

PROJECT	<b>Smithsonian Institution- Revitalization of the Historic Core (RoHC)</b>	MEETING DATE	4/26/2023
ORGANIZER	<b>Smithsonian Institution, Carly Bond (moderator)</b>	TIME	2:00-4:00pm
LOCATION	Virtual/Zoom		
PANELISTS	Carly Bond- Smithsonian Institution Christopher Lethbridge- Smithsonian Institution Brenda Sanchez- Smithsonian Institution Matthew Chalifoux, EYP-Loring Anthony Bochicchio, EYP-Loring Faye Harwell, Rhodeside and Harwell		
SUBJECT	<b>Consulting Parties Meeting #12</b>		

## MEETING MINUTES

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**Purpose – This was Consulting Parties Meeting 12 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:**

- **Roof Mechanical Elements**
  - North Entry Hyphen - Louvered Penthouses
- **South Tower Elevator**
  - Interior Effects
- **Windows**
  - Extent of Existing Masonry Removals
- **Landscape – South Entry Ramp, Railings**
- **Replacement Materials**
  - Sandstone, Roofing Slate
- **Seismic Joint Cover**
  - Stone Options

**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://www.sifacilities.si.edu/historic-core>**

## Questions and Comments

### Written

#### ROOF MECHANICAL ELEMENTS

1. **Q:** Thank you for the additional options. Could the arched option for the visible louver be used for treatment of Option 4?

**R:** Yes, but the reduced louver area created by the arched top would have to be made up on one of the other elevations, increasing the height of the overall construction slightly.

2. **Q:** When installing louvers in the North Tower [Option 4] how much original material will need to be removed. Is it sandstone or brick?

**R:** The proposed louvers would be inserted in the existing arched openings; the sandstone would not be impacted. One of the arches is currently infilled with brick, which may be part of the original construction. The other arch is infilled with diamond-pattern glazing, which dates from the 1980s.

#### SOUTH TOWER ELEVATOR

3. **Q:** With regard to the Children's Room, thank you for finding a way to eliminate the side openings to the elevator vestibules, and aligning the elevator doors to the arches. And thank you for looking for more information on the location of the steps. The revised design with the steps appears very successful, and reduces the impacts caused by the side openings. In terms of the mosaic [third floor], I tend to agree with the Smithsonian's preferred approach, by keeping the overall historic design intact, and using the marble on the side.

**R:** Thank you.

#### LANDSCAPE + REPLACEMENT MATERIALS + SEISMIC JOINT COVER

4. **Q:** I too had been leaning towards one of the mists (Virginia or Jet) but agree from Matt's explanation of how the Olympic Black fades more away as shown in the photo! Thanks!

**R:** Thank you.

### Verbal

#### ROOF ELEMENTS

5. **Q:** Question regarding the renderings depicting the west side - for all of the options it appears that the west side is more hidden than the east side. Is this accurate? Appreciates the use of arches.

**R:** Yes, the Flag Tower is slightly larger in plan at the roof level and the corner buttresses help hide the penthouses on the west side.

6. **Q:** Regarding the interior routing of ducting for Option 4, how much would this option affect historic spaces?

**R:** None of the interior spaces at this level in the towers are contributing elements, although all the elements of the building are historic. The routing of ductwork would require the removal of brick arched floor slabs and load bearing masonry from the tower wall to connect to the attic.

7. **Q:** Thank you, it's very helpful to see all of the options next to one another. It's definitely getting better. Thought that the intention of the arched louver was to mimic the existing elevator penthouse to the south of the North Tower. Could a similar size to the existing elevator overrun be used?

**R:** Based on feedback from an earlier consulting parties meeting, a lower and more horizontal option was studied. To provide sufficient surface area for the louvers, the east and west facing elevations were much taller than the existing elevator penthouse. The current configurations gain the greatest amount of louver area on the south facing elevations with the least overall visibility.

8. **Q:** Struggling with the idea of the arched opening for Option 3a; would it be negligible from the street?

