

**Application for a Commemorative Work on
District of Columbia Public Space**

Washington, D.C.

BUST OF ARMEN GARO, FIRST ARMENIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES

Name of Commemorative Work

2225 R STREET, NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20008

Location of Commemorative Work

Submitted by

Friends of the Armenian Embassy Building and Educational Fund

Name of Sponsoring Organization

**Submitted to the District of Columbia Commemorative Works Committee
07-19-2022**

Date

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Appendix B: Proof of Sponsor's 501(c)(3) status

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1. *U.S. Department of State*: Letter by Matthew Sandelands, Acting Assistant Director, Policy and Reciprocity, Office of Foreign Missions, U.S. Department of State, to Christopher Bailey, Deputy Building Official of Permit Operations, DCRA Permits and Licensing Division, dated September 18, 2018
2. *Embassy of Armenia*: Letter by Amb. Varuzhan Nersesyan to Jeff Marootian, Director, District Department of Transportation, dated July 2, 2019
3. *Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2D (ANC 2D)*: Letter by Ashley Warren, Chair, ANC 2D, addressed to Matthew Marcou, Chair, Public Space Committee, DC DOT, dated February 25, 2021, conveying the ANC 2D Resolution of Support for the Installation of a Statue at 2225 R Street NW, issued on February 8, 2021.

Appendix D: Site Location on Google Maps and Photos of Existing Public Space

1. Site Location on Google Maps

2. Photos of Existing Public Space

Appendix E: U.S. State Department Archival Documents

1. Letter by Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby to Armen Garo (Pasternadjian), Extending Recognition by the United States Government of the Government of the Armenian Republic, April 23, 1920, Office of the Historian
2. A Guide to the United States History of Recognition, Diplomatic and Consular Relations, by Country, Since 1776: Armenia, Office of the Historian

I. SPONSORING ORGANIZATION

1. Name or title of Proposed Commemorative Work

Bust of Armen Garo, First Armenian Ambassador to the United States

2. Sponsoring Organization

- *Name of sponsoring organization:* Friends of the Armenian Embassy Building and Educational Fund
- *Address of sponsoring organization:* 1629 K Street NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20006
- *Contact Person:* Armen Kharazian, Esq., Legal Counsel
- *Telephone:* (202) 330-6399
- *Fax:* (202) 204-5656
- *E-mail:* armen.kharazian@kharazianlaw.com
- *Tax Status of Principal Sponsor:* Sponsor is a nonprofit corporation formed under Title 29, Chapter 4 of the Code of the District of Columbia, exclusively for charitable, and educational purposes, within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (“Code”) as amended. The corporation is in the process of filing its Form 1023. *See Appendix B, Copies of the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws*

3. Description of Sponsoring Organization

The sponsoring organization, Friends of the Armenian Embassy Building and Educational Fund, is a nonprofit corporation formed under Title 29, Chapter 4 of the Code of the District of Columbia. The corporation filed its Articles of Incorporation with DCRA on July 17, 2020.

The mission of the corporation is to preserve and develop the architectural and functional significance of the public building and its premises at 2225 R Street NW, Washington, DC, also known as the Armenian Embassy building (Building). In furtherance of that mission, the organization solicits charitable contributions, and manages and directs the spending of funds to maintain, repair, and make necessary upgrades to the building and its premises; conducts educational projects exploring and showcasing the historical and architectural significance of the Building; conducts cultural and educational projects dedicated to the Armenian arts, music, and sciences; and engages in other activities consistent with its mission.

Since its founding, the corporation has directly funded several projects to renovate and provide for major maintenance of the building at 2225 R St NW, Washington, DC 20007, worth over \$200,000, including renovating the roof, floors, and the basement of the building, its water, air conditioning, and electrical wiring system, and landscaping. The corporation has also organized and sponsored numerous cultural and educational events dedicated to Armenian arts, culture, and history, the history of the Armenian community

in the United States and the Nation's Capital, and the annual commemoration of the Armenian Genocide on April 24.

