



November 19, 2021

Mr. Jeffrey Reinbold, Superintendent  
National Park Service  
National Mall and Memorial Parks  
900 Ohio Drive, SW  
Washington, DC 20024-2000

RE: Initiation of Section 106 Consultation for the Fallen Journalist Memorial

Dear Mr. Reinbold:

Thank you for formally initiating consultation with the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) regarding the above-referenced undertaking. We have reviewed the project submittal and are writing to provide our initial comments regarding effects on historic properties in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800.

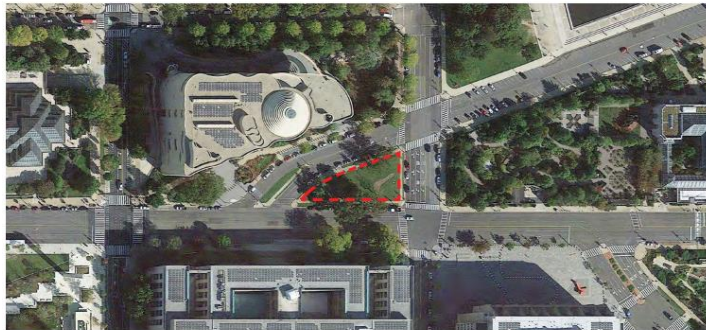
We understand that the National Park Service (NPS) is in the process of selecting a site for a memorial to commemorate "...America's commitment to a free press by honoring journalists who sacrificed their lives in service to that cause." Twenty-four potential sites have been preliminarily evaluated and ranked based upon a variety of criteria ranging from visibility to tranquility to overall program suitability. Several sites were eliminated for failing to meet key program requirements while a few others were identified as warranting further study. The site with the overall highest score was "Site O" at the intersection of Maryland and Independence Avenues and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, SW (refer to map below).

**Viable Site O:** Maryland & Independence Avenues at 3rd Street SW



**Site Location:** Southwest **Site Size:** ~0.31 acres **Area I Location:** Yes

Site Criteria	Notes
Program Suitability	Could accommodate permanent commemorative feature and gatherings; possible closure of Maryland Avenue for events
Thematic Nexus	Across Independence Avenue SW from Voice of America Headquarters and two blocks from U.S. Capitol; clear view of U.S. Capitol dome from site
Universal Accessibility	Two blocks from Metrorail station. Offers locations for those covering U.S. government and legislative process
Site Prominence and Visibility	Adjacent to U.S. Capitol Grounds and National Museum of the American Indian; one block from National Mall, Eisenhower and American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorials
Independence	Bordered on all sides by roadways
Site Availability	NPS jurisdiction
Transportation Access	A 4-minute walk from the Federal Center SW, a 7-minute walk from the L'Enfant Plaza, and a 16-minute walk from the Archives Metrorail stations
Tranquility	Location along busy Independence Avenue SW and less busy Maryland Avenue
Infrastructure	No known conflicts are present.



1: View northeast

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In addition to dramatic views of the Capitol Dome, “Site O” also provides a visual link to the nearby Cohen Building where the Voice of America, the oldest and largest American international broadcaster, is housed. For these, and other reasons outlined in the Site Selection Study, it appears that this site would be well suited for the proposed memorial. Our views may change as consultation continues, but if “Site O” is ultimately selected, the Section 106 review should focus on potential effects on significant viewsheds, archaeological resources and related topics.

If you should have any questions or comments regarding this matter, please contact me at [andrew.lewis@dc.gov](mailto:andrew.lewis@dc.gov) or 202-442-8841. Otherwise, we look forward to continuing consultation on this undertaking and thank you for providing this initial opportunity to review and comment.

Sincerely,



C. Andrew Lewis  
Senior Historic Preservation Officer  
DC State Historic Preservation Office

22-0075