



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

June 13, 2025

SUBJECT: National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 Review Initiation for the Main Entrance Gate Wing Wall Reconstruction on the Grounds of Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemetery, Washington, DC

David Maloney
State Historic Preservation Officer
DC State Historic Preservation Office
899 North Capitol Street, NE, Suite 7100
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Mr. Maloney:

Army National Military Cemeteries (ANMC) would like to take this opportunity to initiate the consultation process with the DC 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, Army National Military Cemeteries (ANMC), which operates Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemetery (SAHNC) proposes restoring the masonry wings wall of the cemetery's original Main Entrance Gate.

In May 2023, the southern wing wall was struck by vehicle, demolishing the masonry structure, damaging the attached iron fencing, and creating a break in the cemetery's boundary. As a temporary solution, ANMC's facilities maintenance staff temporarily installed black-painted aluminum fencing along the perimeter. The proposed new construction project would remove the northern wing wall and southern temporary fencing, replacing both with a replica of the original wing walls. 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).

Concurrent with this submission to the DC SHPO, ANMC is initiating the design review process with the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts (CFA). The Commission approved the concept design on 20 March 2025 (see Attachment C).

Additional information regarding the proposed undertaking can be found in Attachment A: *NHPA Section 106 Process Submission for Federal Government Project in the District of Columbia: Main Entrance Gate Wing Wall Reconstruction* and Attachment B: *SAHNC Archaeological Resources and Areas of Archaeological Potential, April 2025*.

With this letter, ANMC notifies the DC SHPO 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 DC SHPO:

1. Respond to ANMC's request for review of the proposed determination of effect on historic properties.
2. Provide concurrence or comments on the determined APE.
3. Provide concurrence or comments on the identified potential consulting parties.
4. Respond to ANMC's findings of no adverse effects historic properties.

Please provide DC SHPO'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.

ANMC will be notifying 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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Caitlin E. Smith". The script is cursive and elegant, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Caitlin E. Smith
Cultural Resources Program Manager
Engineering, Planning & Resources
Army National Military Cemeteries

Attachments:

- A NHPA Section 106 Process Submission for Federal Government Project in the District of Columbia: Main Entrance Gate Wing Wall Reconstruction
- B SAHNC Archaeological Resources and Areas of Archaeological Potential, April 2025
- C U.S. Commission of Fine Arts Concept Approval Letter for the Wing Wall Repair, 21 March 2025

Current List of 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 DC SHPO.

ANMC identified the following other potential consulting parties:

- Advisory Neighborhood Commission 5A
- Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4D
- Armed Forces Retirement Home (AFRH)
- Committee of 100 on the Federal City
- DC Preservation League
- Nacotchtank (or Anacostans)
- Pamunkey Indian Tribe
- Piscataway
- Rock Creek Cemetery
- United States Commission of Fine Arts

Selected Project Background Information:

U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home / Armed Forces Retirement Home Historic District
<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/117691901>

Rock Creek Church Yard and Cemetery
<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/117692456>

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 of the ANC website at: <https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/About/Policies-and-Public-Notices/Public-Notices>