**R:** You really notice the penthouse when due east of building, on the sidewalk from the Arts and Industries Building. It becomes difficult to see once you move away from due east. Referring back to the South Tower elevator overrun, the arches were trying to pick up on the rhythm of the existing arches of the building, not necessarily the existing elevator penthouse.

9. **Q:** Addressing the latter, I support the use of the arches for the penthouses. The building is considered "arch architecture" by Robert Dale Owen in *Hints on Public Architecture*. This is an appropriate treatment. For Option 4, what kind of material is being removed?

**R:** To accommodate louvers, Option 4 requires removing brick infill which may be original. The windows were installed in the 1980s.

#### SOUTH TOWER ELEVATOR

10. **Q:** Regarding the steps in the Children's Room, as chair of the preservation department at the time of this renovation, I'm confident that the three steps are still there.

**R:** Thank you.

11. **Q:** I'm in support of retaining the solid walls on either side [of the corridor]. While the mosaic is being modified, it doesn't pain [me] too much. I believe that there should be some kind of interpretation there, but for all intents and purposes, the mosaic is the same.

**R:** Thank you. This is a great point about documentation and interpretation.

## WINDOWS

12. **Q:** Do we know when the ramp [to the basement on the south side of the building] was installed?

**R:** We do not know an exact date. At one time the basement was used by the International Exchange Service which based on historic photographs had to move large quantities of publications out of the basement. The ramp may have been added at that time.

13. **Q:** The ramp and door should be documented (photographs and drawings) to archive the history of the building [and its modifications].

**R:** We agree that existing conditions that will be modified as part of this project should be properly documented prior to construction.

14. **Q:** I do not believe new windows should be added to the building. The proposed new windows are larger than existing. In regard to the existing door, can that opening be utilized to bring in light rather than creating new holes in the building? Curious how far the new windowsill is above the new areaway floor?

**R:** It is approximately 3 feet from the new basement level to the proposed windowsills. The elevations we are sharing today provide the proposed new configurations and masonry alterations. We will follow up with more detailed dimensions and details at a future meeting.

15. **Q:** I would expect to see a smaller window for a basement condition. The proposed window looks more like a first-floor window.

**R:** The proposed windows are to provide outside light to visitor amenity areas of the basement.

## LANDSCAPE + REPLACEMENT MATERIALS + SEISMIC JOINT COVER

16. **Q:** I encourage documentation of existing landscape elements, i.e. hand tooled gutter, boot scrapers.


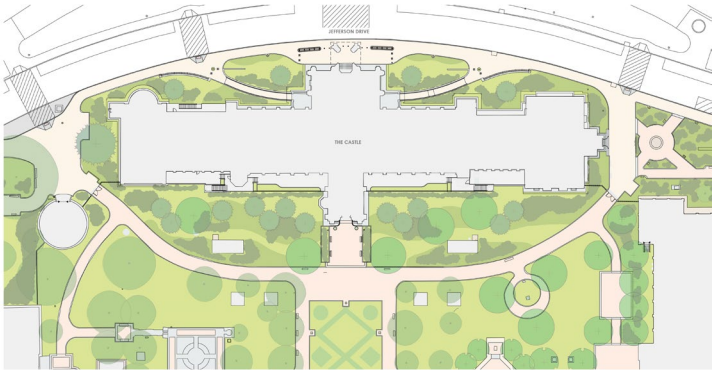
**R:** The boot scrapers will be conserved and returned. We will perform further research to determine the age of the tooled gutter. Documentation of the existing features will be performed prior to construction.

