

HJR

71

COMMITTEE REPORT

(7)

HOUSE

2/18/80

FURTHER:

Date: 3-6-80

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on STATE AFFAIRS has had HJR 71

"Relating to the Begich Boggs Visitor Center."

under consideration and (a majority of the committee) (the committee) reports it back with the following recommendations:

- do pass do not pass
- do pass with attached amendments(s)
- replace with CS for _____ same title
 new title
- and recommends _____
- AND attaches a "Letter of Intent" New Fiscal Note
- reports it back without recommendation
- referred to the _____ Committee

MEMBERS SIGNING
DO PASS

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

MEMBERS HAVING
OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

[Signature]

CHAIRMAN

Client: United States Department of Agriculture - Forest Service

Project: Begich, Boggs Visitor Center at Portage Glacier

Location: Portage Lake, Alaska

Description:

The Begich, Boggs Visitor Center at Portage Glacier in Alaska is expected to serve 300,000 visitors annually and will contain a theater and approximately 5,000 square feet of display area. Kramer, Chin & Mayo, Inc. (KCM) has done the conceptual design, preliminary engineering, and preliminary design for the center. KCM also evaluated the existing wastewater facilities at the visitor center site to determine their capability to handle additional waste loads. Final design and construction documents will also be prepared.

The building will be situated on the lake shore on a terminal moraine (the mound of earth and stones deposited by a glacier as it begins to recede). From an observation platform constructed in the lake and reached by pedestrian bridges, visitors will have an exceptional view of icebergs and of the glacier.

During the preliminary design, KCM considered architecture, landscape, mechanical and electrical systems, and site utilities. KCM's design includes a large exhibit area, a 200-person-capacity theater, and an orientation area with a refrigerated display space to contain a piece of Portage Glacier ice for visitors to see and touch. Because the visitor center will be on a very prominent site, careful consideration was given to the relationship between the physical structure and its surrounding environment. The terminal moraine left by the glacier will be extended and sculptured to surround the building and parking areas and to help them blend into the physical site. Earth mounds will soften the transition from nature to manmade objects. The building's architectural design continues this harmonious feeling. Walls will be rough-textured concrete, colored to be compatible with the surrounding landscape. Rounded corners will further soften the building forms.

KCM recommended that landscape plantings be of seedlings grown from cones gathered at the site and of root cuttings from indigenous plants so as to blend with the stark natural landscape and to adapt to the site's poor soil and severe wind and temperature conditions. In addition, nursery-grown Sitka spruce will be planted for immediate effect in the area of the building and parking median.

KCM found that, in order to treat the visitor center wastewater, a new pump station, force main, aeration system, and subsurface drainfield will have to be built. A polishing pond/seepage pit also will have to be built to handle maximum monthly summertime flow.

Exhibit-related design work for this project will be done by Gideon Kramer, a subconsultant to KCM.

Preliminary Design Completed: January 1979



The Juneau Marine Park is the first glimpse tourists arriving by tour ship have of the city. The park is seen locally as an important project that sets the pace for diversification of Juneau's economic base. The marine park, designed by Kramer, Chin & Mayo, Inc. (KCM) to attract tourists and serve local community groups, has become the focal point of Juneau's waterfront business district.

KCM, which provided design development, schematic designs, and construction cost estimates, began with a complete study of the topography, existing utilities, drainage, and environmental and visual considerations. Zoning, building codes, and ordinances affecting the project were researched. Planning also included gathering information on community and tourist needs.

Central to the park design is an outdoor amphitheater which supports and stimulates the activities of the diverse Juneau community groups. The partly covered facility is the scene of art fairs, concerts, and dramatic productions. The surrounding two-thirds-acre park site is extensively filled and elevated to allow a better view of Gasteneau Channel. Much of the park consists of lawn area landscaped with natural building materials, such as heavy timbers. Four

colorful banners suspended from timbers depict symbols of Alaskan heritage: an eagle, a native design, a Russian church, and an Alaskan crab.