The proposed commemorative work – the installation of the statue of the first Armenian Ambassador to the United States, dedicated to the centennial of the establishment of relations between Armenia and the United States – honors the history and legacy of the Armenian American community, and highlights an important early milestone in the U.S.-Armenia relationship. It bears direct relevance to the mission of the sponsoring organization, as an architectural expression of an event of historical and cultural significance for both Armenia and the United States, as well as the Armenian American community and its vibrant presence in Washington, DC.

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

4. Summary of Proposed Commemorative Work

The project involves the installation of the bust of Dr. Armen Garo (1872-1923), an Armenian diplomat, who served as Armenia's first Ambassador to the United States. The work is composed of the following elements: a bust mounted on a vertical marble plinth standing on a granite base, with a hat "hanging on" (attached to) the plinth; and a slab bearing a commemorative plaque, located next to the pedestal. There is an inscription on the plinth under the hat, and an inscription on the plaque mounted on the slab. The plinth is to be installed on the landscaped "public parking" area of the R Street right-of-way, immediately to east of the Chancery's main entrance door, in a recessed position relative to the slab located next. The project celebrates the centennial of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Armenia and the United States and honors the legacy of one of their founding statesmen. The sculpture was created by renowned Canadian-Armenian sculptor Megerditch Tarakdjian and donated to the Armenian Embassy in 2018.

The proposed work is designed to be installed on the Armenian Embassy Chancery's driveway that crosses through the public parking, on the east side of the main door to the Chancery, and west of a planter, on the north side of the R Street NW. The work consists of a solid marble statue of Armen Garo, a 4" thick absolute black granite slab, a 18"x30"x1/2" commemorative bronze plaque, a 1/4" tempered glass railing, a 1 1/4" thick white Carrara marble, a LED low voltage adjustable light fixture, and a proposed stair wall.

5. Subject of Commemorative Work

The proposed work is the sculpture of Armen Garo (Karekin Pastermadjian), Armenia's first Ambassador to the United States. Ambassador Garo was born in 1872 in the Western Armenian city of Karin (Erzurum), former Ottoman Empire, and died in 1923 in Geneva, Switzerland. He was a graduate of the Université de Nancy in France (1895) and the University of Geneva (1900), with a PhD in physics and chemistry.

Ambassador Garo's mission in Washington began in 1919, and was interrupted in November 1920, when Armenia succumbed to the Bolshevik rule. Defying the communist authorities, Ambassador Garo remained in Washington until 1921, representing his country's legitimate government. He retired in 1921, and moved to Europe, where he focused on organizing help for the survivors of the Armenian Genocide and the refugees fleeing the communist rule in Armenia. Ambassador Garo was a statesman, who served his country with distinction, and promoted international understanding through diplomacy.

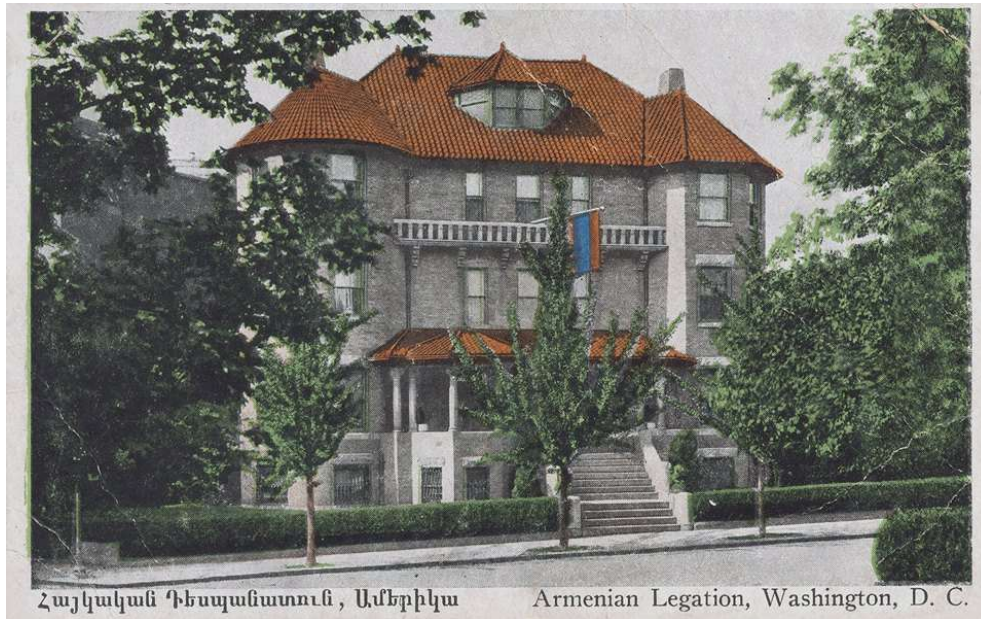
6. Relationship of Commemorative Work to District of Columbia History and Culture