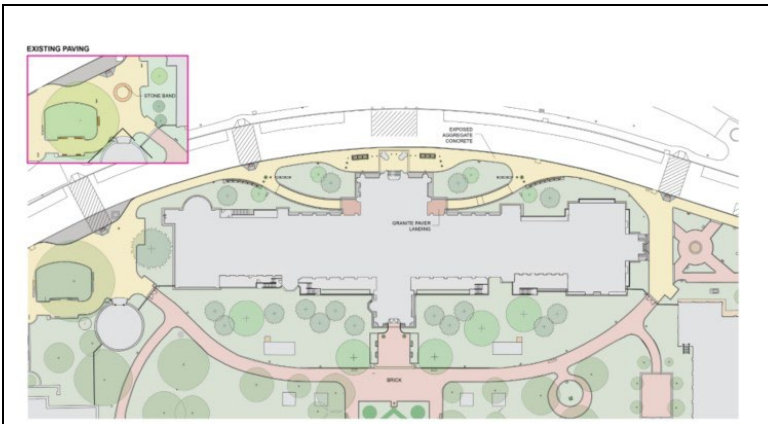
## **END OF MEETING**

Updated pages from the Assessment of Effects on Historic Resources report follow.

**Assessment of Effects on Historic Resources – Phase 2**


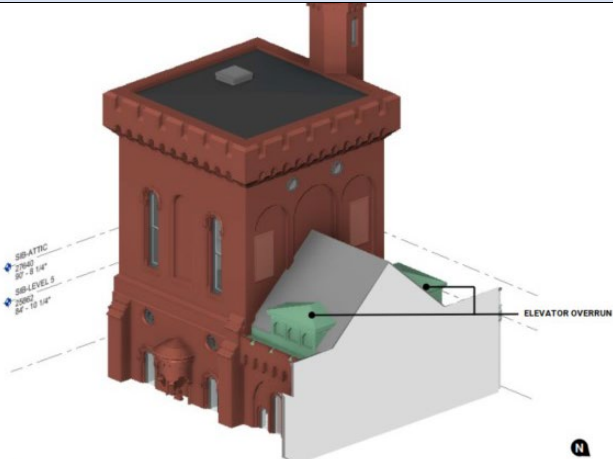
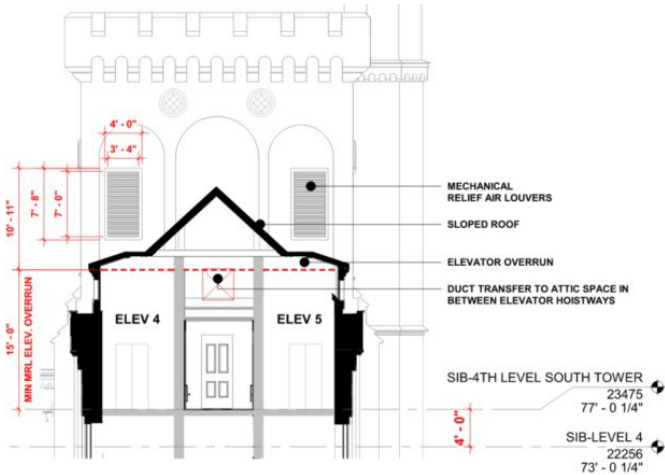
The following provides an assessment of effects of each feature or action of Phase 2 of the RoHC Revitalize Castle. The effect determination is based on the criteria of adverse effect. For more images and information on each action and assessment, please refer to the presentation materials from past Section 106 Consulting Parties meetings available on the project webpage. Phase 2 contains the remaining design actions for consultation to complete the RoHC Revitalize Castle project. Certain design actions were determined to have an adverse effect during Phase 1 consultation, with additional consultation required on minimization measures during Phase 2 consultation.

