

PROJECT	Smithsonian Institution- Revitalization of the Historic Core (RoHC)	MEETING DATE	7/26/2023
ORGANIZER	Smithsonian Institution, Carly Bond (moderator)	TIME	2:00-4:00pm
LOCATION	Virtual/Zoom		
PANELISTS	Carly Bond- Smithsonian Institution Brenda Sanchez, Smithsonian Institution Christopher Lethbridge- Smithsonian Institution Matthew Chalifoux, EYP-Loring Anthony Bochicchio, EYP-Loring Faye Harwell, Rhodeside and Harwell		
SUBJECT	Consulting Parties Meeting #15		

MEETING MINUTES

Purpose – This was Consulting Parties Meeting 15 for the Revitalization of the Historic Core (RoHC) project of the Smithsonian Institution. The meeting was held in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

The agenda for this meeting was focused on Phase 2 of the Section 106 consultation. The meeting agenda included the following design issues:

- **Basement Windows and Doors**
 - **Including Interior Effects**
- **Window Replacement**
 - **Window Design & Muntin Profile**
 - **Interior Effects**
 - **Anchorage Details**
- **Interior Effects of Lowering B0 Floor**
- **Review of July 11th Site Visit**
- **Resolution of Pending Items**
 - **Perimeter Security - Stone Selection**
 - **Accessible Walkway - Cladding**
 - **Planting Plan**
 - **Areaway Materials**

Phase 2 of Section 106 consultation will continue through 2023.

The meeting was assembled virtually and included a slide presentation, which has been posted on the RoHC project website. Attendees were asked to post questions or comments in the chat during the presentation. The following is a list of the questions and comments with a summary of the responses. Information regarding the project, including the slide presentation, is available through the project webpage: <https://ahhp.si.edu/historic-core>

Questions and Comments

Written

Basement Windows and Doors

1. **Q:** Considering grilles will be put on the windows, diamond patten + grilles seem excessive. Perhaps just a diamond grille?

R: There's no historic precedent for a diamond-pattern window grille. We are proposing to put grilles back that match what is on the building now. There is a security need for the grilles, but they also provide an appearance that's part of the building. The other comment, if there's a grille, do we need the diamond pattern in the window, is worth exploring. We'll continue to look at historic photos.

WINDOW REPLACEMENT

2. **Q:** Can you clarify—are you saying you must go with simulated divided light windows, or is retain/refurbish the existing and installation of an interior storm an alternative?

R: Where we have historic windows, we are retaining them and installing an interior storm to provide the necessary protection. For new windows, we feel it's better to put in a completely new blast window. Where we have a historic window, we're protecting it; where we don't, we're replacing it.

3. **Q:** Considering the depth of the profiles and visual impact, did you consider a single-pane true-divided lite system with an interior storm panel?

R: That was a design option that was evaluated. The preferred option is to install new blast windows for three reasons. An interior blast panel will visually block the windows from the interior and make access to those windows from the interior for maintenance very difficult, in some locations an interior blast panel would negatively impact interior decorative plaster, and the blast windows provide better thermal performance because they are fabricated using insulated glazing units (IGUs).

4. **Q:** If you utilize the diamond pattern muntins on the basement windows, those would also be simulated divided lite?

R: That's correct.

5. **Q:** The muntins look very delicate here (in the rendering, slide 58).

R: Yes, but they are drawn to scale. What's driving the muntin width of 7/8" is the width of the spacer in the insulated glazing.

Q: Thanks. I think the biggest issue would be when (if?) SDL and TDL are set near each other.

R: The windows utilizing true divided light sash are limited to the locations where a historic sash has survived and will be refurbished and reinstalled. These are located in the clerestory of the

West Range and the apse of the West Wing (the Commons). These windows are not directly adjacent to windows that will have simulated divided lights.

INTERIOR EFFECTS OF LOWERING B0 FLOOR
REVIEW OF JULY 11TH SITE VISIT
RESOLUTION OF PENDING ITEMS

No questions.

Verbal

Basement Windows and Doors

1. **Q:** In general, the disposition of doors and windows seems quite reasonable. One question - is the use of diamond pattern muntins on the basement windows historic?

R: Great question – it is what’s in the windows now, but we know that a majority of the windows were replaced in the 1980s. As far as we know, the windows were replaced in-kind at that time.

Q (continued): Honestly, the diamond pattern seems strange for a utilitarian space. With the grilles on top of it, I want to see it simpler as just a double hung. But I could live with the preferred option. I wonder about it because it’s hard to imagine that the (pattern) would have been included originally.

R: We’ll look into it further. Reducing the muntins in the windows will allow more light into the basement, something we have been striving for throughout the design. The Smithsonian Institution team has been great at finding additional historic photos in response to questions and comments.

2. **Q:** Written comment #1 was a misunderstanding - if there were grilles there keep it as it is. I thought it was new.

R: Thank you.

WINDOW REPLACEMENT

No questions

INTERIOR EFFECTS OF LOWERING B0 FLOOR
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3. **Q:** All good progress, thank you for the mock-ups and options. Generally, we have the Seneca stone of the building in its authenticity. My sense is that we should back away from it visually. We’re using the Olympic Black for the control joint; I think it’s best to stay with Olympic Black generally (for North Entry Ramp cladding). I think you should consider it generally; it’s subtle, it blends nicely with plantings and soils, and doesn’t compete. For security, it’s a question of simplicity – you already have the curbs from the streetscape (Mt. Airy), the building itself, the Olympic Black – I would not go with the warmer tone but go with the Olympic Black.

For the areaways I think the stone rather than parge. Will the rubble have to be demolished?

R: A significant amount of the rubble stone foundations that survive will be retained as the new concrete foundation walls are constructed. The rubble stone is sound structurally, but there will be work performed to fill in voids. We have studied exposing the rubble stone, but it was not designed to be exposed and we are concerned about the appearance but more importantly the risk of water infiltration.

Q (continued): If the rubble stone could perform in terms of water, sure. The rendering shows the new cladding stone to be very thick, but if we reduce the depth, it doesn't look as strong.

R: We will continue to study the detailing of the cladding of the walls in the areaways.

4. **Q:** The exterior stone issue translates into the interior column bases – terrazzo seems strange. Are the existing brick piers painted above the new pier extensions?

R: Yes

Q (continued): Is there a way to reduce the thickness of the stone cladding? Is there a way for the brick pier to cantilever out? It already seems very heavy. Is there any way to recess the stone a little bit?

R: We will look into it. Keep in mind that the cladding will be over a concrete extension to the pier which cannot be recessed too far from the face of the brick.

Q (continued): A thinner cladding or recessed detail could also help with mobility. One last comment, the embrasures at the window all make sense, but the height is getting really close to the vaults. Is the height of the windows already established?

R: Those heights already exist.

Q (continued): If they weren't I'd say take it down [to the next water course], but if they're existing leave as is.

R: We appreciate the feedback. Going back to the exterior stone options, if you look at slide 78 on the lower right, there's the small piece of granite between the Prairie Brown and lighter finish; the finish on the Olympic Black has a softness about it that will look good against the Seneca for the freestanding security elements.

Q (continued): The one location where a replacement for the Seneca sandstone may make more sense is on the facing and coping of the ramps/ sloped sidewalks.

R: For vertical faces and perimeter security it will be softer.

END OF MEETING