

COMMISSION ACTION

NCPC File No. 6265



LINCOLN MEMORIAL
LINCOLN MEMORIAL CIRCLE SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS, EAST SIDE –
BARRIER LOCATION
WASHINGTON, DC

Submission by the National Park Service

July 7, 2005

Commission Action Requested by Applicant

Approval of revised concept design, 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:

Commends the National Park Service for proposing a security barrier location that revises an earlier concept for the historic landscape below Memorial Circle, that minimizes alteration to historic building fabric, and that would preserve to the extent possible the open vista between the Lincoln Memorial and the National Mall.

Approves a security barrier line location (the design is not yet fully determined) that crosses Memorial Circle at Bacon and French Drives and that descends the lower stairs to the level of the Reflecting Pool, as shown in Option 4 of NCPC Map File No. 1.44(38.40)41628.

Recommends that the National Park Service, in its further development of a design:

- Use a cable fence or other barrier with paired hedges parallel to the lower stairs.
- Develop a barrier design for the base of the lower stairs that will preserve the integrity of the grass terraces in relation to the stairs.
- Terminate the retaining wall (now under construction around Memorial Circle) at a point east of Bacon and French Drives but before reaching the access ramps.
- Study a pavement pattern that combines a radial layout of 4-foot by 4-foot pavers around the eastern portion of Memorial Circle and an orthogonal pattern in the central axis.

- Develop and test in the field a bollard design for the approved barrier location that is appropriate for the setting—austere in design, in a dark color or finish.

Notes that:

- Prior to any subsequent submission of the project for Commission review, the National Park Service should respond to any substantive comments from the public on the environmental effects of the proposal and accomplish a completed NEPA review of the revised proposal in conformance with the Commission’s requirements.
- The Section 106 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) dated October 31, 2003 stipulates that the bollard line “be placed at the outer edge of the plaza and circle on the east side of the Memorial” but allows further consultation and review of alternatives, as described in the June 3, 2005 letter from the State Historic Preservation Officer to the National Park Service.

Deborah B. Young
Secretary to the National Capital Planning Commission