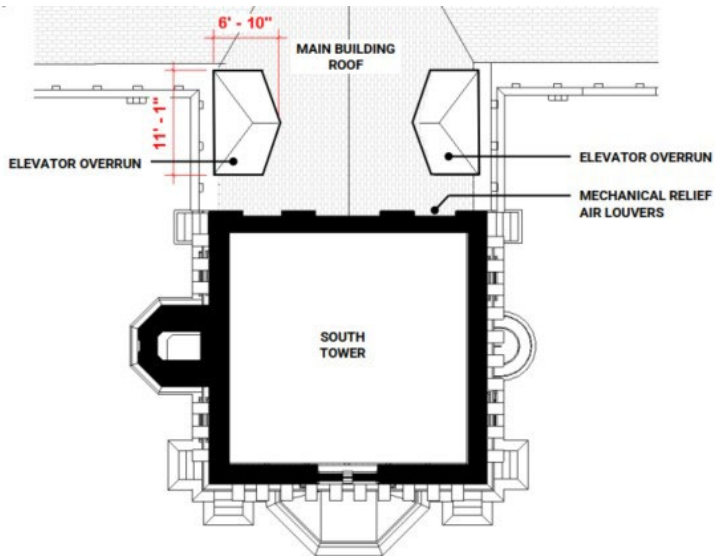
Site	
Feature/Action	Design Details
<p>New Landscape Planting Plan</p>  <p>Existing landscape character, south of the Castle.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hardscape displaced by the project limit of disturbance will be replaced in-kind.</li> <li>- Paths and sidewalks adjacent to Jefferson Drive will have aggregate concrete to match the National Mall standard.</li> <li>- Paths within the Haupt Garden and Folger Rose Garden will have red brick. Granite pavers will be used at the north entrance landings.</li> <li>- Character of the landscape will be maintained, through the same diversity of plant typology and heights and number of trees.</li> <li>- Tree plantings will be slightly setback to prevent biological growth and damage to the Castle’s sandstone. This setback will be minimal enough to maintain the character of the landscape setting.</li> </ul>
Images	Additional Information
 <p>Final landscape plan – To be updated in Phase 2 consultation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Setting of the Castle is a character defining feature.</li> <li>- Haupt Garden is documented in the National Mall Historic District nomination as part of the landscape setting, not as a contributing element.</li> <li>- Current tree plantings are immediately adjacent to and touch the Castle. This results in dense shade conditions causing biological growth on the Seneca sandstone. Setting the trees back slightly from the Castle eliminates dense shade conditions against the stone.</li> <li>- Landscape setting features a mix of large structural trees (evergreen and deciduous), large shrubs/small trees, low shrubs, and groundcover. Diversity and hierarchy of plantings will be maintained.</li> <li>- Refer to “Accessible Walkways at the North Entrance” and “Alterations at the South Entrance to Improve Accessibility” for related changes.</li> <li>- Changes to the landscape and replacement of hardscape will not alter the character of the Castle’s setting.</li> </ul>



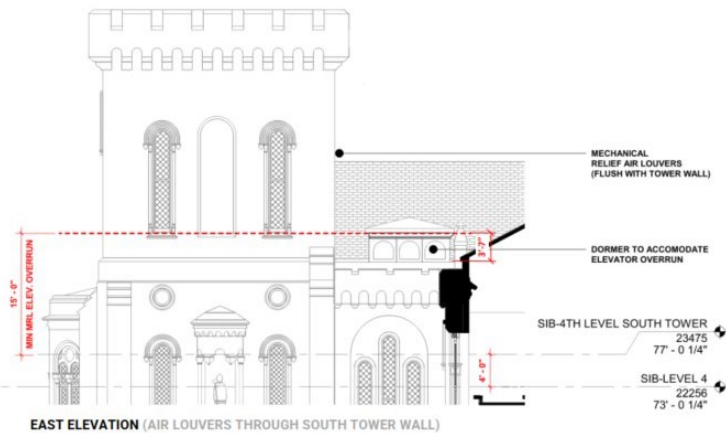
Final paving plan. Yellow shading notes aggregate concrete, red shading notes brick. Granite pavers are proposed at the north entrance landings.

