



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Mall and Memorial Parks
900 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20024-2000



April 29, 2015

C. Andrew Lewis
Senior Historic Preservation Specialist
DC State Historic Preservation Office
110 4th Street, SW, Suite E650
Washington, DC 20024

Re: Eisenhower Memorial, Section 106 Consultation

Dear Mr. Lewis:

Thank you for your letter of March 25, 2015 to Catherine Dewey, Chief of Resource Management for the National Mall and Memorial Parks, regarding our most recent consultations with the signatories and consulting parties for the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial. Your letter has been forwarded to me as the superintendent responsible for the Eisenhower Memorial site and related Section 106 determinations.


As you note in your letter, the design of the memorial has been improved when compared to the 2011 plans that were incorporated into the 2012 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) among the National Park Service (NPS), the National Capital Planning Commission, the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the Eisenhower Memorial Commission (EMC). Changes to the south tapestry and substituting two freestanding columns for the two side tapestries have minimized adverse visual effects on the L'Enfant Plan, and the Cohen, Johnson and Wright buildings, and have improved sightlines along Independence Avenue.

Your letter requests that the EMC develop illustrations of a proposal to eliminate of the easternmost and westernmost bays of the tapestry (but retaining the columns) and that NPS and EMC consult and consider the implications of this design modification prior to finalizing the memorial plans. We understand the minimization of adverse effects that this modification might yield, and we have given deliberate consideration to this suggested change. The NPS and the EMC have reviewed the design team's extensive studies of the south tapestry since 2010, including multiple examinations of its dimensions and image content. Much of this study was conducted through the Section 106 consulting process prior to the execution of the MOA. Attached are several key "snapshots" of the south tapestry as it has been developed since 2011. In that time the tapestry has been reduced in vertical dimension by more than 10 percent, its width reduced by a full bay, and the imagery has become more transparent as it has been refined.

Furthermore, the south tapestry is a character-defining and unifying element of the memorial, providing a scenic backdrop of an idealized Kansas landscape that will blend with the landscape of the memorial grounds. Based on our review, we have concluded that the proposal to reduce the tapestry by one bay at the east and west sides would do unacceptable harm to the essential concept of the memorial. Retaining the east and west columns would minimally continue their function as markers of the memorial precinct, but would do nothing to mitigate the loss of aesthetic integrity to the design that would come from the drastic truncation of the tapestry.

For these reasons, the NPS believes that the adverse effect of the south tapestry on historic properties has been minimized to the greatest possible extent, and that further studies of reducing the width of the tapestry are not warranted. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Catherine Dewey, Chief of Resource Management, at (202) 245-4711 or Catherine_dewey@nps.gov.

Sincerely,

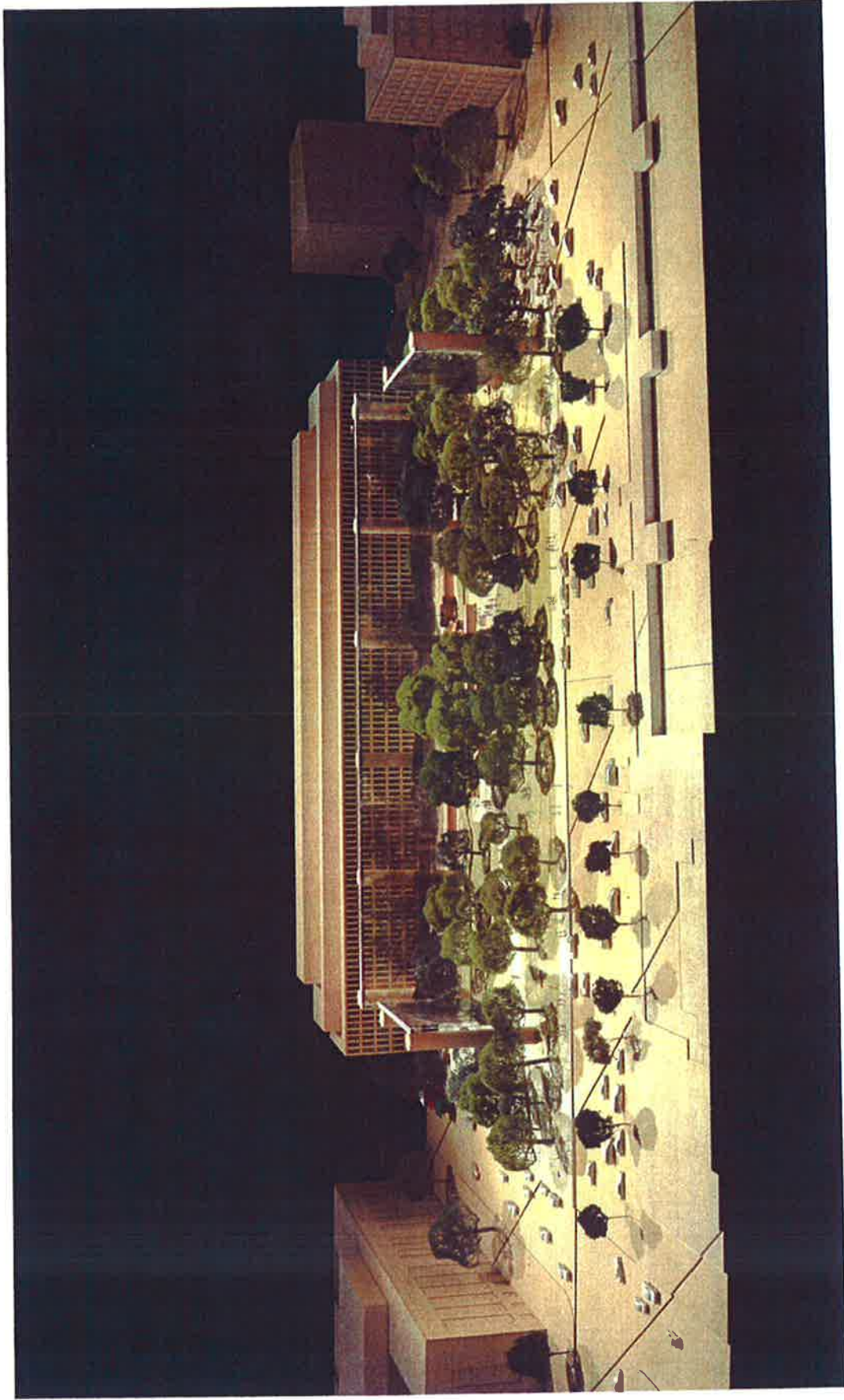


Karen L. Cucurullo
Acting Superintendent
National Mall and Memorial Parks



FINAL CONCEPTS

EISENHOWER MEMORIAL
Gehry Partners • AECOM Joint Venture



DECEMBER 2011 DESIGN: AERIAL VIEW

EISENHOWER MEMORIAL
Gehry Partners • AECOM Joint Venture



AERIAL VIEW