



Preserving America's Heritage

July 19, 2011

The Honorable John McHugh
Secretary of the Army
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington DC 20301-1400

REF: Army Interior's Prototype Programmatic Agreement.

Dear Secretary McHugh:

The Army has long been a cooperative partner in developing Program Alternatives with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP). The Army Cultural Resources Program has consistently been a leader in providing stewardship for their very important collection of resources. Over the past year, the Department of the Army (Army) requested the assistance of the ACHP in developing a tool that the Army could use to streamline the review of Army interiors to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. We have identified an approach in concert with the Army that will help the installations identify interiors, in coordination with their State Historic Preservation Office, that no longer necessitate consideration under the standard Section 106 review. This Prototype Programmatic Agreement is a template that can be used by the installations to expedite their review process.

Accordingly, I hereby designate the attached document as a Prototype Programmatic Agreement under 36 C.F.R. § 800.14(b)(4). It was developed by the Army and the ACHP with input from the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (NCSHPO), National Park Service (NPS), National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP) and multiple State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPO). The Prototype Programmatic Agreement (Prototype PA) enables states to streamline Section 106 reviews by establishing review protocols and methods for resolving adverse effects to historic properties. Further, it will address workload concerns that the installations and SHPOs are confronting in the review of Army interiors.

The benefits that the Prototype PA provides include the following:

- exempting the majority of routine, interiors activities with limited potential to affect historic properties from review;
- establishing a template PA that can be readily signed to evidence Section 106 compliance;
- allowing the Army and SHPO to execute it without ACHP involvement;
- giving the opportunity for flexibility and creative approaches by developing specific PAs for the management of Army interiors; and
- developing a database of existing and future historic interiors to be used as part of this agreement;

SHPOs and Army Installations may add other provisions to the Prototype PA that establish further

efficiencies and improve the management of undertaking effects on historic properties. Modifications to the attached Prototype PA will not change the status of the document as a Prototype PA; so long as the modifications (1) are agreed to by Army Installation and the relevant SHPO, and (2) do not substantially change the consultative role given to other consulting parties. A template survey form has been provided to use when developing interiors surveys. This can be altered to meet the needs of the installation in consultation with the relevant SHPO or may be replaced by an existing survey form currently in use by the SHPO.

The Army must file all executed Prototype PAs with the ACHP prior to their use. This will enable the ACHP to monitor the effectiveness of the Prototype PAs and engage the Army in future discussions regarding the Section 106 administration of this PA.

We appreciate the Army's cooperation and ongoing support of historic preservation initiatives. We are particularly appreciative of the efforts of the Army Cultural Resources staff. Their contributions were invaluable.

We look forward to working with the Army as a partner in this important interagency agreement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Milford Wayne Donaldson". The signature is written in a cursive style with some vertical strokes.

Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA
Chairman

Enclosure