



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

October 4, 2024

SUBJECT: Initiation of Section 106 Consultation for a New Proposed Undertaking, Entry Corridor Area Improvements, at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia

Dear Consulting Party:

Army National Military Cemeteries (ANMC) is writing to initiate consultation with you/your organization 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, for a new proposed undertaking by at Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) located in Arlington, Virginia. The proposed undertaking will include a number of improvements to the Entry Corridor Area at ANC (Enclosure 1). A complete list of invited consulting parties can be found in Enclosure 2.

Project Background: ANC is our nation's most hallowed ground. The cemetery consists of approximately 639 acres and is the final resting place of over 400,000 eligible veterans, active-duty service members, and their families. The cemetery receives millions of visitors each year -including visits from the President of the United States, other dignitaries, family members of the deceased, and millions of visitors from around the world. More than 6,500 funerals are conducted yearly at ANC. Additionally, up to 3,000 other ceremonies occur regularly, such as: commemorations, dedication/wreath ceremonies, and dignitary visits. ANC's mission is to honor the sacrifices of American service members and their families for generations to come.

The "Entry Corridor Area", is located in the northeast section of the cemetery and serves as the primary visitor and ceremonial entrance to ANC. It includes significant facilities such as the Welcome Center, Public Parking Garage, Administration Building, Military Women's Memorial, and various support areas. Covering approximately 35 acres, this area is pivotal for managing the high volume of visitors and ceremonial activities. The proposed improvements would address various operational challenges and enhance the experience for visitors, funeral attendees, and staff.

The Proposed Undertaking: Key proposed improvements include improvements to Memorial Avenue, constructing new vehicle screening facilities, adding a Pedestrian Security Screening Facility and Welcome Center, and expanding burial capacity with new columbaria, all while maintaining the cemetery's historical and environmental integrity.

The primary objectives of the proposed undertaking include:

- Improving Transportation and Pedestrian Circulation, and Wayfinding
- Security Improvements
- Improving Both the Welcome Center and Overall Visitor Experience
- Increasing Burial Capacity

Area of Potential Effect (APE): The APE is defined as the limits of disturbance (LOD) for the proposed undertaking, and those areas from which the construction activities, new buildings, landscape features, and structures will be visible. As the project is in its beginning stages, the APE has not fully been defined at this time. A viewshed study will be completed by ANMC to assist in better identifying the extent of the APE. Once this study has been completed it will be provided to our Section 106 consulting parties along with a thorough discussion on steps taken to identify historic properties within the APE.

Identification Historic Properties: While ANMC is in the early stages of identifying historic properties, the proposed project falls within the boundaries of both the Arlington National Cemetery and Arlington Memorial Bridge National Register Historic Districts (Enclosure 3). ANMC is considering ways to avoid or minimize any potential adverse effects to these historic properties.

Coordinating NEPA and Section 106: ANMC is coordinating this Section 106 review with the NEPA process, pursuant to 36 C.F.R. 800.8(a). The NHPA and NEPA are two separate laws, which require federal agencies to consider the impacts to historic properties and the human environment before making decisions. The requirements of the two laws may be executed concurrently to optimize efficiencies, transparency, and accountability to understand better the effects to the human, natural, and cultural environment. The Army has determined that the proposed action requires NEPA analysis and that it is an undertaking requiring compliance with the NHPA.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA): ANMC intends to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. § 4321 et seq.) to consider the potential human and environment effects associated with the proposed action. ANMC has drafted a Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives (DOPAA), and the EA is currently in the scoping phase. ANMC will use the NEPA scoping process and other public notices and meetings to solicit participation from the public and other stakeholders and to seek input and information regarding the identification of, and potential effects to, historic properties associated with this undertaking. Federal, state, tribal, and local agencies, along with affected members of the public, are invited to participate in the NEPA scoping process, which will identify relevant issues that will influence the NEPA analysis, including alternatives and mitigation.

National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA): In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), ANMC is initiating the consultation process with the Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), federal, state, tribal, and local agencies, along with interested consulting parties. You/Your organization is formally invited to participate in the Section 106 process as a consulting party for this undertaking.

By becoming a consulting party, you will be actively informed of steps in the Section 106 process, including public meetings, and your views will be actively sought. You may elect to participate as a consulting party at any time and you may also choose to withdraw your request to be a consulting party at any time. ANMC will consider these requests throughout the consultation process and intends to provide multiple opportunities to comment on this project and its potential effects on historic properties.

Public Meeting: ANC will hold a Public Scoping Meeting to provide information and solicit comments on the DOPAA, in compliance with NEPA and Section 106. You are formally invited to attend this meeting. The meeting will be an open house format with informative displays and materials available for public review. ANC staff will be present to answer general questions on the proposed action.

