

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITES

19. Pennsylvania Avenue

September 30, 1965

**THE PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
WASHINGTON, D. C.**

ORDER OF DESIGNATION

WHEREAS, the act of August 21, 1935 (49 Stat. 666; 16 U.S.C. Secs. 461 *et seq.*) declares it to be a national policy to preserve for public use historic sites, buildings, and objects of national significance for the inspiration and benefit of the people of the United States; and

WHEREAS, I have determined that certain lands in the city of Washington, District of Columbia, possess exceptional value in commemorating or illustrating the history of the United States within the meaning of the act of August 21, 1935, since within the area are situate Pennsylvania Avenue and historically related environs and since the area achieves national historical significance in the following manner:

Over a span of the century and a half the segment of Pennsylvania Avenue between the White House and the Capitol has symbolized the majesty and power of the American Republic and the triumphs and tragedies of the American people. Along this truly national thoroughfare travel the Presidents of the United States in the ritual procession following inauguration that marks the assumption of Presidential powers and duties and gives the Nation its first glimpse of the new Chief of State. Along it in death have traveled six Presidents and numerous national leaders in State funeral processions that expressed the Nation's sense of loss. Along it have occurred victory celebrations signaling the close of four major wars. On it occurred public ceremonies celebrating great national achievements. On it the Nation receives foreign heads of state and visiting dignitaries. And on it the Nation accords its acclaim to military, civil, and scientific heroes.

The Nation's great men and women trod the ceremonial way not only in the pageantry of victory and defeat, but also in daily activities reflecting and shaping national life. Along Pennsylvania Avenue and its adjacent streets stood hotels, boarding houses, and restaurants where the statesmen lodged, dined, debated the issues of the day, and perfected courses of action that guided the Nation's destiny. In the theaters and places of amusement of this district they sought release from the cares of office.

In its markets and shops they bought the necessities of life. In its hostelries they gathered for entertainments and celebrations highlighted by the quadrennial Presidential Inaugural Ball. In this area two Presidents, Lincoln and Garfield, were struck down by the assassin's bullet. And here, as time went on, the commercial center of the capital receded before an eastward advance of the Executive Branch of the Government that ultimately produced the Federal Triangle and thereby introduced the monumental architectural scale characteristic of modern Washington.

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The Pennsylvania Avenue district is anchored on each end by historic buildings of transcendent importance to the Nation. It contains structures of varying historical value and antiquity. It is associated with events and people of large consequence in the history of the Republic and its Capital.

An enduring and constantly enlarging symbolism dramatically clothes the district, composed of the Avenue and its environs, with national historical significance; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of the Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Site will constitute a fitting memorial to the great personages of this Nation who have lived and worked in the area; and to the monumental events of national importance which have occurred therein; and

WHEREAS, a plan has been developed for this great national thoroughfare by the Temporary Commission on Pennsylvania Avenue which presents an initial basis for enhancing these historical values in a fitting manner; and

WHEREAS, the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments, as its 53rd meeting in Alaska, July 30-August 11, 1965, has considered the historical significance of Pennsylvania Avenue and its historically related environs in Washington D. C., and found that this district possesses outstanding national historical significance.

NOW, THEREFORE, with the concurrence of Lyndon B. Johnson, President of the United States, I, Stewart L. Udall, Secretary of the Interior, by virtue of and pursuant to the authority vested in me under the act of Congress approved August 21, 1935, do hereby designate the following described lands to be a National Historic Site having the name "The Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Site":

