

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER



June 14, 2018

Ms. Patricia Trap, Acting Superintendent
National Park Service
National Mall and Memorial Parks
900 Ohio Drive, SW
Washington, DC 20024

RE: Jefferson Memorial Accessibility Improvements Project

Dear Ms. Trap:

Thank you for continuing to consult with the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) regarding the above-referenced undertaking. We have participated in several consulting parties' and agency review meetings to discuss the proposed project and make recommendations for how the project could be modified to avoid adverse effects on the historically significant Jefferson Memorial. We have also reviewed Assessment of Effects Report which the National Park Service (NPS) submitted to us on June 6, 2018. This letter provides our 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 NPS proposes to implement a number of improvements that will make the iconic Jefferson Memorial and its surrounding grounds more accessible. The most notable improvements involve the introduction of two new ramps on either side of the main building (see attached plans). These ramps will alter the setting and require the removal of some plant material and small sections of capstone from the terrace wall but the alterations will be very subtle, the plant material will be replaced in-kind, and the sections of capstone will be salvaged and retained for future restoration, if desired. Other aspects of the project involving sidewalk modifications on the south side of the site and minor interior modifications of mostly non-historic fabric will be similarly subtle, reversible, and will not result in any significant diminishment in the integrity of the memorial.

For the reasons outlined above and described in more detail within the Assessment of Effects Report, we concur with the NPS determination that this undertaking will have "no adverse effect" on historic properties. If you should have any questions or comments regarding this matter, please contact me at andrew.lewis@dc.gov or 202-442-8841. Otherwise, thank you for providing this opportunity to review and comment.

Sincerely,


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

18-0522