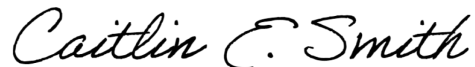
Public Scoping Meeting
Date: Wednesday, October 16, 2024
Address: ANC Welcome Center
1 Memorial Avenue
Arlington, VA 22211
Time: 3:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. EST

The DOPAA and all public meetings materials will be available for review between October 4th and November 2nd at the Arlington Central Library, ANC's Welcome Center, and the following website: <https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/About/Policies-and-Public-Notices/Public-Notices>.

This NEPA scoping period and the DOPAA release marks the start of a 30-day scoping period. The 30-day scoping period helps the agency determine the range of issues, alternatives, and mitigations that will be analyzed during the development of the EA. Following the close of the public scoping period, ANMC will continue to seek engagement and input from consulting parties to inform the Section 106 review process.

ANMC will be reaching out to schedule consulting parties' meetings in the near future. ANMC looks forward to working through the Section 106 consultation process with our agency partners, consulting parties, and the public. Questions and comments regarding NHPA compliance may be directed to Caitlin Smith, ANMC Cultural Resources Program Manager, usarmy.pentagon.hqda-anc-osa.mbx.cultural-resources@army.mil. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

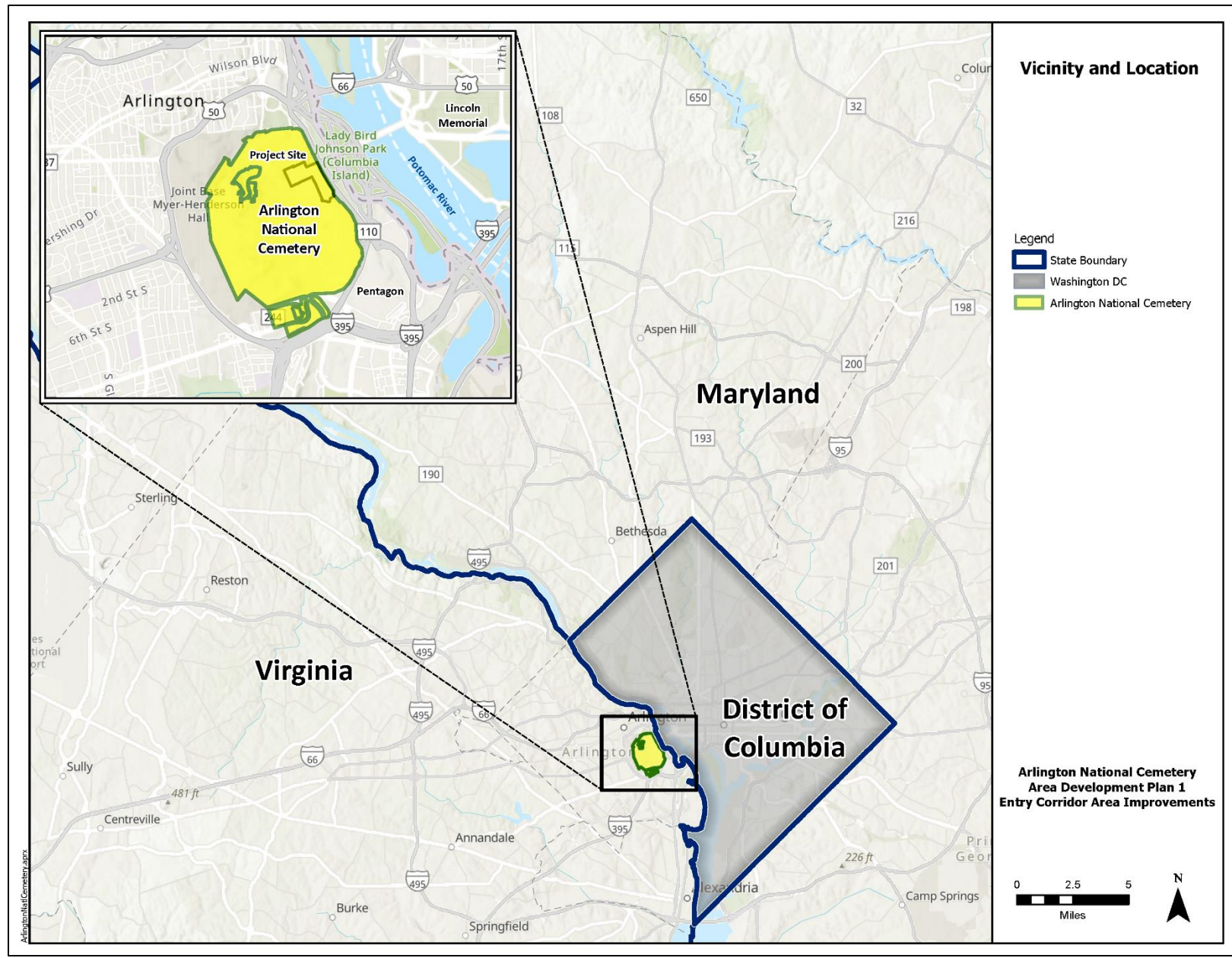


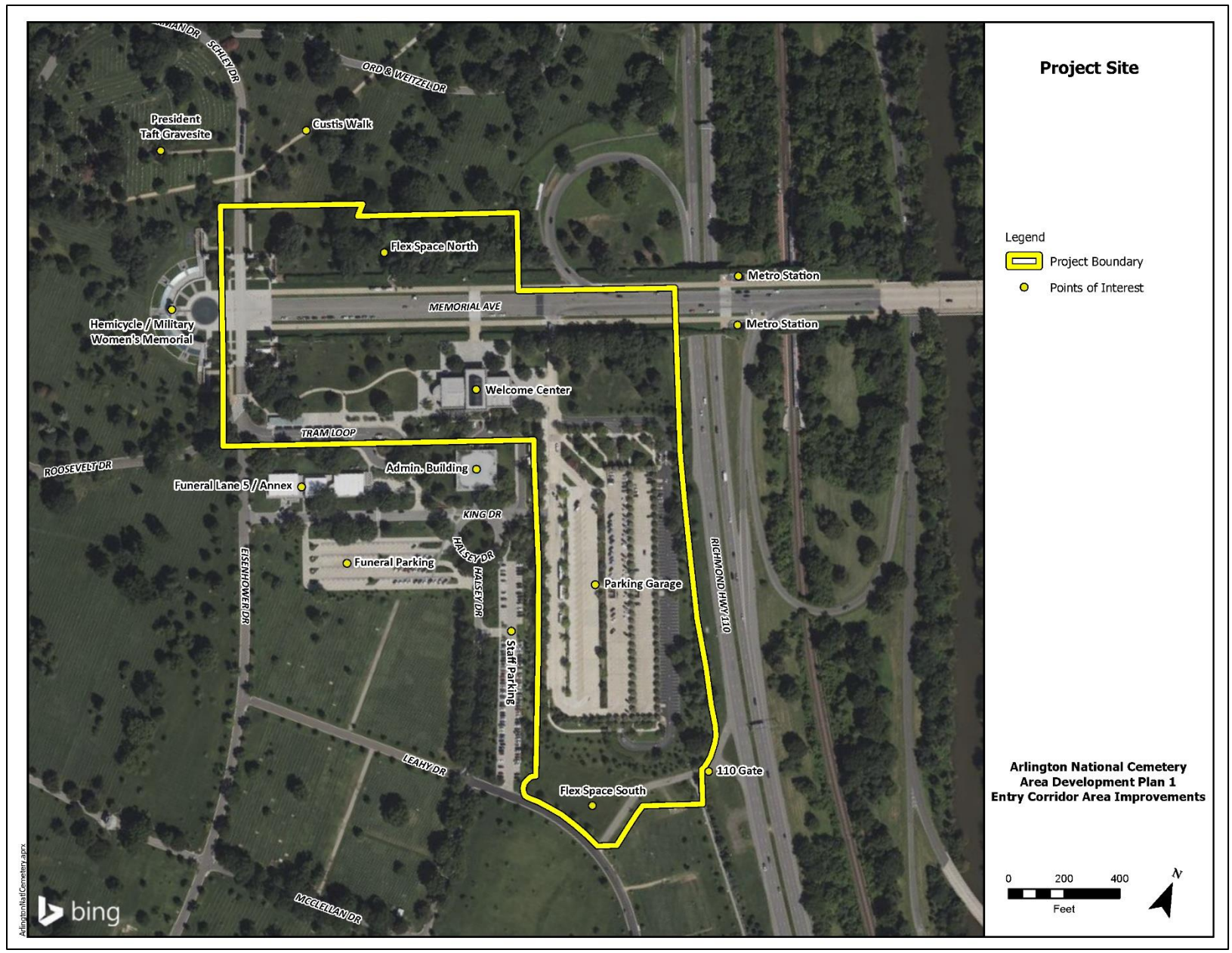
Caitlin E. Smith

Cultural Resources Program Manager
Army National Military Cemeteries

Enclosures

1. Proposed Undertaking Location and Early Concept Images
2. List of Invited Consulting Parties
3. Selected Project Background Information





