



United States Department of the Interior



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

January 4, 2016

World War I Centennial Commission
1775 F Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Attn: Competition Jury

Subject: World War I Memorial (Pershing Park) - Eligibility for Listing on the National Register

Dear Members of the Jury:

In advance of selecting a designer for the World War I Memorial, the National Park Service (NPS) would like to reiterate our desire to enhance the existing park to accommodate a new memorial, while retaining the signature elements of the park. Although the Determination of Eligibility (DOE) for the World War I Memorial (Pershing Park) has not yet been completed, the National Park Service has identified the World War I Memorial (Pershing Park) as being eligible for listing in the National Register for Historic Places based on the findings of the Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Site Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI). This inventory was conducted in accordance with Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended), which calls on all federal agencies to establish an historic preservation program for the identification, evaluation, and protection of historic properties. On December 31, 2015, via email, the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) informally concurred with the findings of the CLI (a formal letter of concurrence is forthcoming).

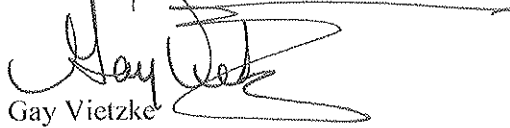
In accordance with the CLI, the World War I Memorial (Pershing Park) is an eligible resource within the Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Site cultural landscape (Site). The Site and its associated eligible resources are significant for their role in major city planning milestones in the United States. The Site and its resources also represent an innovative approach to urban design that utilized modernistic principles of landscape architecture to unite social, economic, and political issues associated with the avenue, while still retaining its historic fabric and dignity as a ceremonial route. Finally, the Site and its resources are significant for retaining several modern and post-modern parks that were initiated by the PADC and executed by leading figures in American architecture and landscape architecture, which includes the World War I Memorial (Pershing Park) designed by M. Paul Friedberg, a renowned landscape architect. The World War I Memorial (Pershing Park) exemplifies signature elements of modernist landscape design that are characterized by simple designs, strong geometric lines, rectilinear forms, and largely open plans.

Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended), the NPS is required to determine an Area of Potential Effect (APE) which will include properties listed or eligible for listing in the National Register, including the World War I Memorial (Pershing Park). The NPS then assesses the effects of the undertaking on eligible properties. Although we have not yet assessed the effects for this project, and will not be able to do so until the completion of the DOE, the analysis of the final design will consider the overall impacts to these newly determined eligible resource and signature elements. Any

adverse impacts to the eligible resources will require minimization and/or mitigation to be determined in consultation with the SHPO and other Consulting Parties. Minimalized impacts to eligible resources will result in a streamlined review process.

We look forward to continuing to work with you and the World War I Centennial Commission on this project. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Catherine Dewey, Chief of Resource Management, at catherine_dewey@nps.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gay Vietzke", with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

Gay Vietzke
Superintendent
National Mall and Memorial Parks