



# **DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER MEMORIAL COMMISSION**

## **Site Selection Report**

Submitted to:  
National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission  
November 8, 2005



# DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

## MEMORIAL COMMISSION

### Site Selection Report

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D. David Eisenhower

Alfred Geduldig

Susan Banes Harris

November 8, 2005



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## **Purpose of the Report**

The purpose of this report is to document the Eisenhower Memorial Commission's (EMC) Site Selection Process for submission to the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission (NCMAC). At the conclusion of what is hoped will be a successful consultation process, the Secretary of the Interior or the Administrator of General Services, as appropriate, will submit the EMC's preferred site at the intersection of Maryland and Independence Avenues, SW, between 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Streets (Site #3 on the National Capital Planning Commission's *Memorials and Museums Master Plan*) to the Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Planning Commission for their approval.

## Site Selection History

### Creation of the Commission:

The Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission was created on October 25, 1999 as a result of legislation sponsored by Senator Ted Stevens (R/Alaska), joined by Senator Daniel K. Inouye (D/Hawaii) and approved by President William J. Clinton. The Commission is charged with memorializing Dwight D. Eisenhower, the Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces in Europe (1942-1945), the first Commander of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) military forces in Europe (1950-1952), and the 34th President of the United States (1953-1961).

### Commission Members:

Rocco C. Siciliano <i>Chairman</i>	Rep. Jerry Moran <i>R/Kansas</i>
Sen. Daniel K. Inouye <i>D/Hawaii</i> <i>Vice Chairman</i>	Sen. Jack Reed <i>D/Rhode Island</i>
Rep. Leonard L. Boswell <i>D/Iowa</i>	Sen. Pat Roberts <i>R/Kansas</i>
D. David Eisenhower Alfred Geduldig	Sen. Ted Stevens <i>R/Alaska</i>
Susan Banes Harris	Rep. Mac Thornberry <i>R/Texas</i>
Rep. Dennis Moore <i>D/Kansas</i>	

### The National Memorialization of Dwight D. Eisenhower:

Dwight D. Eisenhower (October 14, 1890-March 28, 1969) served as the 34<sup>th</sup> President of the United States and ranks as one of the preeminent figures in the global history of the twentieth century. Eisenhower was a central figure in the victorious resolution of World War II but his lasting significance in the historical legacy lies in his deep commitment to freedom, the Constitution and democracy, and his contributions to defining and sustaining an international peace for which many Americans died.

### Purpose of the Memorial:

The National Eisenhower Memorial will reflect his unique contributions to America as patriot and hero; lifelong public servant; outstanding military officer; and beloved president. The world regards him as a hero for his brilliant generalship in World War II. His achievements in establishing the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and implementing the National Interstate Highway system are well-known. His fierce integrity, warm smile, and unselfish service to the country and the world made him one of the most popular public figures of all time. But a complete assessment of Eisenhower's legacy reveals that it is more comprehensive than these preliminary distinctions. In the field of international relations, Eisenhower's presidency was one of the most successful in protecting America's national security and preventing nuclear war during the difficult years of the Cold War. Domestically,



he was an incredibly effective president whose appreciation of the roles of Congress and the Supreme Court earned him respect from both political parties. The National Eisenhower Memorial will honor the many achievements and contributions of the president and general, but beyond that, it will inspire remembrance of the qualities that made him an exceptional leader, hero, and American icon. A historical summary of his achievements follows.

### ***Eisenhower and World War II:***

A serving officer in World War I, Eisenhower's unusual abilities led to accelerated promotions at the outset of World War II and his selection in December 1943 as Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Forces. For this position he was appointed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt and endorsed by General George C. Marshall. He commanded the largest and most complex amphibious assault in world history. In this historic role, although he asked many Americans to sacrifice their lives, he became one of the most popular political figures in America and one of the most beloved military leaders in American history. Toward the end of the war, Eisenhower was promoted to the rank of five-star general by President Roosevelt and approved by Congress.

### ***General Eisenhower after World War II:***

As the second presiding officer of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, replacing General Marshall in December 1945, he oversaw the peacetime demobilization of American military forces, recommended the continuation of universal military training and strongly advocated the unification of the armed forces. Upon retiring from military service, he actively served as President of Columbia University from October 1948 to January 1951. While in that position, President Truman

sought his advice and counsel and then recalled him to active duty, appointing him in December 1950 as the first commander of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) military forces in Europe.