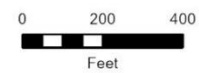


LEGEND:

1. NEW ENTRANCE DRIVE
2. VOS STATION
3. MOBILE GUARD TRAILER
4. FUNERAL SCREENING LANE / ALTERNATIVE BUS DROP-OFF
5. FUNERAL SCREENING
6. GUARD HOUSE AT FUNERAL LOOP
7. RIDESHARE LOOP
8. ARLINGTON MEMORIAL TRAIL
9. STAFF PARKING ENTRANCE
10. VEHICLE SECURITY SCREENING / TICKETING
11. TICKETING / EXIT BOOTH
12. BUS OVERFLOW PARKING
13. ARRIVALS PLAZA
14. BICYCLE RACK
15. EXISTING CURB AND HEDGE ROW CUT
16. AFTER HOURS EXIT TURNSTILE
17. PEDESTRIAN SCREENING FACILITY
18. CENTRAL PLAZA / PARTERRE
19. WELCOME CENTER
20. RESTROOMS
21. TRAM TICKETING OFFICE
22. TRAM SHELTER
23. INTERPRETIVE GARDEN
24. PEDESTRIAN CROSSWALK & SIGNAGE WALL
25. SIDEWALK TO PRESIDENT TAFT GRAVESITE
26. CONNECTING SIDEWALK TO NORTH FLEX COLUMBARIA
27. COLUMBARIA - NORTH FLEX SPACE
28. SIDEWALK EXTENSION
29. EXISTING BIKE SHARE AREA
30. EXISTING ARLINGTON MEMORIAL TRAIL
31. PERIMETER FENCE
32. RETAINING WALL
33. REALIGNED HWY 110 ACCESS ROAD
34. COLUMBARIA - SOUTH FLEX SPACE
35. LANDSCAPE BUFFER
36. CENTRAL PLAZA / PARTERRE SHADING STRUCTURE
37. BACK OF HOUSE / NEW WELCOME CENTER CHILLER
38. NEW ADMINISTRATION CHILLER
39. PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE CROSSWALK
40. UTILITY CORRIDOR
41. COMMITTAL SHELTER & SIDEWALK FROM ORD & WEITZEL DR TO COLUMBARIA
42. SHIFTED INTERSECTION OF ROOSEVELT DR AND EISENHOWER DR
43. GRANITE PAVEMENT LANE NARROWING AT GUARD TRAILER

Proposed Action Site Plan

**Arlington National Cemetery
Area Development Plan 1
Entry Corridor Area Improvements**



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:

- Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery (ACANC)
- Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP)
- American Legion: Dorie Miller VA Post 194
- American Legion: General Billy Mitchell VA Post 85
- American Legion: VA Post 139
- American Legion: VA Post 46
- Arlington County Department of Environmental Services
- Arlington County Historic Preservation Program
- Arlington County Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board
- Arlington Historical Society
- Arlington House Family Circle
- Arlington Ridge Civic Association
- Aurora Highlands Civic Association
- Catawba Indian Nation
- Chickahominy Indian Tribe - Eastern Division
- Delaware Nation, Oklahoma
- District of Columbia's Historic Preservation Office
- Dominion Energy
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 3
- Federal Highway Administration
- Foxcroft Heights Neighborhood Association
- Historical Society of D.C.
- Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall (JBM-HH)
- Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG)
- Military Women's Memorial (MWM)
- Monacan Indian Nation
- Nansemond Indian Nation

-Enclosure 2-

- National Association of American Veterans, Inc.
- National Capital Planning Commission
- National Park Service (NPS), George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP)
- National Park Service (NPS), National Capital Region (NCR)
- National Park Service (NPS) National Historic Landmark Program
- National Trust for Historic Preservation
- Pamunkey Indian Tribe
- Preservation Virginia
- Rappahannock Tribe, Inc.
- Shared Mobility Arlington
- Society for History in the Federal Government
- The Black Heritage Museum of Arlington
- The Guild of Professional Tour Guides of Washington, DC
- Upper Mattaponi Tribe
- U.S. Commission of Fine Arts (CFA)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Veterans of Foreign Wars
- Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ)
- Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR)
- Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
- Washington Headquarters Services (WHS)
- Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)

Selected Project Background Information

Arlington National Military Cemetery Historic District National Register Nomination:
<https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/historic-registers/000-0042/>

Arlington Memorial Bridge Historic District National Register Nomination:
<https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/historic-registers/000-0014/>

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