



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ARMY NATIONAL MILITARY CEMETERIES
ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22211-5003**

November 29, 2023

SUBJECT: National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 for the Operation and Construction of the Pentagon Memorial Fund Visitor Education Center on the grounds of Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia

Dear Consulting Party:

The Pentagon Memorial Fund (PMF), with Army National Military Cemeteries (ANMC) as the lead federal agency, is proposing the construction of a Visitor's Education Center (VEC) on Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) property for the existing 9/11 Pentagon Memorial. The proposed VEC would include exhibits and programs to engage visitors and educate the public as to the effects and broad impact of the tragedy from a variety of perspectives. While a memorial exists that honors the 184 lives that were lost as a result of the attack on the Pentagon, there is no VEC that provides an understanding of the events of that day, the lives lost, and the historic significance of the 9/11 Pentagon Memorial Site. The proposed VEC would provide details of the 184 individuals who lost their lives on 9/11, interpretive displays discussing the symbolism of the memorial design, permanent restrooms, shelter for visitors, a café, bookstore, and conference space.

The proposed VEC would be sited on a parcel of approximately 3.71 acres within the ANC Southern Expansion site. After the reconfiguration of roadways from the Federal Highway Administration's Defense Access Roadway project, the VEC would be bounded by Columbia Pike, South Joyce Street, and Washington Boulevard (see attached map). In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended, on May 25, 2023, ANMC initiated the Section 106 process to receive concurrence on the Area of Potential Effect (APE) and proposed consulting parties to be included in the process (Attachment A). In addition, ANMC found that this potential undertaking affects National Register of Historic Places and National Register eligible historic properties, and that there are no properties within the APE that have not been previously evaluated for National Register eligibility.

The proposed undertaking would include the construction of a new building with an approximate absolute elevation of 91 feet at the highest point at the SE corner of the building, which includes the rooftop mechanical enclosure. The absolute elevation of the remaining building will be 75 feet. The building is expected to be constructed at the northeastern end of the site with a building footprint ranging from 25,000 and 30,000 square feet. Up to 100 parking spaces are expected and would be located to the south of the building. An entrance on South Joyce Street will serve as the access point for cars, buses, and service vehicles. This conceptual design has received approval from both the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) and the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) in the interim between now and when the undertaking was first initiated with you/ your organization.

In accordance with Section 106, ANMC proposes a 0.25-mile APE surrounding the VEC based on the height of the building and surrounding topography. This quarter-mile boundary considers the potential direct and indirect visual impacts of the building, on the landscape and nearby resources listed in or

eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). There are four previously listed or potentially eligible historic resources within the APE. The listed resources are the Arlington National Cemetery Historic District (000-0042), the Pentagon Office Building Historic District (000-0072), and the Arlington Annex (000-3371). The potentially eligible resource within the APE is the Air Force Memorial (000-9821). No archaeological resources are located within the APE.

Per 36 CFR § 800.3(c), ANMC is involving consulting parties in the Section 106 process. Please refer to Attachment B for a full list of consulting parties. Supporting documents for the proposed undertaking have been made available for public review on ANMC and PMF websites. These documents include the proposed conceptual design of the building and site, a Visual Impact Assessment, additional background documentation developed for the Southern Expansion project, and the Section 106 initiation package submitted to the Virginia Department of Resources (DHR). Please view the documents here: <https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/About/Policies-and-Public-Notices/Public-Notices>. The documents are also available on the PMF website: <https://pentagonmemorial.org/>.

In accordance with 36 CFR § 800.3(c), ANMC hosted a Consulting Parties Meeting on September 6, 2023, and many parties were present both in person and virtually. A recording of the meeting has been made available online and is located on the ANC and PMF websites. The meeting included a presentation about the undertaking, followed by a forum allowing for questions and comments. In addition to the comments received during the meeting, additional comments were submitted in the subsequent comment period. A recording of the meeting can be found on both the PMF and ANC websites.

To address the comments that were received at this public meeting, ANMC is initiating a secondary comment period to allow for review of updated documentation and the inclusion of additional consulting parties. You/Your organization is formally invited to participate in the Section 106 process as a consulting party for this undertaking. The updated documentation includes an updated Visual Impact Assessment, updated conceptual design drawings, and conceptual design approval letters from the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) and the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC). For reference, the most recent presentation of the proposed building design and site plan is available on both the PMF and ANC websites.

In addition to the comments received during the Consulting Parties Meeting, ANMC is responding to comments received from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. The comments, received in response to the Section 106 initiation letter dated June 27, 2023, requested additional information on the massing and height of the proposed building, along with its location on the site. In the time since these comments were received, the proposed conceptual design and site plan for the VEC has been reviewed by CFA and NCPC, receiving approval from both entities.

In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended), ANMC is soliciting interest from potential consulting parties for this project and is seeking comments on the determined area of potential effects (APE) and the identification of historic properties. A list of current consulting parties is included for reference with this letter.

Please notify Ms. McLaughlin of JMT of your/your organization's interest in being a consulting party for this project. Please provide your comments on the updated information regarding the undertaking within fifteen (15) days of receipt of this letter. All comments on the enclosed documents should be sent to Sara McLaughlin of JMT, via email: smclaughlin@jmt.com.

Sincerely,

CAITLIN E. SMITH
Cultural Resources Program Manager
Engineering, Planning & Resources
Army National Military Cemeteries

Attachments:

- A Map of Area of Potential Effects
- B Consulting Party List

Selected project background information:

- [PMF VEC: Section 106 Initiation Letter](#)
- [PMF VEC: Section 106 Initiation Package](#)
- [Project Overview and Scoping Boards](#)
- [Public Notice: Public/Agency Scoping Meeting, December 12, 2022](#)
- [Commission of Fine Arts Letter Approving the PM VEC Concept Design \(Sept. 27, 2023\)](#)
- [Commission of Fine Arts PM VEC Concept Design Presentation \(Sept. 21, 2023\)](#)
- [National Capital Planning Commission Letter Approving Comments on the PM VEC Concept Design \(July 6, 2023\)](#)
- [Visual Impact Assessment: Pentagon Memorial Visitor Education Center \(Updated October 2023\)](#)
- [PM VEC Consulting Party Meeting Minutes \(Sept. 6, 2023\)](#)
- [PM VEC Consulting Parties Meeting Video Recording \(Sept. 6, 2023\)](#)
- [Consulting Party Letter: Attachment B- List of Consulting Parties \(Nov. 2023\)](#)

Arlington National Military Cemetery Historic District National Register Report can be downloaded at:
<https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/historic-registers/000-0042/>

Information about Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act can be found here:
<https://www.achp.gov/protecting-historic-properties>

Information about the ongoing compliance process can be found on the ANC Public Notices page of the ANC website at: <https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/About/Policies-and-Public-Notices/Public-Notices>

Attachment A: Map of Area of Potential Effects

