



Delegated Action of the Executive Director

PROJECT St. Elizabeths' Center Building Landscape Reconstruction and Flagpole Installation St. Elizabeths West Campus 2701 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, SE Washington, DC	NCPC FILE NUMBER 8186
SUBMITTED BY United States General Services Administration	NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER 83.10(38.00)45149
	ACTION TAKEN Approved preliminary and final site plans
	REVIEW AUTHORITY Approval Per 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1) and (d)

The General Services Administration (GSA) has submitted an application for preliminary and final site development plans to install three flagpoles within a small island directly in front of the Center Building at St. Elizabeths West Campus, as part of the on-going Department of Homeland Security consolidation. The application includes the proposed landscape reconstruction design for the addition of trees, a planting bed, a brick walkway, and three flagpoles in the green island just to the north of the Center Building's ceremonial entrance. The landscape reconstruction design was developed based on historical landscape documentation from the St. Elizabeths Hospital West Campus Cultural Landscape Report. The reconstructed landscape with flagpoles provides an appropriate setting for the ceremonial entrance for this Cabinet-level federal agency. The island is currently planted in turf, without trees or other plants.

The arrangement of the three new flagpoles echoes the semi-circular arrangement of evergreen and deciduous trees on the north side of the island and frames the north side of the central planting bed. The flagpoles will be placed in the midline of the circular sidewalk on its north side. The center flagpole will be 40' in height and display the United States flag, while the flanking flagpoles will be 35' in height. The circular sidewalk will be in herringbone brick that matches the historic paving pattern found on campus. The flagpoles will all have internal halyards to minimize maintenance. "Dark Skies" compliant lighting will be placed on the top of each flagpole to provide a wash of illumination at night. The brick path is limited to a 6'-0" width for access to and around the flagpoles to minimize disturbance and to minimize hardscape to this historically landscaped location.

Pursuant to its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), GSA has identified that the project qualifies for a CATEX, namely related to repair and alteration project not adversely effecting National Register of Historic Places listed properties. NCPC has an independent obligation to comply with NEPA, and is applying its own CATEX consistent with §601.12 (a)(2) of the agency's environmental policies and procedures, finding the project meets the criteria for a CATEX #3 related to the installation or restoration of minor site building elements, including flagpoles. Before applying the Categorical Exclusion, staff determined that no extraordinary circumstances were applicable.

In addition, GSA reviewed the project with and received concurrence from the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for a no adverse effect determination June 18, 2020. NCPC staff concurs with this determination.

The Coordinating Committee reviewed the preliminary design at its June 16, 2020 meeting. Without objection, the Committee forwarded the proposed preliminary and final site development plans to the Commission with the statement that the proposal has been coordinated with all participating agencies. DOEE noted that this will need an erosion and sediment control plan and suggested incorporating this project into other related agency coordination meetings. The participating agencies were: NCPC; the District of Columbia Department of Transportation; the District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment; the General Services Administration; the DC SHPO; the National Park Service and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

The U.S. Commission of Fine Arts approved the application at its June 18, 2020 meeting.

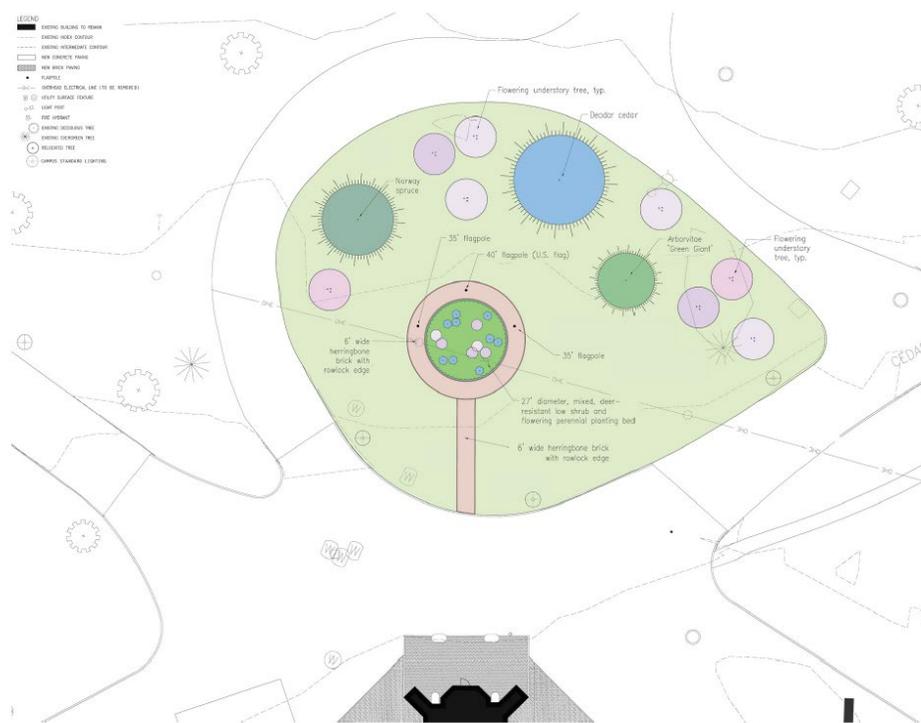


Figure 1: Proposed site plan for the landscape reconstruction and flag pole installation.



Figure 2: Rendering showing the flag pole installation.

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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 at St. Elizabeths' Center Building for the landscape reconstruction and flagpole installation at 2701 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, SE, Washington, DC.

Marcel Acosta
Executive Director

Date