**Proposed** Effect Determination – No Adverse Effect

Smithsonian Institution Building	
Feature/Action	Design Details
<p>South Tower Elevator – Exterior Alterations</p>  <p>Existing condition of the South Tower peaked roof and mechanical bulkhead to be removed, and the blind arches infilled with brick masonry.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Two new elevators replace an existing non-code compliant elevator and stair in the Castle’s South Tower.</li> <li>- Proposed elevators are accessible and code compliant, and will be the primary vertical circulation for the public for all levels of the Castle.</li> <li>- Each new elevator requires a visible overrun. <b>Overruns are 3’7” above the parapet, with a hipped roof, arched detailing, and copper cladding.</b></li> <li>- Mechanical relief is accomplished with through wall louvers at blind arches at the north elevation of the South Tower. Louvers will require the removal of historic brick. <b>Louvers will be finished to match the brick. Louvers cannot be centered within the blind arches due an existing stair and proposed ductwork.</b></li> </ul>
Images	Additional Information
 <p>Partial axonometric view of the South Tower.</p>  <p>Section elevation depicting the size of the through wall louvers and extent of brick removal.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Roof Profile is a character defining feature. South Tower has a steep peaked roof clad in slate shingles.</li> <li>- Proposed work enables the removal of the <b>existing</b> non-code compliant elevator and its visible elevator overrun from the North Tower.</li> <li>- Existing elevator mechanical relief bulkhead is visible from the east and west of the South Tower.</li> <li>- Proposed elevators use Machine Room Less technology, which does not require overhead mechanical equipment above the elevator shaft. If this technology was not used, the elevator overruns would be significantly taller.</li> <li>- Alternate locations for these public elevators cannot be considered to avoid adverse effects to the South Tower exterior and interior. This is because the Adolf Cluss modifications inserted additional levels creating quarter level height differences between the finish floors of the South Tower and the Main Building.</li> <li>- Phase 1 of 106 consultation included a significantly taller mechanical relief bulkhead than the existing condition, found to have significant visual impact and adverse effect. Phase 1 of 106 consultation produced a through wall louver design, with consensus that this solution minimized adverse effect <b>by eliminating visibility of the mechanical relief bulkhead.</b></li> <li>- Proposed elevator overruns will be visible from the east and west of the South Tower.</li> <li>- Proposed exterior changes have an adverse effect on the Castle’s roofline, South Tower massing, and</li> </ul>



Proposed roof plan noting locations of the elevator overruns and through wall louvers.



East elevation of the South Tower, depicting the preferred hipped roof and detailing of the overrun.

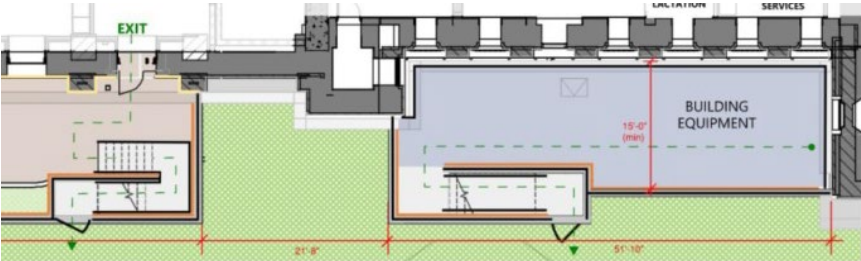
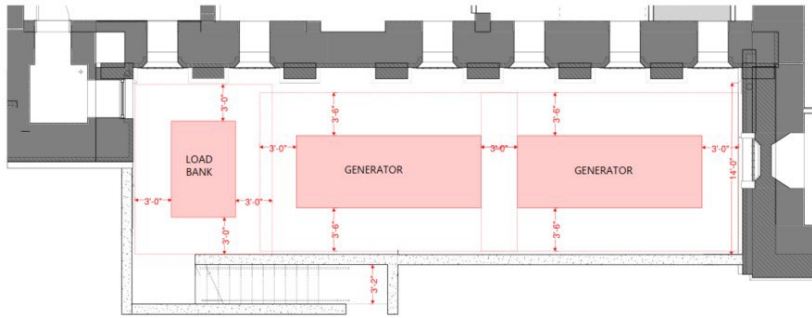
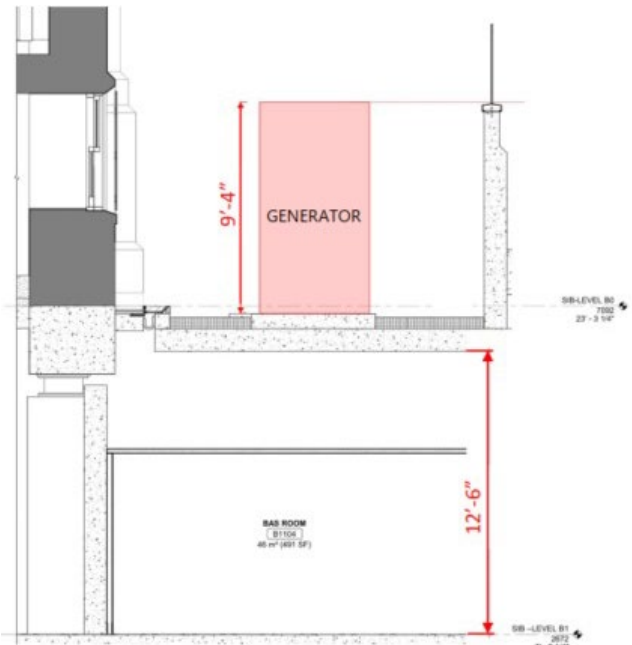




