

MEMORANDUM

TO: Sophia Kelly (NPS)

FROM: Melissa Cohen

DATE: October 20, 2021

RE: Response to 10/5/21 Assessment of Effects Review with DC SHPO

PROJECT: FRB – Repair and Maintenance of North & East Garage

The following clarifications have been incorporated into the Draft Assessment of Effects:

Masonry walls/edges along Virginia Avenue

Along Virginia Avenue and adjacent to the center lawn, an 18" granite edge that incorporates bench seating will be installed. These low masonry edges will allow for increased soil volume over the North Garage and will provide a healthier growing depth for proposed trees, shrubs, and perennials plants. Additionally, the masonry edges will activate the public space for patrons who wish to sit in the shade along Virginia Avenue. The low masonry edge and low plant palette will allow pedestrians along Virginia Avenue to have clear views into the interior lawn and gardens and will protect the planted areas from soil compaction due to patrons stepping into the planting beds. New 18" granite edges with incorporated bench seating will also be added around the perimeter of the planting beds east and west of the central lawn to provide additional seating within the park. The rendering showing the view into the park from Virginia Avenue has been replaced to reflect the current design.

Jigs and jogs and wider sidewalks.

The meandering walks, also called "jigs and jogs," will be replaced in kind on the east side of the open lawn. The original design of the walks will be modified on the west side of the open lawn as a result of the new entrance kiosk. The meandering walks south of the kiosk will be reinstalled in keeping with the historic design intent. The reinstalled sidewalks along Virginia Avenue will be widened from 4' to 10' to conform with current DDOT streetscape standards.

Garage Ramp/Raised plaza

The plaza, which is also the roof of the garage at the vehicle entrance ramp, will be raised to align with the podium level of the Martin Building. This will increase the vertical clearance of the ramp to accommodate accessible vans as well as small trucks in the garage. It also allows for an accessible route from the Martin Building directly to the park. Lowering the ramp instead of raising the roof is not viable since this would require the entire garage structure to be rebuilt. A section through the garage ramp has been added to the project plan package.

Historic lamp posts at raised plaza

Seven original light fixtures will be repaired/replicated and one additional light fixture will be replicated for reinstallation at the raised plaza. The positions of the fixtures are adjusted for symmetry and circulation.