

COMMISSION ACTION

NCPC File No. 6423



SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
MALL-WIDE BUILDING PERIMETER SECURITY
The Mall, between Constitution Avenue and Independence Avenue
and 4th Street, NW and 14th Street, NW
Washington, DC

Submitted by the Smithsonian Institution

October 7, 2004

Commission Action Requested

Approval of preliminary site plans for Mall-wide perimeter security pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 8722(d) and Section 5 of the National Capital Planning Act (40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1)).

Commission Action

The Commission:

Approves the preliminary Mall-wide building perimeter security plans for nine buildings of the Smithsonian Institution between Constitution Avenue, NW and Independence Avenue, SW and 7th Street & 14th Street in Washington, DC, as shown on NCPC Map File No.1.71(05.17)-41438 **except** for:

- the low free-standing walls at the north entrance fountain and along 14th Street, NW at the National Museum of American History
- the line of bollards along Jefferson Drive, SW north of the entrances of the Freer Gallery and the Arts and Industries Building.

Recommends that in the development of the final site plans the Smithsonian Institution:

For The National Museum of Natural History

- Provide additional openings through the low free-standing walls to the lawn areas adjacent to the north entrance.
- Further develop the north entrance sign panel design to distinguish it in scale and profile from the height of the adjacent low free-standing walls. Replace solid wall sections flanking the sign panel with benches facing Constitution Avenue, NW.
- Relocate the perimeter security line along Madison Drive, NW and 12th Street, NW to incorporate and modify the existing parking retaining walls and plinths.

- Relocate the bollards in front of the south entrance to minimize conflicts with pedestrian movement along the sidewalk.

For The National Museum of American History

- Redesign the north entrance area to incorporate and/or modify the existing fountain as part of the perimeter security.
- Relocate the perimeter security line along 14th Street, NW and incorporate it into the landscape of the building yard.

For The Quad: Smithsonian Castle, S. Dillion Ripley Center, the Freer Gallery of Art, the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery of Art, the Museum of African Art, the Arts and Industries Building, the Haupt Garden and the Ripley Garden.

- Continue development of the Jefferson Drive curving wall and landscape design in collaboration with NPS, NCPC, CFA and DCSHPO to ensure compatibility with the Mall and the Smithsonian Castle.
- Minimize continuous lines of bollards along the north entrances of the Freer Gallery and Arts and Industries Building. Incorporate alternative streetscape and site elements into security perimeter line and confine placement of security elements to the building yard.
- Eliminate the lay-by at the south entrance of the Freer Gallery, along Independence Avenue, SW., and reduce the number of bollards by introducing alternative streetscape and site elements. Eliminate bollards that extend across the sidewalks and consider moving the security line to the edge of the building yard.
- Relocate the west portion of the perimeter security line between the curb line and the Haupt garden wall at the Arts and Industries Building to a location east of the garden walkway, and reduce the number of bollards by introducing alternative streetscape and site elements.

Deborah B. Young
Secretary to the National Capital Planning Commission