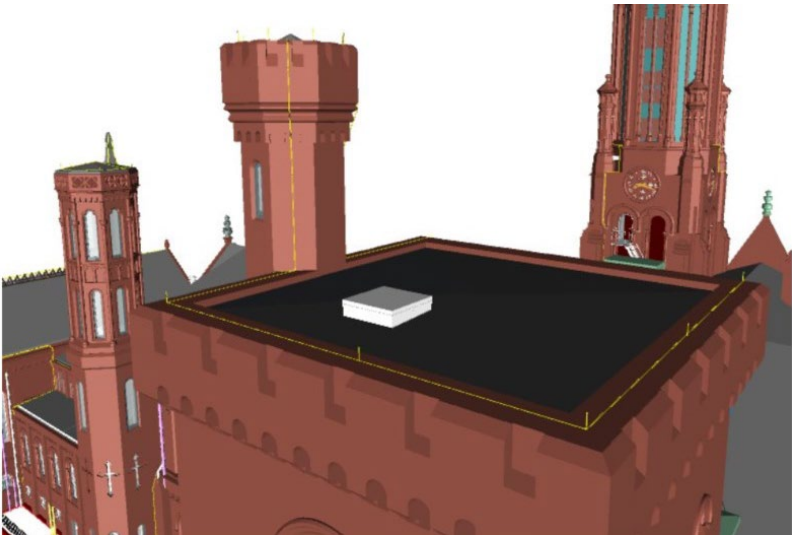
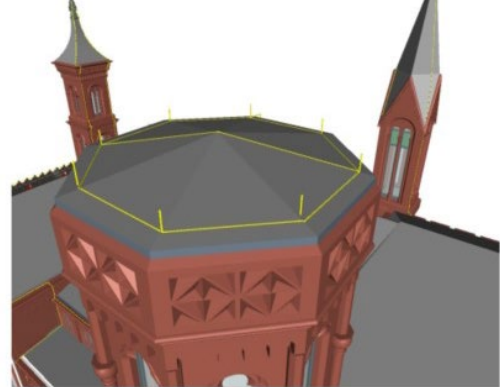
Location of the southeast elevator overrun noted with a red arrow.



will remove historic roofing materials and brick masonry.  
 - Adverse effect is minimized through the minimum proposed height of the overruns; and shaping, articulating, and cladding the overruns in keeping with other rooftop appurtenances.  
 - Contributes to the cumulative adverse effect on the Castle's Building Massing, Perimeter Towers, and Roof Profile