Despite Juneau's location in the midst of the Alaskan wilderness, the city has few parks. This piece of city-owned property is adjacent to the city hall, the Sealaska native corporation building, and new tour-ship-docking facilities. The park has become a lunchtime attraction for central-business-district office workers who often enjoy noon-time musical entertainment performed in the amphitheater.

The city of Juneau and the federal Historic Conservation and Recreation Service are jointly funding the project which was dedicated in the summer of 1979.

The Begich, Boggs Visitor

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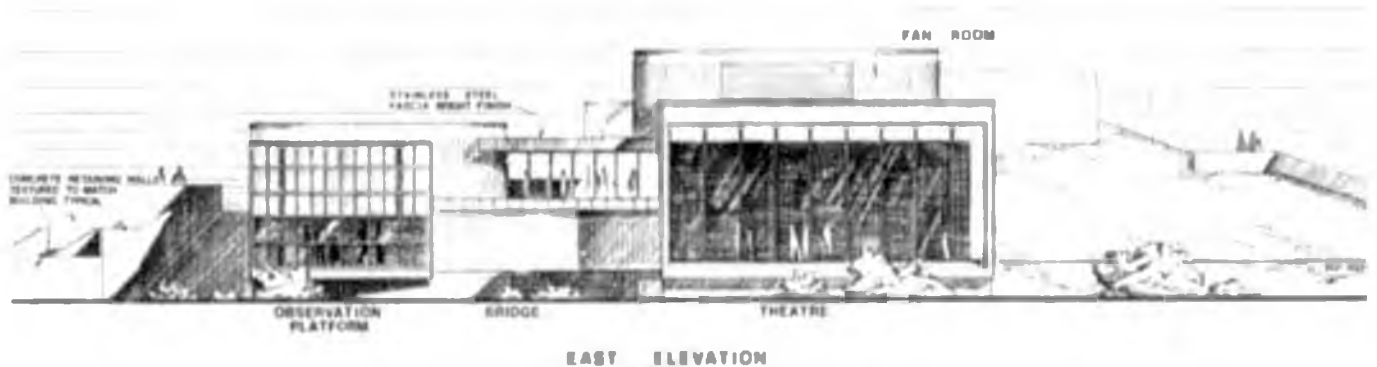
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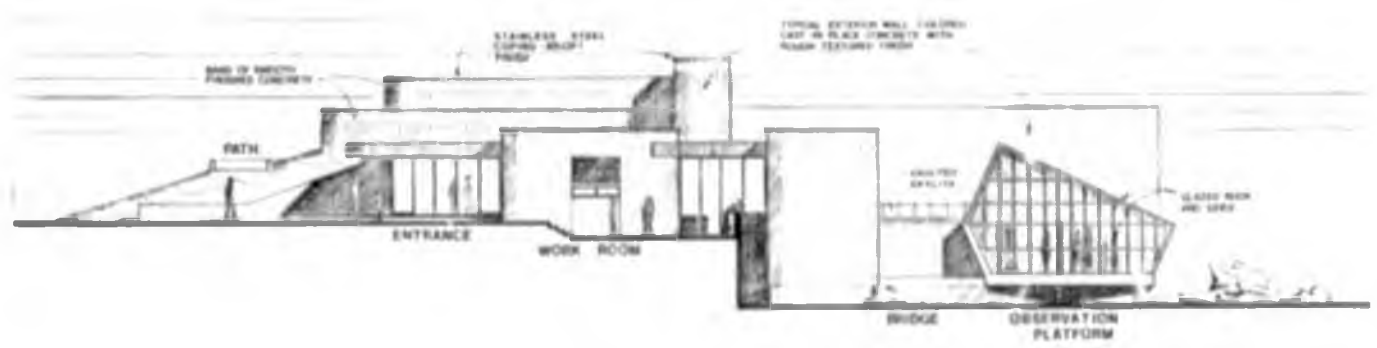
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EAST ELEVATION



SOUTH ELEVATION