



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ARMY NATIONAL MILITARY CEMETERIES
ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

October 2, 2025

SUBJECT: National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106, Continued Consultation for Proposed Entry Corridor Area Improvements, at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia - Preparation of a Programmatic Agreement (DHR Project No. 2024-4142)

Ms. Jenny Bellville-Marrion, Archaeologist
Ms. Adrienne Birge-Wilson, Architectural Historian
Review and Compliance Division
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
2801 Kensington Avenue
Richmond, VA 23221

Dear Ms. Bellville-Marrion and Ms. Birge-Wilson:

Army National Military Cemeteries (ANMC) is writing to continue 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 proposed project at Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) located in Arlington, Virginia. The proposed project is considered a federal undertaking, as defined in 36 CFR § 800.16(y), and is the type of activity that has the potential to cause effects on historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.3(a). The proposed undertaking includes a number of improvements to the Entry Corridor Area at ANC.

On October 4, 2024, ANMC initiated consultations with the Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), federal, state, tribal, and local agencies, along with interested consulting parties, on the proposed undertaking. This coincided with the start of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) scoping process and preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA). ANMC invited consulting parties to attend a Public Scoping Meeting held on October 16, 2024. Public and consulting party comments provided during the 30-day scoping period helped inform the development of the proposed undertaking's design, the EA, and the Section 106 findings. In April 2025, letters discussing the scope of the undertaking, the area of potential effect (APE), and potential effects to historic properties resulting from the proposed undertaking went out to all the consulting parties. A Consulting Party meeting was then held on May 1, 2025, to discuss the undertaking and receive consulting party feedback on the undertaking.

As a result of the comments and feedback ANMC has received from the SHPO and other consulting parties to date, ANMC has decided to resolve the Section 106 process through the preparation of a Programmatic Agreement (PA) in accordance with 36 CFR § 800.14 (b). The undertaking will be a complex multi-year project that will likely be funded incrementally. As such ANMC, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), and the SHPO do not think that effects on historic properties can

be fully determined prior to approval of this undertaking (36 CFR § 800.14 (b)(1)(ii)). The goal of the PA will be to outline how the SHPO and Consulting Parties will be consulted and how historic properties will be fully considered during the design process as it moves forward. A draft of the proposed PA is enclosed for your review and comment.

Section 106 Consulting Parties Meeting:

ANMC invites you and/or your organization to participate in a virtual consulting parties meeting to review the undertaking, discuss the development of the PA, and answer any questions you may have.

Date: Friday, October 17, 2025
Time: 10:00 AM EST
Location: Virtual Meeting

A Teams Meeting invitation will be transmitted to all invited consulting parties. If you would prefer to attend the meeting in-person, we are happy to host you at the ANC Welcome Center upon request. If you are unable to make this meeting time, please let us know and we are happy to set-up a call with your organization to discuss any specific questions you may have. As a reminder, the project documents and all consulting party meeting materials will be available for review at ANC's Welcome Center and at the following website: <https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/About/Policies-and-Public-Notices/Public-Notices>.

This consulting party notification marks the start of a 30-day review and comment period, running from October 3 – November 3, 2025. During this 30-day period, ANMC seeks your input to inform the NHPA Section 106 process.

Questions and comments may be directed to Caitlin Smith, ANMC Cultural Resources Program Manager, usarmy.pentagon.hqda-anc-osa.mbx.cultural-resources@army.mil. Please include "Entry Corridor Area Improvements" in the subject line. Comments are requested no later than November 3, 2025. Thank you for your support.

Respectfully,

Caitlin E. Smith

Caitlin Smith, AIC PA

Cultural Resources Program Manager

Army National Military Cemeteries

Enclosures:

1. Draft Programmatic Agreement for Proposed Entry Corridor Area Improvements