Beginning at a point on the Southwest corner of the intersection of 15th Street and Constitution Avenue (NW), Easterly along the South side of Constitution Avenue, to the Southwest corner of the intersection of Constitution Avenue and Pennsylvania Avenue; then Easterly along the South side of Pennsylvania Avenue to and including the outer circumference of First Street (NW) which forms an arc around Peace Monument; then Westerly along the North side of Pennsylvania Avenue to the Northeast corner of the intersection of 3rd Street and Pennsylvania Avenue (NW); then Northerly along the East side of 3rd Street to the Northeast corner of the intersection of 3rd Street and E Street (NW); then Westerly along the North side of E Street to the Northeast corner of the intersection of E Street and 4th Street (NW); then Northerly along the East side of 4th Street to the Northeast corner of the intersection of 4th Street and G Street (NW); then Westerly along the North side of G Street (NW) to the Northeast corner of the intersection of G Street and 5th Street (NW); then Southerly along the West side of 5th Street to the Northeast corner of the intersection of 5th Street and E Street (NW); then Westerly along the North side of E Street to the Northeast corner of the intersection of E Street and 7th Street (NW); then Northerly along the East side of 7th Street to the point on 7th Street being the intersection of the North side of G street with the East side of 7th Street (NW); then Westerly from that point along the North side of G Street to the point being the intersection of the North side of G Street with the West side of 9th Street (NW); than Southerly from that point along the West side of 9th Street (NW) to the Northwest corner of the intersection of 9th Street and F Street (NW); then Westerly along the North side of F Street to the Northeast corner of the intersection of F Street and 11th Street (NW); then Southerly along the East side of 11th Street to the Northeast corner of the intersection of 11th Street and E Street (NW); then Westerly along the North

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side of E Street to a point approximating what would be the Northeast corner of E Street and 13 ½ Street if the latter were extended North across Pennsylvania Avenue; then Northerly from that point along a line forming a perpendicular to F Street, to the intersection of said line with the North side of F Street; then Westerly along the North side of F Street to the Northeast corner of the intersection of F Street and 15th Street (NW); then Northerly along the East side of 15th Street to the Southeast corner of the intersection of 15th Street, New York Avenue, and Pennsylvania Avenue (NW); then Westerly along the South side of Pennsylvania Avenue to the Southwest corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and East Executive Avenue; then Southerly along the West side of East Executive Avenue to a point which would be the Southwest corner of the intersection of East Executive Avenue and E Street; then Easterly along the South side of E Street to the Southwest corner of the intersection of E Street and 15th Street (NW); then Southerly along the West side of 15th Street to the point or place of beginning.

Subject to the limitation contained in the second sentence of this paragraph, the administration, protection and development of this National Historic Site shall be exercised in accordance with the provisions of the act of August 21, 1935. Unless provided otherwise by Act of Congress, no funds appropriated to the Department of the Interior shall be expended for the administration, protection and development of the Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Site.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the Department of the Interior to be affixed in the city of Washington, District of Columbia, this thirtieth day of September 1965.

Stewart Udall,
Secretary of the Interior.

I CONCUR:

Lyndon B. Johnson
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

September 30, 1965

No. 11210

March 25, 1965, 30 F.R. 4051

**ESTABLISHING A TEMPORARY COMMISSION ON
PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE**

WHEREAS Pennsylvania Avenue between the Capitol and the White House serves as the main ceremonial avenue connecting the centers of the Legislative and Executive Branches of the United States Government; and

WHEREAS parts of Pennsylvania Avenue have been in large measure developed in a manner consistent therewith; and

WHEREAS other parts of Pennsylvania Avenue have deteriorated in condition and design or are otherwise ill suited to the ceremonial purposes of the Avenue and to the National dignity; and

WHEREAS the President's Ad Hoc Committee on Federal Office Space called the attention of the President to the deterioration and obsolescence of Pennsylvania Avenue and recommended that he enlist the aid of the finest architectural talent in the Nation to develop plans for the improvement of Pennsylvania Avenue to reflect its National significance; and

WHEREAS the President requested distinguished members of the architectural and city planning profession to serve on a Council on Pennsylvania Avenue and to develop a plan for the improvement of the Avenue to a level commensurate with its National purpose; and

WHEREAS Congress, in support of this objective, appropriated funds to assist in the preparation of such plans; and

WHEREAS the President's Council on Pennsylvania Avenue has developed a general plan for the improvement of the Avenue, and the Council has been dissolved; and

WHEREAS the plan developed by the President's Council on Pennsylvania Avenue has been subjected to extensive review by the National Capital Planning Commission and other interested departments and agencies and has been deemed appropriate in its main outlines; and

WHEREAS the Congress will be asked to consider legislation to provide for the improvement of Pennsylvania Avenue:

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the United States, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Temporary Commission on Pennsylvania Avenue. (a) There is hereby established the Temporary Commission on Pennsylvania Avenue (hereinafter referred to as the Commission).

