



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

March 25, 2023

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

ATTN: Adrienne Birge-Wilson
Project Review Architectural Historian
Review & Compliance Division

Dear Ms. Langan:

Army National Military Cemeteries (ANMC) would like to take this opportunity to formally initiate the consultation process with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources 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. 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 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).

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 Visitor Education Center 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, East Joyce Street, and Washington Boulevard (see attached map). In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended, ANMC is initiating the Section 106 process to receive concurrence on the Area of Potential Effect (APE) and proposed consulting parties to be included in

the process. In addition, ANMC finds 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 109 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 95 feet. At this time, the exact siting of the facility on the parcel has yet to be finalized, however, the building is anticipated 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 anticipated 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.

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 plans to involve consulting parties in the Section 106 process. ANMC's initial coordination will include corresponding with the consulting parties identified below notifying them of the availability of the Section 106 Package and Visual Impact Assessment on the ANMC and PMF website providing them with a 30-day review period. Once the project reaches the assessment of effects phase, consulting parties will be notified of and invited to a public meeting. Finally, should the project result in an adverse effect and require mitigation, consulting parties will be notified of a 30-day period for which input will be collected.

Proposed consulting parties include the following:

- Air Force District of Washington
- Arlington County government, including the Historic Preservation Program & the Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board (HALRB)
- Arlington Historical Society
- The Black Heritage Museum of Arlington
- The Commission of Fine Arts
- DC Historic Preservation Office
- Department of Defense (DoD)
- Descendant communities connected to ANC, Arlington House, and the greater Arlington community, including descendants of the enslaved people at Arlington

House (Syphax, Gray, Branham, Parks, and other families), the Lee and Custis families, the residents of Freedman's Village and Queen City

- George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP)
- The Guild of Professional Tour Guides of Washington, DC
- National Capital Planning Commission
- National Park Service (NPS)
- Preservation Virginia
- Washington Headquarters Services (WHS)

Federally recognized Native American Tribes have also been identified as potential consulting parties. These tribes include:

- Delaware Tribe of Indians
- Cherokee Nation
- Oneida Tribe of Indians in Wisconsin
- Seneca-Cuyuga Tribe of Oklahoma
- Pamunkey Indian Tribe
- Catawba Indian Nation
- Tuscarora Nation
- Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
- Oneida Nation
- Seneca Nation of Indians
- Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe
- Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
- Delaware Nation
- Tonawanda Band of Seneca
- United Keetowah Band of Cherokee Indians
- Cayuga Nation
- Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma

The following documents are enclosed with this submission:

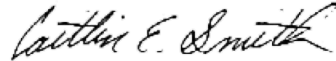
1. Section 106 Initiation Document: Project Description, Identification of Consulting Parties, Identification of Historic Properties, & Area of Potential Effects
2. Draft Visual Impact Assessment
3. Southern Expansion Reference Documents:
 - a. Environmental Assessment for the Southern Expansion and Associated Roadway Realignment, 2019
 - b. Archaeological and Historical Evaluations for the Arlington National Cemetery Southern Expansion Project, 2016
 - c. Memorandum of Agreement for the Southern Expansion Project, 2019

By way of this submission, ANMC requests the DHR:

1. Assign a project review number to the project.
2. Respond to ANMC's request for review of finding of effect on historic properties.
3. Provide concurrence or comments on the determined APE.
4. Provide concurrence or comments on the identified potential consulting parties.

Army National Military Cemeteries looks forward to beginning the Section 106 consultation process with our agency partners, consulting parties, and the public. Should there be any questions, please contact 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
Engineering, Planning & Resources
Army National Military Cemeteries