### ***President Eisenhower and Foreign Affairs:***

As Eisenhower's two-term presidency began, American democratic values and national security were threatened by powerful adversaries. Passionately devoted to national security through alliances with other nations, President Eisenhower began his first administration when the Cold War's global challenges had gone beyond Europe. Convinced that a long-term strategy would be necessary to win this war, President Eisenhower sought to contain the Soviet Union militarily while advocating a prosperous economy. He understood the political economy of warfare better than most of his contemporaries and realized that heavy military expenditures could undermine American Democracy. Knowing that nuclear war was un-winnable and a threat to civilization, President Eisenhower promoted the peaceful uses of atomic energy, while willingly deploying the most advanced electronic and photographic technologies available to ensure American security. He inaugurated the policies that guided the nation for the next three decades, leading to the peaceful end of the Cold War in 1989.

### ***President Eisenhower and Domestic Policy:***

While undertaking strategic Cold War measures, President Eisenhower assiduously pursued balanced budgets with remarkable fiscal responsibility. He introduced lasting innovations to the institution of the presidency, creating the first White House chief of staff, the first congressional relations office, the first presidential assistant for national

security affairs and the first presidential science advisor. He dramatically improved the transportation infrastructure of the country with construction of the interstate highway system and the St. Lawrence Seaway. The territory of the United States was expanded with the addition of the new states of Alaska (January 3, 1959) and Hawaii (August 21, 1959). To address the increasing complexity of citizens' social needs, he created the Department of Health, Education and Welfare in 1953, expanded Social Security by placing an additional ten million Americans in the Social Security system and increasing benefits, dispensed free polio vaccines and, in 1957, signed the first civil rights legislation since Reconstruction.

#### **Conclusion:**

The extraordinary accomplishments of Dwight D. Eisenhower as president and military leader are enhanced in a series of memorable addresses and speeches including—Farewell Address (London, 1945), Chance for Peace (Washington, 1953), Atoms for Peace (United Nations, 1953), Open Skies (Geneva Summit, 1956) and the Farewell Address (1961). Similar to Washington, Eisenhower became president and commander in chief after leading his country to military victory. His preeminent historical and national significance is assured. The challenge in our national memorialization of Dwight D. Eisenhower will be to honor all facets of his extraordinary career of life-long public service in a distinct, unique and enduring manner.

#### **Our Enabling Legislation:**

Public Law 106-79, Section 8162 (October 25, 1999), as amended by Public Law 107-117, Section 8120 (January

10, 2002), authorized the Eisenhower Memorial Commission (EMC) to establish a memorial to Eisenhower in the District of Columbia pursuant to the Commemorative Works Act, Public Law 99-652 (1986), as amended. The law states that “an appropriate permanent memorial to Dwight D. Eisenhower should be created to perpetuate his memory and his contributions to the United States,” and further directs that the “Commission shall consider and formulate plans for such a permanent memorial to Dwight D. Eisenhower, including its nature, construction and location.” (See Appendices 1-3)

#### **Evaluation of Potential Sites:**

Comparisons were conducted of the locations, physical characteristics, and surroundings of the potential sites. The leading candidates were evaluated by the Commission Chairman and selected Commissioners based on a variety of criteria. Prominence, in terms of placement in the district and proximity to well-visited destinations, especially the National Mall, was among the most important factors in the Commission's decisions. The Commission remains committed to memorializing Eisenhower's legacy in a prominent setting.

The Commission considered the accessibility of each site to be very important as well, judging access and prominence to be linked. Accessibility and availability were also a part of the Commission's desire to be near to the National Mall, since so many tourists visit this area. The EMC studied each site's accessibility to transportation, and although pedestrian access and parking were factors in the evaluation, proximity to public transportation was the Commission's greatest accessibility concern.



Beyond establishing prominence and accessibility, a site's surroundings and its thematic appropriateness and linkages to Eisenhower were extremely influential in the Commission's evaluations. Strong thematic adjacencies were highly desirable in a site. Surrounding institutions or landmarks related to Eisenhower as both a general and a president were positive, influential factors. The distinctiveness of his life-long public service necessitates attention to his military service, as well as his two-term presidency. His many achievements as president brought the Commission's attention to surroundings related to the presidency, such as government programs, departments, and agencies in which he was heavily involved. Proximity to the White House, the Capitol, and other presidential memorials were additional considerations.