The proposed commemorative work honors the memory and legacy of a prominent Armenian diplomat who established and led Armenia's first diplomatic mission to the United States. Called the Armenian Legation, the mission was located at 2034 20th St NW. It was in that mission that Mr. Garo received the Note from U.S. Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby on the U.S. Government's recognition of the Government of the Armenian Republic. See Appendix E-1.

The present building at 2225 R St NW, where the bust will be installed, was acquired by the Armenian-American Community, and its renovation funded by the Armenian Community of the Greater Washington Area. Washington, DC has a vibrant diplomatic community, and Ambassador Garo contributed to that vibrancy, by promoting stronger ties between Armenia and the United States.

This commemorative work project will be installed on the site of the present Embassy building at 2225 R St NW, not of the old one at 2034 20th St.

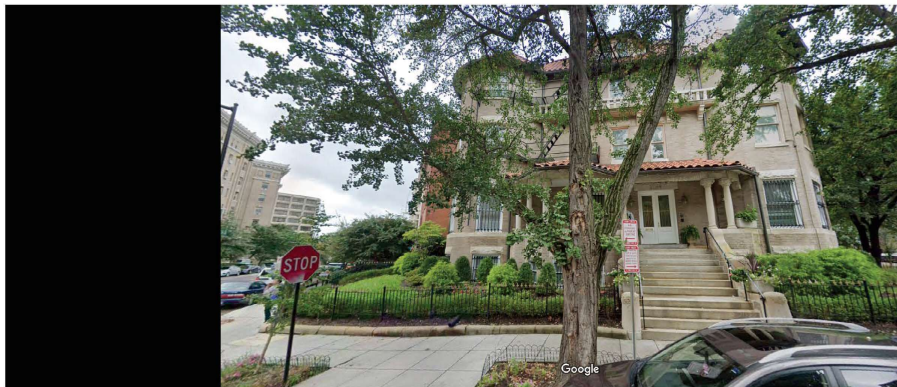
History Through Images: The building on 2034 20th St NW, the site of Armenia's first mission to the United States, the Armenian Legation, then and now. This commemorative work project will be installed on the site of the present Embassy at 2225 R St NW, not the one in these images below, where the old Embassy was in the early 20th century.



7/17/22, 11:01 AM

2034 20th St NW - Google Maps

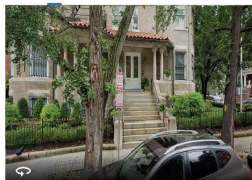
2034 20th St NW



2034 20th St NW

All

Street View & 360°



<https://www.google.com/maps/place/2034+20th+St+NW,+Washington,+DC+20009,+USA/@38.9180247,-77.0456154,3a,75y,238h,102.31t/data=!3m6!1e1!3m4!1sDmi4UT:KP8uztrjugFQA!g!2e0!7!1638...> 1/1

III. PROJECT LOCATION

7. Project location

The proposed location of the project is the District-controlled public space immediately to the left of the entrance to the present-day Armenian Embassy, located at 2225 R Street NW, Washington, DC 20008, SSL 2516 0069. See the attached map and the site plan in Appendix A, as well as the Site Location on Google Maps, and Public Space Photos, in Appendix D.

8. District Government Agency with Oversight

The proposed commemorative work is located in the landscaped “public parking” area of the R Street right-of-way that is under the control of the DC Department of Transportation.

