



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

August 4, 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, 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 95 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 81 feet. At this time, the exact siting of the facility on the parcel has yet to be finalized, however, 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.

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. Supporting documents for the proposed undertaking have been made available for public review on ANMC and PMF websites. These documents include the proposed site plan of the building, 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>.

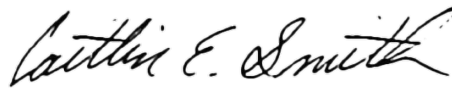
Additional consultation will take place once the project reaches the assessment of effects phase. In accordance with Section 106, ANMC will be hosting a public meeting to allow for consulting party comments on the undertaking. This meeting will take place at the MGAC offices, located at 730 11th Street NW, Washington, DC 20001 on **September 6, 2023, from 5:30pm-7:30pm**. Please email Sara McLaughlin of Johnson, Mirmiran and Thompson, Inc. (JMT) to register for this meeting at smclaughlin@jmt.com, as seating capacity will be limited to the first 25 attendees. If attendance in person is not possible, the meeting will also be available to attend virtually via Microsoft Teams. Please reach out to Sara McLaughlin to receive the information for the virtual meeting.

Finally, should the project result in an adverse effect and require mitigation, consulting parties will be notified of a 30-day period during which input will be collected.

ANMC is soliciting interest from potential consulting parties for this project and is seeking comments on the determined APE and identification of historic properties in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended).

Please notify Ms. McLaughlin of JMT of your/your organization's interest in being a consulting party for this project and provide your comments on the APE and identification of historic properties within 30 days of receipt of this letter, per the NHPA (as amended). 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

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](#)

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 Removal of Confederate Memorial 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

