



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

November 4, 2024

SUBJECT: National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 Consultation for a Draft 2024 One-Year Bridge Programmatic Agreement for the Operation, Maintenance, and Repair Activities at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia

Dear Interested Party:

Army National Military Cemeteries (ANMC), which maintains and operates Arlington National Cemetery (ANC), would like to take this opportunity to formally initiate the consultation process, 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.

ANMC proposes to continue to coordinate and administer ongoing programs of operations, maintenance, and repair, including grounds work and associated landscaping (Projects). These Projects fulfill ANMC's mission, on behalf of the American people, to lay to rest those who have served our nation with dignity and honor; to treat their families with respect and compassion; and to connect guests to the cemetery's living history. Projects to maintain these hallowed grounds befit the sacrifice of all those who rest there in quiet repose. The proposed Projects are considered federal undertakings with the potential to cause adverse effects on historic properties pursuant to 36 C.F.R. 800.3(a).

In accordance 36 C.F.R. 800.14(b), ANMC has determined that a programmatic agreement (PA) is the best course of action to move forward with the resolution of potential adverse effects. A PA may be used to govern the implementation of a particular program or the resolution of adverse effects from complex project situations or multiple undertakings, and where routine management activities are undertaken at Federal installations, facilities, or other land management units, in accordance with 36 C.F.R. 800.14(b)(iv). ANC's prior 2014-2024 Programmatic Agreement (enclosure 2) for operation, maintenance, and repair activities expired on July 18, 2024. The Arlington County Government and the National Park Service (NPS)-George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP) were both concurring parties to this Agreement. As a result, ANMC invites both organizations to participate as concurring parties to the proposed 2024 Agreement.

On October 9, 2024, ANMC initiated consultation on the proposed PA with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP). The parties have agreed on the terms of a draft one-year bridge Agreement (enclosure 1) utilizing the prior 2014-2024 Agreement's terms (enclosure 2)

to allow the consulting parties to work on a new Agreement for execution before December 31, 2025. The new Agreement shall include updates to ANC property boundaries, archaeological research, operations and maintenance policies and practices, and Attachments A-F. When the new Agreement is executed, the terms of the new Agreement will supersede the terms of the bridge Agreement executed in 2024.

Concurrent with this concurring party invitation, ANMC notified consulting parties and the public of the release of the draft one-year bridge PA, and of the initiation of a 30-day comment period. The notices and Section 106 documentation are being posted on the ANC website: <https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/About/Public-Notices>.

ANMC respectfully requests your response to this consultation and concurring party invitation. All questions and comments regarding the enclosed draft one-year bridge PA should be sent to the ANMC Cultural Resources Program Manager at usarmy.pentagon.hqda-anc-osa.mbx.cultural-resources@army.mil. Comments are due no later than December 4, 2024.

Army National Military Cemeteries looks forward to continuing the Section 106 consultation process with our agency partners, consulting parties, and the public. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

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

Enclosures:

1. DRAFT Programmatic Agreement Among Arlington National Cemetery, the Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for the Operation, Maintenance, and Repair Activities at Arlington National Cemetery (2024)
2. Programmatic Agreement Among Arlington National Cemetery, the Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for the Operation, Maintenance, and Repair Activities at Arlington National Cemetery (2014)

Arlington National Cemetery Historic District National Register Nomination:

<https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/historic-registers/000-0042/>