

MEMO



To: Kimberli Fitzgerald, AICP, Historic Preservation Officer
From: Mike Abbaté & Steve Bates
Date: October 26, 2020
Re: Response to Oct. 23, 2020 Completeness Review

We are hereby providing the additional information requested in your memo of Oct. 23, 2020.

Written Statement

A. Overview

A Citizen Committee and non-profit organization has worked for three years with Oregon Senators, Representatives, and Oregon State Parks to identify the most optimal place on the Capitol Grounds to construct a new Memorial recognizing the honor and sacrifice of Oregon's Vietnam Veterans, and to ensure it is a thoughtful, respectful and beautiful enhancement to Willson Park.

The proposed Oregon Vietnam War Memorial will be a place of reflection, commemoration and acknowledgement of the sacrifices by Oregon men and women during this pivotal time in the history of Oregon and our nation.

The Memorial site, at the SW Corner of Willson Park, opposite the existing WWII Memorial at the NW corner, lies within the Oregon State Capitol Historic District (SRC Sec 230.200(d))

- 1) The total square footage of the proposed development area is 0.64 acres (27,900 s.f.)
- 2) Specifications (l,w,h and material of memorial itself): The development area is approximately 180' in the east-west direction by 155' in the north-south direction, all on OPRD Park property. A detailed description of the sizes of each of the Memorial elements is listed Table 1, below.
- 3) Statement of existing material proposed for removal:
In the Memorial development area, the following hardscape materials will be removed:
 - 6700 square feet of old existing concrete paving (much of it cracked and/or lifted).
 - 2 existing wooden benches at SW corner of memorial area (to be replaced with multiple benches throughout the memorial)
 - Trees:
 - a. The following trees will be retained and integrated into the overall Memorial plan:
 - 72" Redwood
 - 45" Blue Spruce
 - 40" Fir
 - 31" Cedar ("The Embracing Tree")
 - 27" Cedar
 - 21" Fir
 - 20" Fir



- (2) 14" Ash
- 12" Camperdown Elm
- 10" Poplar
- 10" Crabapple
- 7" Crabapple
- (2) 6" Crabapple
- b. The following trees will need to be removed:
 - 20" Elm (required to be removed to comply with OPRD's new Willson Park walkway plan)
 - 20" Pine
 - 16" Pine
 - 8" Norway Maple
 - 8" Crabapple
 - 6" Crabapple

B. Addressing Applicable Approval Criteria (SRC 230)

As this is new construction, and not a building, we have elected to follow the applicable Guidelines identified in Sec 230.065:

e) Changes that have taken place to a historic resource over the course of time are evidence of the history and development of a historic resource and its environment and should be recognized and respected. These changes may have acquired significance in their own right, and this significance should be recognized and respected.

Willson Park has changed over time, most recently with new symmetrical walkways installed by OPRD to better connect the WWII Memorial to the other historic features in the Park. The Vietnam Memorial has been designed to incorporate the new path geometry developed by OPRD.

Another recent change to Willson Park was the addition of the WWII Memorial itself in 2011. The proposed Vietnam War Memorial mirrors the location of the WWII Memorial black granite wall in the NW corner of the park with a black granite "Column Wall" on the SW corner to reflect the symmetrical balance of the Park.

(f) Additions and alterations to a historic resource shall be designed and constructed to minimize changes to the historic resource.

No significant features identified in Table 230-3 will be affected by the installation of the Vietnam War memorial. In fact, the symmetrical geometry of Willson Park will be enhanced by the placement of a similar wall on the south side of the axis.

The proposed Gold Star Families component can be installed in one of two locations, depending on the preference of OPRD: 1) in one of the elliptical alcoves on the north-south walkway connecting the WWII and Vietnam Memorials or 2) in the central ellipse between the two memorials. It would only be constructed in the central ellipse if OPRD chooses to relocate the Parade of Animals Sculpture.

(g) Additions and alterations shall be constructed with the least possible loss of historic materials and so that significant features are not obscured, damaged, or destroyed.

The proposed Vietnam War Memorial will retain the existing landscape character of this SW corner of Willson Park with its large canopy trees and open landscaping. Great care is being taken to preserve, protect and integrate the existing large trees into the Memorial itself. All trees and sidewalks in the Cottage St. and State St. rights of way will similarly be protected. Materials found elsewhere in the Park such as black granite, basalt stone and bronze are repeated in the new Memorial.

Specifications for Proposed New Memorial Elements

The following is a breakdown of the various constituent elements of the proposed Vietnam War Memorial, as indicated in the site plan below:



Vietnam War Memorial
Schematic Design Plan

May 10, 2019
Mike Abbat , FASLA Landscape Architect
www.abbat designs.com

TABLE 1

Item No.	Element	Size	Materials	Notes
1	Memorial Monument	Columns are a mix of sizes: 12"x12", 18"x18", and 24"x24". Height ranges from 3' at the ends, increasing to 8' at the corner	Black Granite columns with names of deceased servicemen engraved on back side	This is a black granite "wall" made of spaced columns to mirror the WWII Memorial to the north
2	Brothers Benches	2' wide x 6' long x 18" high	Likely granite	These are benches for sitting and commemorate the 4 Oregon families that lost 2 sons in the war
3	MIA/POW Stations	24" x 36"	Engraved Granite Plaques: 1 for POWs & 1 or MIAs	These plaques will be embedded in the basalt stone wall surrounding the alcove along the walkway
4	Nurses Station	10' long x 6' wide x 5' high	Bronze Sculpture	Artwork on a raised granite pedestal celebrating the work of nurses and medics in the war
6	Honor Station – Wetland Feature	23' x 32'	Stormwater treatment facility	This element will treat stormwater runoff from the paved areas of the Memorial and will not have water in it otherwise
7	A Soldier's Return	7.5' long x 6.5" wide x 7.5' tall	Bronze Sculpture	This artwork features a soldier who will be first seen from behind as you enter the Memorial



8	Meeting & Gathering Station	80' long x 40' wide	Paved plaza	This open paved area will accommodate group celebrations and remembrances
9	Persian Gulf War Memorial	24" x 36"	Engraved Granite Plaque	This plaque will be embedded in the basalt stone wall surrounding the alcove along the walkway
10	Gold Star Families Memorial Monument	16' long x 2.5' wide x 6' tall in an arc	Black Granite with Engraving	This is a Monument that has been designed by the Herschel Woody Williams Medal of Honor Foundation and installed in 49 US states and territories. For more info, see www.hwwmohf.org
11	Purple Heart State Plaque	24" x 36"	Engraved Granite Plaque	This plaque will be embedded in the basalt stone wall surrounding the alcove along the walkway

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