



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

September 17, 2025

SUBJECT: National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 Initiation for the Air Force Memorial Temporary Ceremonial Storage Facility on the Grounds of Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia (DHR File # 2025-4810)

Julie V. Langan
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
2801 Kensington Avenue
Richmond, VA 23221

ATTN: Ms. Jennifer Bellville-Marion
Archaeologist - Review and Compliance
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
2801 Kensington Avenue
Richmond, VA 23221

Dear Ms. Bellville-Marion:

Army National Military Cemeteries (ANMC) would like to take this opportunity to initiate the consultation process with the Virginia State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. § 470f, and its implementing regulations, 36 C.F.R. Part 800. ANMC and the Air Force District Washington (AFDW) propose construction of a temporary ceremonial storage facility to replace an existing shed currently located on a portion of the AFM site that will become part of the Arlington National Cemetery Southern Expansion. The temporary storage will be needed for approximately five years. While this temporary solution is in place, ANMC and AFDW will be working on a permanent solution to be operational by the completion of the Southern Expansion project.

ANMC, which maintains and operates Arlington National Cemetery (ANC), is the landholder for the lands where the Air Force Memorial (AFM) sits. Therefore, ANMC is the lead agency for the proposed undertaking. The memorial site is operated and maintained by the Air Force District Washington (AFDW). As such, ANMC is coordinating the project design with the AFDW to minimize impacts to the resources managed by both agencies. The project is designed to meet AFDW's and the AFM's needs and requirements.

To ensure that this temporary relocation does not disrupt ceremonies and events, the agencies proposed installing a low-profile storage unit behind the AFM's Southern

Inscription Wall and enclosing it within a double-gated wooden fence enclosure. The enclosure will be made to complement and recede into its surroundings using natural wood fencing and a paint color that matches the Southern Inscription Wall. The proposed project is considered a federal undertaking with the potential to cause adverse effects on historic properties pursuant to 36 C.F.R. 800.3(a).

Per 36 CFR § 800.3(c), ANMC identifies the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) as the appropriate State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to be involved in the section 106 process.

Per 36 CFR § 800.3(c), ANMC plans to involve the public in the section 106 process. After initiating consultation with the DHR, ANMC will notify potential consulting parties and the public of the undertaking via email, social media, and the ANC website, inviting them to participate in the consultation process. ANMC will work in consultation with the Virginia SHPO to develop the plan for involving the public in the section 106 process.

Concurrent with this submission to the DHR, ANMC is initiating the design review process with the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts (CFA). The Commission will review the concept design in its September 18, 2025, meeting. The CFA indicated the project is on the Consent Calendar (CFA 18/SEP/25-d). The National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) approved the preliminary site and building plans for the U.S. Air Force Memorial Ceremonial Storage on August 28, 2025 (File #8610).

Additional information regarding the proposed undertaking can be found in the enclosures and on the ANC website: <https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/About/Policies-and-Public-Notices/Public-Notices>.

With this letter, ANMC notifies the DHR that, in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the agency has:

1. Found that the proposed undertaking affects historic properties.
2. Identified potential consulting parties.
3. Identified the historic properties.
4. Identified the area of potential effects (APE).
5. Applied the criteria of adverse effects (36 CFR § 800.5[a][1]) to the undertaking and finds that the proposed project would have no adverse effects to historic properties in the Area of Potential Effects (APE).

By way of this submission, ANMC requests that the DHR:

1. Respond to ANMC's request for review of finding of effect on historic properties.
2. Provide concurrence or comments on the identified potential consulting parties.
3. Provide concurrence or comments on the determined APE.
4. Provide concurrence or comments on the identified historic properties.
5. Respond to ANMC's findings of:
 - a. No adverse effects to historic properties.
 - b. No adverse effects to archaeological sites.

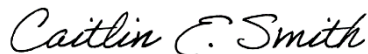
Please provide DHR's comments on the agency's findings and determinations within thirty (30) days of receipt of this letter. All comments on the enclosed documents should be sent to the ANMC Cultural Resources Manager at usarmy.pentagon.hqda-anc-osa.mbx.cultural-resources@army.mil.

Concurrent with this submission, ANMC will be notifying potential consulting parties and the public of the agency's findings and determinations, and of the initiation of a 30-day comment period. The notices and Section 106 documentation will be posted on the ANC website:

<https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/About/Policies-and-Public-Notices/Public-Notices>.

Army National Military Cemeteries looks forward to continuing the Section 106 consultation process with our agency partners, consulting parties, and the public. We respectfully request your review and consideration of the information provided. Thank you for your support.

Respectfully,



Caitlin Smith, AIC PA

Cultural Resources Program Manager
Army National Military Cemeteries

Enclosures:

1. List of Invited Consulting Parties
2. Selected Project Background Information
3. Section 106 Documentation: Project Description, Identification of Consulting Parties, Identification of Historic Properties, Area of Potential Effects, and Assessment of Effects

List of Invited Consulting Parties

In accordance with 36 CFR § 800.3(f) and § 800.2(c), ANMC developed an initial list of other parties entitled to be consulting parties. This list will be further developed in consultation with the Virginia SHPO.

ANMC identified the following other consulting parties:

- Air Force District Washington (AFDW)
- Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA)
- Air & Space Forces Association (AFA)
- Arlington County Government
- Foxcroft Heights Civic Association
- National Association of American Veterans (NAAV)
- National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC)
- United States Commission of Fine Arts (CFA)
- Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
- Washington Headquarters Services (WHS)

Selected Project Background Information

Information about the Air Force Memorial can be found here:

<https://www.afdw.af.mil/afmemorial/>

Air Force Memorial Evaluation of Eligibility for the National Register:

<https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/Portals/0/Docs/Public-Notices/20190212-AFM-Draft-Determination-of-Eligibility-for-National-Register.pdf>

Arlington National Cemetery Historic District National Register Nomination:

<https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/historic-registers/000-0042/>

The Pentagon / Pentagon Office Building Complex:

<https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/historic-registers/000-0072/>

Information about Arlington National Cemetery's Southern Expansion Project can be found here: <https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/Expansion>

Information about Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA):

<https://www.achp.gov/protecting-historic-properties>

Information about the ongoing compliance process for the Air Force Memorial Temporary Ceremonial Storage Facility can be found on the ANC Public Notices page:

<https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/About/Policies-and-Public-Notices/Public-Notices>