



**Hearing before the Historic Preservation Review Board
DC Small Area Plan – Former Walter Reed Army Medical Center
Testimony Presented by Loretta Neumann, Trustee,
Committee of 100 on the Federal City
September 27, 2012**

Founded 1923

Chair

George R. Clark, Esq.

Vice-Chair

Nancy MacWood

Secretary

John W. Yago

Treasurer

Carol Aten

Trustees

Reyn Anderson

Bill Crews

Dorothy Douglas

Monte Edwards

Alma Gates

Erik Hein

Meg Maguire

Loretta Neumann

Laura M. Richards, Esq.

Lance Salonia

Marilyn J. Simon

Richard Westbrook

Dr. Beverley Wheeler

Evelyn Wrin

945 G Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20001

202.681.0225

info@committeeof100.net

Madam Chair, thank you for the opportunity to testify today on behalf of the Committee of 100 concerning the DC Government's small area plan for the redevelopment of about 67 acres of the former Walter Reed Army Medical Center (WRAMC). We participated as a consulting party and commented on the draft programmatic agreement that the Army negotiated with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) and the DC Historic Preservation Office (HPO) under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. We have also attended numerous meetings concerning the reuse plan and the small area plan.

We have four basic comments to make to you today.

First, we want to stress that **this site has great local as well as national historical significance.** It has been a part of the cultural life of northwest Washington for over a century. It has been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and was nominated by the DC Preservation League as an historic landmark. Under the programmatic agreement, the Army will request designation of the entire installation as an historic district (a designation we support). Present and future actions affecting properties on the WRAMC will be submitted to HPRB for your review.

Second, the **historical significance of WRAMC site is not limited to its function as an Army medical hospital and research facility that opened in 1909. It was also part of a major battle, on July 11-12, 1864, the Battle of Fort Stevens.** This was the only battle of the Civil War that occurred in the nation's capital. Confederates occupied most of what is now Walter Reed and surrounding areas in DC and Maryland. A Confederate sharpshooter, on land that later became part of the WRAMC, shot at - and fortunately missed - President Lincoln. It remains today the only time a sitting U.S. President has come under direct fire during war. This history must also be considered as new developments are proposed for the WRAMC site.

Third, we wish to **acknowledge and thank Tim Dennee**, HPO architectural historian and preservation planner who has worked both thoughtfully and diligently with the Army, ACHP, and consulting parties on historic preservation issues at Walter Reed and to develop the programmatic agreement.

Fourth, as Mr. Dennee's report notes, there are also **other historic properties that will be transferred to the Department of State** on about 43 acres on the west side of Walter Reed. We too want to flag them, as they will also come before you in the months/years ahead. (Attached is a copy of our comments to the State Department on their proposed Environmental Impact Statement for Walter Reed.)

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify today.