Another contributing factor in the site review and selection process was the physical makeup of a site and the feasibility of building on it. Some sites were already partially or totally occupied and others had significant physical constraints which reduced feasibility. In addition, the Commission wished to avoid controversial sites that might unduly delay or impede the construction of the memorial. Overall, this was a dynamic process, fully cognizant of the public and governmental discussions surrounding the World War II Memorial and the debates leading to resolution of its location and design.

#### **Consideration of Sites in Area I:**

The Eisenhower Memorial Commission (EMC) has considered sites for this memorial both within Area I, the central Monumental Core of the District of Columbia as defined in the Commemorative Works Act, and Area II,

outside the central core. On March 1, 2002, EMC Chairman Rocco C. Siciliano presented the Commission's request for Area I designation at a hearing of the National Capital Memorial Commission (NCMC). Unanimously, NCMC voted to recommend Area I designation for the National Eisenhower Memorial. The Secretary of the Interior consulted with the NCMC, and on September 12, 2002 the Secretary sent a letter to Congress finding the national Eisenhower Memorial to be of "pre-eminent historical and lasting significance to the Nation" and recommending Area I designation. The EMC was therefore encouraged to consider sites in Area I, and chose a preferred site that is partially within its boundaries. (See Appendices 4 & 5)

Subsequently, in 2003, Congress created an area along the axis of the National Mall called the Reserve. Future memorials are prohibited from building in this area. The area of the Reserve as established by Congress is larger than the Reserve identified in NCMC's *Memorials and Museums Master Plan*. A number of previously identified sites (EMC sites 3, 4, 5, 7, and 8) are within the borders of the congressionally defined Reserve. None of these sites was selected as the Commission's preferred site.

## Acronyms & Definitions

**EMC:** Eisenhower Memorial Commission

**NPS:** National Park Service

**NPS/NCR:** NPS/National Capital Region

**MMMP:** Memorials and Museums Master Plan

**NCPC:** National Capital Planning Commission

**NCMAC:** National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission  
(formerly the National Capital Memorial Commission –  
NCMC)

**USIP:** United States Institute of Peace

**EI:** Eisenhower Institute

**Area I:** An area of the Capital reserved for memorial subjects of “pre-eminent historical and lasting significance to the Nation.” It is close to the White House, National Mall, Capitol, and the Tidal Basin.

**Area II:** The area outside of Area I. Less prominent memorials can be placed here.

**The Reserve:** An area within Area I reserved by the Commemorative Works Act as off-limits to all future memorials. It includes the National Mall and the Tidal Basin.

**Architect of the Capitol:** The office responsible for the maintenance, operation, development, and preservation of the United States Capitol Complex.

**Eisenhower Institute:** A policy institute founded in 1983, based in Washington, D.C., with a mission to advance Eisenhower's intellectual and leadership legacies in foreign and domestic policy while promoting justice and international peace.

**EMC Executive Committee:** A committee created by the Commission to exercise the powers and duties of the Commission between meetings. The Executive Committee is made up of Chairman Rocco C. Siciliano and Commissioners Senator Ted Stevens (Alaska/R), Vice Chairman Senator Daniel K. Inouye (Hawaii/D), and Representative Dennis Moore (Kansas/D), and it is the interim decision-making body in the absence of a meeting of the full Commission.

**EMC Eisenhower Legacy Committee:** A committee made up of leading experts and scholars that produced a report identifying Eisenhower's military achievements, presidential contributions, and role as a public figure epitomizing American values. The committee is chaired by Professor Louis Galambos, co-editor of *The Papers of Dwight David Eisenhower*.



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Dwight D. Eisenhower  
Memorial Commission

## Summary of Site Selection Process

A total of 26 sites were identified to the Eisenhower Memorial Commission (EMC) and reviewed during its three-year site selection process. The criteria for choosing a site for the memorial include:

- 1) Prominence, public access, and availability.
- 2) Thematic appropriateness to Eisenhower's memory.
- 3) Feasibility of use and avoidance of undue controversy.

The following is a summary of events leading to the Commission's request for approval of the Site Selection Report's Site #1 at Maryland Avenue as its preferred site. A timeline of events follows this written summary and provides a general guide to the Commission's review process.

Throughout 2001 and 2002, the EMC worked in informal collaboration with the National Park Service, National Capital Region (NPS/NCR) to identify 24 potential sites for consideration by the EMC for the location of the National Eisenhower Memorial. These potential 24 sites were in both Areas I and II, and most are listed in the National Capital Planning Commission's *Memorials and Museums Master Plan* as site candidates. By April 2002, the 24 sites were presented to the EMC, and as a result of a systematic review process, including visits by the Chairman to all of the sites and visits by some Commissioners to many of them, eight sites were recommended as most appropriate.

