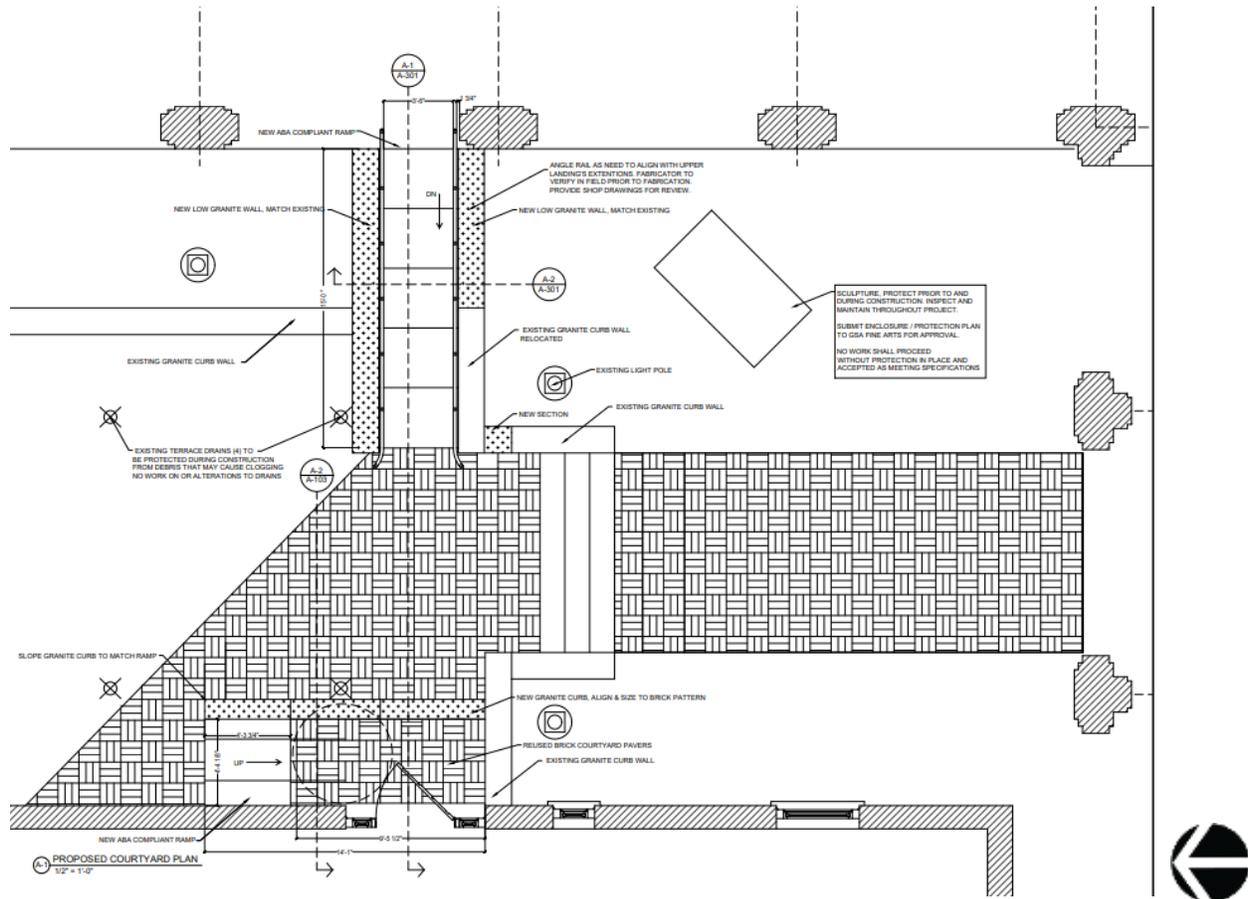


Figure 2 Markey Courts Building ABA ramps site plan



Figure 3 Markey Courts Building ABA ramps rendering

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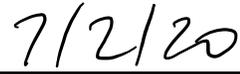
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Pursuant to delegations of authority adopted by the Commission on October 3, 1996 and per 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1) and (d), I approve the preliminary and final site development plans for the Howard T. Markey National Courts Building ABA ramp project located at 717 Madison Place, NW, Washington, DC.



Marcel Acosta
Executive Director



Date