

15 April 2025

SUBJECT: National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 for Proposed Entry Corridor Area Improvements in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia

Army National Military Cemeteries (ANMC), which maintains and operates Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) proposes a variety of "Entry Corridor Area Improvements" in the northeast section of the cemetery. The "Entry Corridor Area" serves as the primary visitor and ceremonial entrance to ANC. The proposed action includes improvements to Memorial Avenue, parking garage reconfiguration, a pedestrian screening facility and arrivals plaza, a new Welcome Center and central plaza, interpretive gardens, amphitheater, gathering space, and new columbaria and in-ground burials. Covering approximately 35 acres, this area is pivotal for managing the high volume of visitors and ceremonial activities. The proposed improvements would expand burial capacity, while also addressing operational challenges and enhancing the experience for visitors, funeral attendees, and staff.

The proposed project is in the feasibility and compliance review phase. It is considered a federal undertaking with the potential to cause effects on historic properties. In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (16 U.S.C. § 470f), and its implementing regulations, 36 C.F.R. Part 800, the agency is consulting on these potential effects.

On April 14, 2025, ANMC initiated the consultation process with the Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), tribes, and consulting parties. With this notice, ANMC also provides the public with the agency's findings and determinations and makes the documentation available for public inspection. The documentation can be viewed on the agency's website: <u>https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/About/Public-Notices</u>. It shows the area potentially affected by the proposed project, contains a project description, identification of potential consulting parties, lists the historic properties contributing to National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) which are in the area of potential effects, and the agency's findings of no adverse effects.

This notice initiates a 30-day review and comment period. During this period, ANMC invites review and comment from the public on this project. Please send your comments to the Cultural Resources Program Manager at <u>usarmy.pentagon.hqda-anc-osa.mbx.cultural-resources@army.mil</u> and include "Entry Corridor Area Improvements" in the subject line. Comments are due no later than <u>May 16, 2025</u>.

Thank you for your interest in Arlington National Cemetery.