(b) The Commission shall be composed of the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Commerce, the Attorney General, the Postmaster General, the Administrator of General Services, the Housing and Home Finance Administrator, the Chairman of the Commission of Fine Arts, the Chairman of the National Capital Planning Commission, the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, the President of the Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia, the Director of the National Gallery of Art, and such other members as may be appointed by the President. The Chairman shall invite the Architect of the Capitol to be a member of the Commission.

(c) The President shall appoint from among its members a Chairman of the Commission who shall direct its activities.

(d) Members of the Commission who are officers or employees of the Federal Government shall receive no additional compensation by virtue of membership on the Commission. Other members of the Commission shall be entitled to receive compensation and travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by law (5 U.S.C. 55a; 5 U.S.C. 73b—2) for persons in the Government service employed intermittently.

(e) The Commission shall meet at the call of the Chairman.

Sec. 2. Functions of the Commission. (a) The Commission shall advise the President with respect to:

(1) the component parts of the general plan submitted by the President's Advisory Council on Pennsylvania Avenue respecting their feasibility and practicability from the standpoint of financial, engineering, planning, and other relevant considerations;

(2) the development of an orderly, phased program for carrying out the improvement of Pennsylvania Avenue;

(3) effects of the proposed improvements on owners and occupants of private property in and adjoining the area to be improved and actions respecting the improvement program that will assure its achievement with minimum harmful effects upon such private interests and with the least disruption of business within and adjoining the area;

(4) appropriate legislation for carrying out the program of improvement;

(b) Take steps to assure that such recommendations as it may develop respecting plans and programs for the improvement of Pennsylvania Avenue and the Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital and other plans prepared or being prepared by the National Capital Planning Commission are properly coordinated.

(c) Promote an understanding of the plan and its objectives among the public generally; and

(d) Undertake such other actions as may be permitted by law and requested by the President in furtherance of the objectives of this order.

Sec. 3. Commission staff and consultants. (a) The Chairman is authorized to appoint such personnel as may be necessary to assist the Commission in connection with the performance of its functions.

(b) The Commission is authorized to obtain services in accordance with the provisions of Section 15 of the Act of August 2, 1946 (5 U.S.C. 55a).

Sec. 4. Federal agencies. (a) As deemed necessary to facilitate the work of the Commission, the Chairman may request the head of any Executive department or agency whose activities may relate to the objectives of the Commission to designate a liaison officer to consult with the Commission on matters of common concern.

(b) Upon request of the Chairman, each Executive department or agency is authorized and directed, consistent with law, to furnish the Commission available information which the Commission may require in the performance of its functions.

(c) Each Federal agency represented on the Commission shall furnish such necessary assistance to the Commission as may be authorized by Section 214 of the Act of May 3, 1945, 59 Stat. 134 (31 U.S.C. 691).

(d) The National Capital Planning Commission is hereby designated as the agency which shall provide administrative services for the Commission.

LYNDON B. JOHNSON

THE WHITE HOUSE,
March 25, 1965.

No. 11347

April 20, 1967, 32 F.R. 6333

**AMENDMENT OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 11210,
ESTABLISHING A TEMPORARY COMMISSION ON
PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE**

By virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the United States, Executive Order No. 11210 of March 25, 1965,¹³ is amended by substituting for subsection (b) of section 1 thereof the following:

“ (b) The Commission shall be composed of the Attorney General, the Postmaster General, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Transportation, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Administrator of General Services, the Chairman of the Commission of Fine Arts, the Chairman of the National Capital Planning Commission, the Director of the National Gallery of Art, the President of the Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia, the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, and such other members as may be appointed by the President. The Chairman shall invite the Architect of the Capitol to be a member of the Commission.”

LYNDON B. JOHNSON

THE WHITE HOUSE,
April 20, 1967.

13. 1965 U.S. Code Cong. & Adm. News, p. 4374