



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

JUL 02 2015

H32(2280)

The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Ms. Norton:

Thank you for your letter of May 21, 2015, to Secretary Jewel regarding the District of Columbia Government's efforts to develop a portion of the McMillan Park Reservoir Historic District. The McMillan Park Reservoir Historic District, located in the District of Columbia, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on January 1, 2013, and is also listed on the D.C. Inventory of Historic Sites.

As you may know, the United States Army Corps of Engineers declared the property surplus in 1986 and asked the General Services Administration (GSA) to dispose of it. GSA determined that open space was not the highest and best use of the property and elected to sell the property for mixed use commercial development. In 1987, a 25-acre parcel was acquired, with covenants, by the District of Columbia Government and has been the subject of an extended planning process undertaken by the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Economic Development. It is our understanding that the covenants require the District to submit all development plans to the D.C. Historic Preservation Review Board for approval.

While we are sympathetic to your concern for the preservation of this unique property, the National Park Service does not have a role in determining the appropriate plan for the redevelopment of the McMillan site. We respectfully suggest that questions regarding the development of the property are best addressed to the Deputy Mayor's office.

Thank you for your inquiry. Please let us know if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Stephanie S. Toothman, Ph.D.
Associate Director, Cultural Resources, Partnerships
and Science Keeper, National Register of Historic Places