

John L. Nau, III
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Executive Director



Preserving America's Heritage

August 19, 2008

Honorable Mary A. Bomar
Director
National Park Service
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Re: Request for Section 213 Report Regarding Proposed Main Post Update of the 2002
Presidio Trust Management Plan

Dear Ms. Bomar:

As you may be aware, the Presidio Trust (PT) is engaged in consultation pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), 16 U.S.C. §470f, regarding a proposed Main Post update to the 2002 Presidio Trust Management Plan for the Main Post Historic District, a component of the Presidio of San Francisco National Historic Landmark District, also known as Area B of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. On November 21, 2007 the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) notified the PT that the ACHP would participate in this Section 106 consultation. That consultation has included the California State Historic Preservation Office and numerous other parties. Because the Presidio is a National Historic Landmark (NHL), the PT has taken steps to include the Secretary of the Interior, through designated staff at the National Park Service - Pacific West Region, in the consultation process.

The PT proposes to amend its Main Post Historic District plan in order to accommodate a suite of new developments including restoring the landscape along Funston Avenue; redefining the Old Parade Ground; restoring the Main Parade Ground; constructing a contemporary art museum, lodge, and a "Main Street" with the Anza Esplanade; and rehabilitating and adding on to the Presidio Theater. Many unresolved issues in Section 106 consultation for this proposed amendment pertain to the compatibility of this development with the historic character of this unique NHL, as well as the location of new construction on or near the Main Parade Ground.

To better assess the unresolved issues regarding the project's effects to the NHL, we request the Secretary of the Interior's views under Section 213 of the NHPA, 16 U.S.C. § 470u, which directs the Secretary of the Interior to prepare a report "detailing the significance of [the] historic property, describing the effects of [the] proposed undertaking on the affected property, and recommending measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects" if requested by the ACHP.

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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Specifically, we request your views and comments on the impact to the integrity of the NHL posed by the proposed volume, design, and location of new construction and rehabilitation within the Main Post Historic District. We would also ask that you provide recommendations as to measures that could avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects to the NHL.

In order to inform our participation in this consultation, we request that you provide the Section 213 report within 60 days of your receipt of this request, in accordance with the newly developed guidance for requesting and coordinating Section 213 reports between the ACHP and NPS. The PT has developed a proposed schedule for beginning the negotiation of a Section 106 agreement document in late September and this report will assist the ACHP and all other parties in that negotiation. We understand that the Pacific West Regional Office will be preparing the report. In anticipation of our request we have spoken with Ms. Elaine Jackson-Retondo, NHL Program Coordinator for that office, and understand that the Regional Office has adequate information on the undertaking to complete the report.

Ms. Katharine Kerr of our staff will be representing the ACHP in this consultation and would be pleased to assist you or the Regional Office, if you so request. She can be reached at 202-606-8534 or by EMAIL at kkerr@achp.gov. We are grateful for your assistance and look forward to receiving the report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John", written in a cursive style.

John M. Fowler
Executive Director