

MICHAEL YORK **Acting Commissioner** michael.york@dcr.nh.gov

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT of CULTURAL RESOURCES

Division of Historical Resources, State Council on the Arts, State Library, Film & Television Office, Commission on Native American Affairs (administratively attached)

> 20 Park Street Concord, New Hampshire 03301



TEL: 603-271-231 FAX: 603-271-682 www.nh.gov/nhcultu

February 23, 2017

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu and the Honorable Council State House Concord, New Hampshire 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

In accordance with RSA 4:9, the Department of Cultural Resources requests approval to place a permanent memorial to Governor John Gilbert Winant, with an estimated value of \$250,000, at the State Library. Funding to design, construct and maintain the memorial shall be from private donations.

EXPLANATION

John Gilbert Winant served as Governor of the State of New Hampshire from 1925 to 1927 and from 1931 to 1935. John Winant served as Governor during the Great Depression and he was instrumental in overseeing the emergency credit act which allowed the state to guarantee debts of the towns and municipalities so that local governments could continue to operate. He also was a strong advocate to improve our highways during the depression. In 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed him to be the first chair of Social Security where he served until 1937. In 1941, President Roosevelt, appointed him to be the ambassador to the United Kingdom where he served until 1946. John Winant played a key role during his tenure as ambassador to the United Kingdom during World War Two.

In 2013, the N. H. General Court established a committee, (Laws of 2013, Chapter 120), to study the construction of a permanent memorial to Governor John Gilbert Winant on state property other than the State House grounds. In 2015, the N.H. General Court established a commission, (Laws of 2015, Chapter 119), to oversee the location, design, construction and maintenance of the John G. Winant memorial and to privately raise and expend funds to construct and maintain the memorial. In accordance with RSA 4:9-II the commission was tasked with selecting the location and design for the John G. Winant memorial.

The Commission selected the southwest corner of the State Library grounds for the memorial. (See attached). This site was selected due to its proximity to the State House. Governor Winant served as Governor during the great depression. He could be seen sitting on the State House granite wall greeting people and giving them money to pay for a meal. The Department of Cultural Resources is in agreement with the Commission that the southwest corner of the State Library property is the most appropriate location for the Statute of Governor Winant.

The Committee has raised the necessary funds for this project and is planning to break ground in late March of this year with a dedication ceremony scheduled on June 23, 2017.

Respectfully submitted

Michael York, Acting Commissioner Department of Cultural Resources