9. Existing Conditions

The proposed site of the commemorative work is in the R Street right-of-way and in an area of landscaped “public parking” that is 17’ wide. The public parking area is specifically set aside for greenery and part of the District’s park and open space system. The surrounding neighborhood is designated as an R-3 zone. The purpose of an R-3 zone designation is to allow for row dwellings, while including areas within which row dwellings are mingled with detached dwellings, semi-detached dwellings, and groups of three or more row dwellings. The R-3 zone is intended to permit attached rowhouses on small lots. See <https://handbook.dcoz.dc.gov/zones/residential/R-3/>.

The proposed site is on the northern side of R Street NW, about 200 feet away from the Sheridan Circle on Massachusetts Avenue NW, in a neighborhood dotted with numerous Embassies, private residences, and small private galleries.

The project does not interfere with the R Street sidewalk, or utilities. The area is not presently used for parking Embassy vehicles. There are existing stairs immediately to the right of the spot where the commemorative work will be installed, and two existing planters – one immediately to its left, the other to its right, adjacent to the existing stairs. See the drawing of existing conditions in Appendix A, Page 2.

10. Historic Preservation Considerations

The proposed project is in the Sheridan-Kalorama Historic District, designated in 1989 and located in the northwest quadrant of Washington, D.C., just north of the original city boundaries under Pierre L’Enfant’s plans. Originally part of a large estate, today it is a quiet, elegant, and urbane residential enclave nestled in the midst of the city. Bounded by Connecticut Avenue on the east, Rock Creek Park on the north and west, and Florida Avenue on the south, this neighborhood is distinguished by well-designed houses and

apartment buildings. The area also features numerous embassies, chanceries, churches and private schools.

The proposed project is not related to any other adjacent or nearby property or district, except that it closely aligns with the character of the neighborhood, known to host numerous Embassies and similar art installations.

11. Project Compatibility with Existing or Future Plans for the Area

Future plans for this area are controlled by public space regulations, zoning, and historic preservation review. The public parking area of public space is regulated as park land with requirements that limit paving and controls the design of hedges, fences, and walls. The R-3 zone and Sheridan-Kalorama Historic District designation protect and maintain the residential character of the neighborhood.

The site is within 500 feet of the Sheridan Circle that includes a statue of General Philip Henry Sheridan (1831–1888), a career United States Army officer and a Union general in the American Civil War. One of his career highlights was the 1864 victory over Confederate forces under General Jubal Early in the Shenandoah Valley. In 1865, his cavalry pursued General Robert E. Lee and was instrumental in forcing his surrender at Appomattox Courthouse. In 1883, General Sheridan was appointed General-in-Chief of the U.S. Army, and in 1888 promoted to the rank of General of the Army during the term of President Grover Cleveland.

The site is also within 500 feet of the Decatur Terrace, also known as the Spanish Steps -- a terrace in the Kalorama neighborhood of Washington, D.C., located on 22nd Street NW, connecting Decatur Place NW and S Street NW. Formally named Decatur Terrace Steps and Fountain, the nickname is a reference to the Spanish Steps in Rome. Washington's Spanish Steps are listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing feature in the Sheridan-Kalorama Historic District.

12. Economic Impact

The proposed project has no known or expected economic impact on its immediate location, surrounding area and the District of Columbia at large.

13. Concurrent Reviews

List all other reviews required for this proposal and estimated timeline of meeting dates.

<i>Review Body</i>	<i>Meeting Date</i>
<i>File Application by:</i>	<i>July 29, 2022</i>
<i>Commemorative Works Committee – Concept Review</i>	<i>August 19, 2022</i>

<i>Advisory Neighborhood Commission</i>	<i>February 25, 2021</i>
<i>National Capitol Memorial Advisory Commission</i>	<i>TBD</i>
<i>Public Space Committee</i>	<i>TBD</i>
<i>Historic Preservation Office</i>	<i>TBD</i>
<i>Commemorative Works Committee – Final Review</i>	<i>TBD</i>

IV. PROJECT DESIGN

14. Concept and Materials

The design of the commemorative work represents the steady and noble leadership Armen Garo embodied while he held the position of Ambassador to the United States. The location of the work, positioned to the east of the Embassy's main entrance, was selected because of Mr. Garo's service as Ambassador. The vertical marble plinth symbolizes the dedication, integrity, and hard work required of a public servant. The black base symbolizes the ground holding the edifice of the public service, from which it derives its support and energy. The primary feature of the work is the bronze bust of Ambassador Garo, depicting him in 1922, when he was 50 years old. Other elements of the work include a bronze hand holding a hat. The hat was a signature feature of Mr. Garo's public persona – one of an ultimate gentleman, doctor, and diplomat. Adjacent to the plinth is a 4-inch thick, 4'10 and ½" long black granite slab with a commemorative bronze plaque describing Ambassador Garo's service and legacy. The size of the plaque is 18x3x1/2.