During the same period (from February 2002-December 2002), the Commission also considered a proposal by the Eisenhower Institute to house this memorial in the

Auditors Building (Sidney R. Yates Federal Building) at 201 14<sup>th</sup> Street, SW. The Auditors building was studied but no Commission action was taken.

In June 2004, Chairman Siciliano and Senators Inouye and Stevens met with the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) to discuss possible collaboration in memorializing President Eisenhower. Serious discussions and negotiations regarding co-location continued until December 2004, when co-location was eliminated as a possibility.

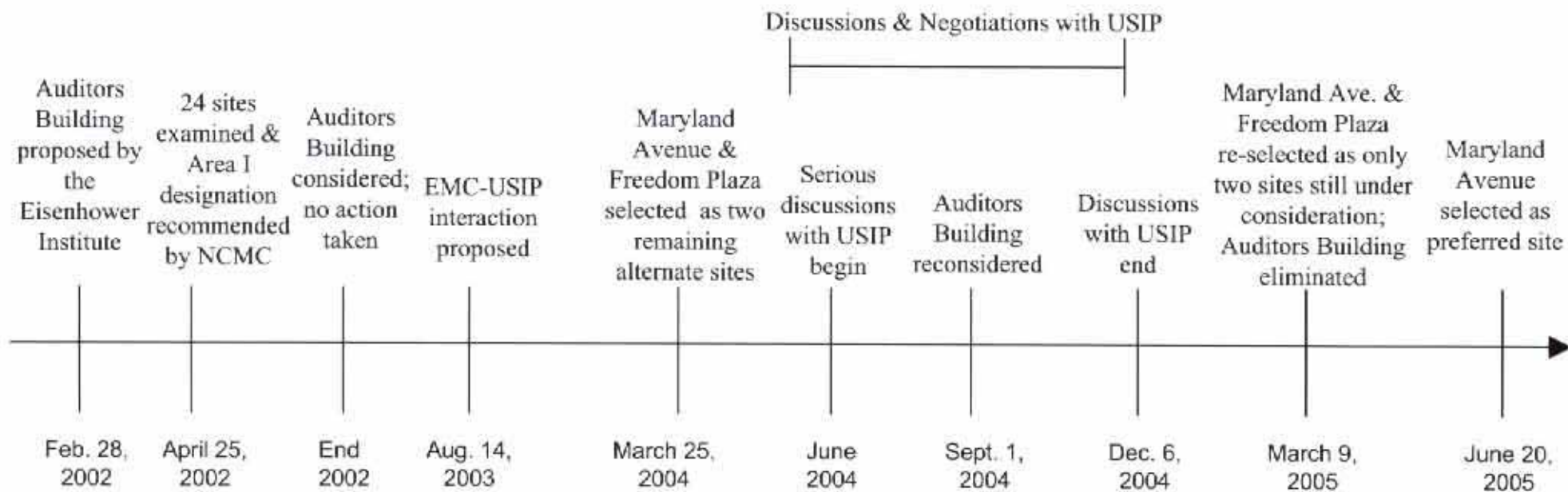
Before serious discussions with USIP commenced, the Commission had narrowed its list of potential sites from eight to two. Site #1 was the Maryland Avenue site in front of the Department of Education (*Memorials and Museums Master Plan* Site #3). Site #2 was the Freedom Plaza site on Pennsylvania Avenue between 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Streets (*Memorials and Museums Master Plan* Site #5). In February 2005, after negotiations with USIP were terminated, an interim site selection report was prepared to review and synopsize information about the remaining site possibilities. It included studies of the two remaining sites, along with the Auditors Building which was re-proposed in September 2004. The report was presented at the EMC meeting in March 2005 where the Commission eliminated the Auditors Building from further consideration and re-approved the Maryland Avenue and Freedom Plaza sites as its top two possibilities.

In evaluating the two remaining sites at Maryland Avenue and Freedom Plaza, the Commission studied the sites



in more detail and also added new criteria for evaluation. A Site Evaluation Report was prepared that compared various factors of each site to the Commission's original criteria and some additional considerations. The report was presented at the EMC meeting in June 2005 when the Commission chose Site #1 at Maryland Avenue as its preferred site. (See Preferred Site tab)

# Timeline of Site Selection Process



## Key:

NCMC – National Capital Memorial Commission

USIP – United States Institute of Peace

EMC – Eisenhower Memorial Commission