

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

Between

The Department of Veterans Affairs
The Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office
And
The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has determined that the demolition of Buildings 8 and 23, VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System, Aspinwall Division, O'Hara Township, Allegheny County, will have an effect on a property determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, the VA has consulted with the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and determined that the effect is adverse but unavoidable in order to provide veterans, VA staff, and visitors with a safe environment.

WHEREAS, the VA has requested comments of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (Council) pursuant to Section 106, of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 470f) and its implementing regulations dated June 1999, "Protection of Historic Cultural Properties" (36 CFR Part 800); and

WHEREAS, the buildings are not up to current standards and renovations are estimated at 1.5 million per building to make them habitable, a public notice offering the buildings for sale has not been made. It is in the public's interest to demolish the buildings due to the unsafe conditions of the buildings.

NOW, THEREFORE, VA, the Pennsylvania SHPO, and the Council agree that the undertakings shall be implemented in accordance with the following stipulations in order to take into account their affect on the historic district:

STIPULATIONS

1. VA will have Buildings 8 and 23 recorded so that there will be a permanent record of their history and appearance. The Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) (National Park Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20243, 202-343-9606) will first be contacted to determine what level of documentation is required. All documentation must be accepted by HABS for submission to the Library of Congress, and the SHPO notified of its acceptance, prior to demolition or removal of the buildings. Copies of this documentation will be provided to the Pennsylvania SHPO and VA's Historic Preservation Office.

In the event recordation of Buildings 8 and 23 is not accepted by HABS/HAER, State Level Recordation will be prepared in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office.

2. VA will construct a historical wayside plaque that describes the historical and architectural aspects of the Aspinwall Division. Design of the plaque will be developed in consultation with the SHPO. The plaque will be displayed as you enter the campus near the area where Buildings 8 and 23 are located.

Execution of this Agreement and implementation of its terms evidences that, in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800, VA has afforded the SHPO and the Council an

opportunity to comment on the demolition of historic buildings at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System, Aspinwall Division, which is eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:

Thomas M. Cappello

Director, VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System Date

HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE:

Ann D. Jones 2/28/00

State Historic Preservation Officer Date