Materials to be used: Italian Carrara marble, and bronze.

15. Design

The commemorative work has been designed to fit into the existing conditions of the public space adjacent to the Armenian Embassy. It is intended to enhance the Embassy grounds and the arrival sequence of visitors coming to the Embassy. The commemorative work project is fully compliant with the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design.

Site plan, Site elevations, and Architectural drawings are in the attached PDF files.

16. Infrastructure

No related infrastructure improvements are required to complete this project.

17. Environmental Analysis

Under the DC Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) rules, EISF is not required for any action that costs less than 1 million dollars (\$1,000,000) based on 1989 dollars adjusted annually according to the Consumer Price Index, unless that action meets the criteria of § § 7201.3 and 7201.4 of these rules, currently \$1,930,000. See https://doee.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/ddoe/service_content/attachments/Environmental%20Impact%20Screening%20Form%20Review%20FAQs.pdf.

The cost breakdown of the proposed action is \$8,700 for the construction, and \$8,500 for the base, bust, and plaque. The total cost is \$17,200. Therefore, and EISF is not required.

The project has no impact on the traffic. The proposed commemorative work shall be accessible to the pedestrians. There is no vehicular access to the commemorative work, since it will be installed on a pavement on the curtilage of the building at 2225 R Street NW, Washington, DC, and the closest a vehicle can come to it is regular street parking.

18. Proposed Timeline

The timeline for this project considers key milestones that need to be met from planning to implementation.

<i>Review Body</i>	<i>Meeting Date</i>
<i>Planning</i>	<i>January to July 2022</i>
<i>Review Process</i>	<i>July to September 2022</i>
<i>Begin Construction</i>	<i>October 2022</i>
<i>Complete Construction</i>	<i>October 2022, within two weeks after the approval of the permit</i>

V. COMMUNITY OUTREACH

19. Community Outreach Program

In January 2021, the sponsoring organization reached out to the Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2D (“ANC 2D,” “Commission”). The Commission, at its regular meeting on February 8, 2021, approved a resolution supporting this commemorative work project. The ANC 2D Resolution is attached, See Appendix C-3.

The sponsoring organization is committed to maintaining an active community outreach program with the ANC 2D and any other stakeholders, as part of its educational and preservation mission, and as a matter of good neighborliness and citizenship.

20. Letters from Local Stakeholders

This project enjoys the support of the U.S. Department of State, the Embassy of Armenia, and the Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2D. The relevant letters/resolutions of are attached. See Appendix C-1 through 3.

VI. PROJECT BUDGET

21. Budget

The total estimated cost is of \$17,200 that includes: 1) \$8,700 for the construction; and 2) \$8,500 for the statue, base, bust, and plaque.

22. Budget and Financing Plan

The statue has been paid for and completed, as a donation to the Armenian Embassy. The sponsoring organization – the Friends of the Armenian Embassy Building and Educational Fund, is covering the full cost of construction and installation, and any remaining and recurring costs related to the completion of the project and its maintenance.

23. Maintenance Budget

The sponsoring organization – Friends of the Armenian Embassy Building and Educational Fund, shall have full responsibility for the perpetual maintenance and preservation of the proposed project, with an annual budget to cover the entire cost. The Armenian Embassy will complement that effort by providing day-to-day ordinary care, as necessary.

24. Insurance

Throughout the entire construction process, the project will be covered under the following policy:

Insurance policy for North American Construction Corp.

Name insured: North American Construction Corp.

Company: Arch Specialty Insurance Co.

Policy Number: AGL0050850-03

Mailing Address: 14600 Jovet Ct. Centreville, VA 20120