

**ARTHUR COTTON MOORE FAIA**

17 July 2006

Mr. Glenn DeMarr  
Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
1100 Ohio Drive SW  
Washington, DC 20242

**By Email Only**

Re: Comments on EA/Site Selection: Proposed Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial

Dear Mr. DeMarr:

As you know, I have been working on the realization of Maryland Avenue -- the missing avenue of the L'Enfant Plan -- and I welcome the Eisenhower Memorial to its adopted site at Maryland and Independence Avenues; indeed, this memorial has the potential of a gateway to the city's grand new boulevard, which will be lined with apartment buildings, restaurants, offices, museums and several other memorials.

Appropriately, everyone steps lightly and in concert in this area of the Federal City in deference to its historic importance; in that creative spirit, I would like to point out that several comments on the Maryland Avenue Dominant Alternative need to be reconsidered:

1. The comment that this alternative makes the site into triangles -- thereby limiting options on the memorial -- is not true because the triangle forms are inherent in the site. Even if traffic is routed to 6<sup>th</sup> Street, the 160' wide scenic vista of Maryland Avenue -- in which no structure can be built -- makes the site into two triangles, traffic or not. I do not expect that the alternative will affect the vista down Independence Avenue.

2. The comment on page 2-18 and illustration on page 2-19 that the scenic vista is limited to a 60' wide "historic cartway/view corridor" is not our understanding. Approximately 9 or 10 new buildings have been constructed recently on Maryland Avenue, and all have strictly respected the 160' scenic vista with no encroachments, and were built in full anticipation of the exclusive reservation for the future 160' wide avenue. The Maryland Avenue Alternative certainly respects the 160' ROW -- as should any future development of this site.

3. The Maryland Avenue Dominant Alternative follows the L'Enfant Plan, the McMillan Plan, and the Legacy Plan, which was prepared and recently reaffirmed by, the NCPC. Furthermore, it is the *exact mirror image* of the intersection of Pennsylvania and Constitution Avenues -- an intersection which respects the dominant angular Avenue, and at the same time, functions very well from a traffic standpoint. Mr. Alan Harwood of EDAW, the EA consultant,

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maintained at one meeting that Independence Avenue carries more traffic than Constitution. Alas, with the closing of Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House and E Street below the White House, the traffic on Constitution has considerably increased and the intersection -- the mirror of this alternative -- continues to perform well.

Using my drawing in the EA without my explanation (or attribution or permission) unfairly obscures the amenity and practical benefits of our Maryland Avenue Plan, and this alternative, to all new participants in this EA effort; those benefits are, however, well known to all who have been involved.

By refining more precisely the general configuration, utilizing a professional survey, which the Memorial group now has, the amount of land available for this Memorial -- after eliminating the 160' ROW -- should be the same as existing whether traffic uses the ROW or not. My drawing intended only to suggest that there might be a third possible triangular area which could be used for this memorial's programs linking the Air and Space Museum, at the designer's option. The two triangular areas which result from this configuration on the drawing to the right (east of 4<sup>th</sup> Street) were new options for new memorials unrelated to the Eisenhower. (I hereby request the opportunity to provide an explanation of my drawing which will be included in future printings of the EA, and which would be mailed to all current recipients of the EA.)

As a professional designer and planner working in the area of the proposed Memorial, I strongly believe we all should consider it our joint responsibility not only to protect, respect, and uphold the historic L'Enfant, McMillan, and Legacy Plans -- but to decisively discourage any proposal contrary to those plans -- such as closing a L'Enfant/McMillan grand avenue -- since they are the very platform of planning for our nation's capitol.

The Eisenhower Memorial in no way needs to depend on planning alternatives to honor our beloved President who possessed the best of American values -- it needs only to look at how a creative designer solved the separation of parcels in the National Gallery East and West wings, where a presumed negative has turned out to be a real positive.

Very truly yours,

Arthur Cotton Moore FAIA