



# United States Department of the Interior



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

December 20, 2019

Mr. David Maloney  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
District of Columbia, Office of Planning  
1100 4th Street SW, Suite E650  
Washington, DC 20024

Subject: Section 106 Consultation for the Wall of Remembrance at the Korean War Veterans Memorial

Dear Mr. Maloney:

The National Park Service (NPS), under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, wishes to inform the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office of its intention to select the design option presented at the October 15, 2019 consulting parties meeting for the proposed addition of a Wall of Remembrance at the Korean War Veterans Memorial on the National Mall. The NPS formally initiated consultation on August 5, 2019.

On October 15, 2019, the NPS held a consulting parties meeting to review design options for the proposed addition of a Wall of Remembrance at the Korean War Veterans Memorial on the National Mall, located on federal land in Ash Woods, between Independence Avenue and Ash Road, east of Daniel French Drive SW, and west of the U.S. Park Police Stables. At that time, the NPS presented a design option for the Wall of Remembrance. The NPS plans to pursue the presented design option. The rehabilitation of the memorial includes the addition of a circular angled wall with engraved names located around the ring of existing Linden trees, sidewalks connecting the memorial to Ash Road and Independence Avenue, and engraved text on the south side of the existing mural wall. The proposed project would also include repair of the existing memorial, to remove or fill cracks in the pavement, improve lighting, and maintain vegetation.

The consulting parties discussed the implications of the height of the Wall of Remembrance, the wall's material, and sidewalks from Ash Road and Independence Avenue, on the memorial experience and historic resources. The circular design of the new wall and pathways within the memorial is sensitive to the existing circular form of the Pool of Remembrance and Linden grove. The consulting parties discussed potential changes to circulation at points around the memorial. The group considered the addition of sidewalks from Ash Road and Independence Avenue to the Pool of Remembrance, noting that visitors entering the memorial from the proposed pathways would have a different memorial experience than visitors entering the memorial from the Lincoln Memorial or Daniel French Drive. Consulting parties also raised concerns about potential conflicts between pedestrians and visitors on bicycles and scooters accessing the memorial via the new paths. The NPS anticipates additional pedestrian traffic along Ash Road from the World War II Memorial due to the new public visiting space and educational component associated with the redeveloped U.S. Park Police H1 Stables. The NPS notes that most visitors currently come to the memorial from Daniel French Drive, the Lincoln Memorial, and Vietnam Veterans Memorial. However, some visitors already access Ash Road and Independence Avenue from the memorial, and have created informal social trail lines in the landscape; formalizing these paths would

help enhance access to the memorial landscape in a manner that is consistent with the landscape's character. NPS and the design team will continue to study the pathways.

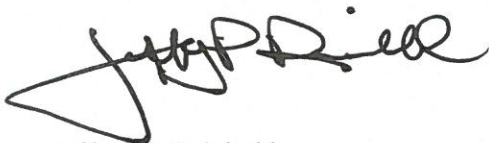
Consulting parties expressed concern about the possibility of visitors walking on the berm surrounding the Wall of Remembrance, due to the potential impacts on visitor safety and the memorial experience. NPS and the design team will continue to study potential treatments of the berm and ways to minimize potential incurrence into the memorial from visitors treading on the berm.

At the meeting, the consulting parties considered the potential for adverse effects on resources within the Area of Potential Effect, including the National Mall and the East and West Potomac Parks Historic Districts. The Secretary of the Interior's standards for rehabilitation for historic resources such as the Korean War Veterans Memorial require that new materials be differentiated from—but compatible with—the historic materials. The design plans to use the same materials as the mural wall (i.e., black granite), although black stainless steel is also under consideration. However, the NPS asserts that such differentiation in this instance may not be required because the memorial is as much a piece of art as it is a contributing resource to the National Mall Historic District.

Consulting parties provided input on changes to commemoration at the Korean War Veterans Memorial and the larger National Mall, stating that the listing of names at the Korean War Veterans Memorial adds a funerary component of commemoration and that the expansion of the memorial adds to the cumulative militarization of the western portion of the National Mall. Public Law 99-572 authorized the establishment of the Korean War Veterans Memorial to “honor members of the Armed Forces of the United States who served in the Korean War, particularly those who were killed in action, are still listed as missing in action, or were held as prisoners of war.” Public Law 114-230 authorized the addition of the Wall of Remembrance listing names of those who died in the Korean War and the listing of the number of members of the Armed Forces of the United States, the Korean Augmentation to the U.S. Army, the Republic of Korea Armed Forces, and the other nations of the United Nation who were killed, wounded, or missing in action, or who were prisoners of war. The NPS finds that the inclusion of names does not substantially alter the commemorative purpose of the Korean War Veterans Memorial. In addition, the expansion of the existing memorial would maintain an existing memorial site within the National Mall.

At this time, the NPS finds that the undertaking would result in no adverse effect on historic properties. NPS will continue to study the wall height, berms, pathways, and materials as the design advances. If any significant changes develop that may cause adverse effects to any historic resources, the NPS will notify you and the consulting parties. Please respond to Catherine Dewey, Chief of Resource Management, at (202) 245-4711 or [catherine\\_dewey@nps.gov](mailto:catherine_dewey@nps.gov) within 30 days with your concurrence with the no adverse effect determination or to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey P. Reinbold', written in a cursive style.

Jeffrey P. Reinbold  
Superintendent

Attachments  
Area of Potential Effect  
Proposed design