**Proposed Effect Determination – Adverse Effect**



Smithsonian Institution Building	
Feature/Action	Design Details
<p>Emergency Generator</p>  <p>Partial southeast areaway plan. Location for the emergency generator noted with blue shading.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Two new emergency generator gas generators and associated equipment will be located within the proposed southeast areaway.</li> <li>- Maximum height of each generator at 9'4" will not exceed the height of the proposed areaway wall.</li> <li>- Emergency generator may be visible within the Castle's setting.</li> </ul>
Images	Additional Information
 <p>Southeast areaway detail plan.</p>  <p>Section of southeast areaway above the SIB Extension. Generators do not exceed the height of the areaway wall.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Removal of the Central Utility Plant from the project required alternate placement for the emergency generator.</li> <li>- Emergency generators replace two existing pieces of mechanical equipment, one of which is visible above-grade.</li> <li>- Generators will not be visible within the Haupt Garden and setting, except within the immediate vicinity of the southeast areaway. The southeast areaways are for staff use or building operations and will not have any public function.</li> <li>- Presence of the largely non-visible generators and associated equipment does not intensify the adverse effect from the areaways.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Proposed Effect Determination – No Adverse Effect</b></p>	

Smithsonian Institution Building	
Feature/Action	Design Details
<p data-bbox="110 281 521 310">Installation of Lightning Protection</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div data-bbox="115 348 553 728">  <p data-bbox="110 732 513 787">Historic image c. 1930 of the West Tower with lightning protection.</p> </div> <div data-bbox="581 407 979 728">  <p data-bbox="581 732 967 787">Octagon Tower damaged by a lightning strike in 2005.</p> </div> </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lighting protection system will be installed on the perimeter of the Castle roof.</li> <li>- Air terminals (metal rod) projects 10" above rooftop features, placed at the perimeter of the Towers and peak of the East Wing roof.</li> <li>- Air terminals will be clamp to existing features, with grounding cables held in place using metal brackets attached at mortar joints. Some cables will require adhesive mounting at the roof edges.</li> </ul>
Images	Additional Information
<div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column;"> <div data-bbox="115 894 902 1425">  <p data-bbox="110 1430 683 1459">Axonometric view over the South Tower roof looking west.</p> </div> <div data-bbox="115 1459 612 1843">  <p data-bbox="110 1848 597 1877">Proposed Octagon Tower air terminals and cables.</p> </div> </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lighting protection was implemented in the original Castle design with wrought iron lighting rods on the Perimeter Towers, originally 10' taller than the various Tower roofs.</li> <li>- In 2005 the Southeast Tower roof was damaged from a lightning strike and restored.</li> <li>- Proposed lighting protection system is in keeping with systems found on historic buildings on the National Mall.</li> <li>- Air terminals will have minimal visibility and the grounding cables will be installed in building recesses or the least obtrusive locations.</li> <li>- Lighting protection system will not damage historic fabric and is fully reversible.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Proposed Effect Determination – No Adverse Effect</b></p>	

Smithsonian Institution Building	
Feature/Action	Design Details
Exterior Masonry Restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Exterior red Seneca sandstone will be restored, including façade cleaning, and pointing.</li> <li>- Maximum amount of sound sandstone will be preserved.</li> <li>- Stone repairs include resetting of displaced masonry, Dutchmen repairs, and select full replacement stones.</li> <li>- A red sandstone (St. Bees) was selected through consultation as the alternative stone to use for restoration repairs after Seneca sandstone reserves are exhausted.</li> </ul>
Images	Additional Information
 <p>Seneca sandstone with biological growth staining.</p>  <p>Displaced Seneca sandstone masonry at the Octagon Tower.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Seneca sandstone exterior is a character defining feature.</li> <li>- Seneca sandstone is no longer quarried, and the SI retains a significant stockpile at a Smithsonian storage facility that will be used for the restoration work.</li> <li>- Stone replacement pieces will be in-kind, with hand tooling and finishing to maintain consistency with the stone color ranges, texture, and detailing.</li> <li>- Stone restoration will be consistent with the <i>Secretary of the Interior’s Standards</i> Preservation approach.</li> <li>- Seneca stone reserves will prioritized for highly visible repairs, and limit any alternative sandstone for repairs in less visible areas.</li> </ul>
<b>Proposed Effect Determination – No Adverse Effect</b>	