



U.S. ARMY

CONSULTATION CONFERENCE #6:

PROPOSED PROGRAM COMMENT FOR PRESERVATION OF PRE-1919 HISTORIC ARMY HOUSING, ASSOCIATED BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES, AND LANDSCAPE FEATURES



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UNCLASSIFIED

PURPOSE

To inform stakeholder consultation regarding the proposed *Program Comment for Preservation of Pre-1919 Historic Army Housing, Associated Buildings and Structures, And Landscape Features*.

AGENDA - CONSULTATION CONFERENCE #6

- I. **SUMMARY**

- II. **CONCLUSION**

* Learn more about Department of the Army historic preservation and cultural resources by visiting www.denix.osd.mil/army-cr/home/.

I. SUMMARY

- **15 June 2023**, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and Environment sponsored a forum at Fort McNair, Washington DC with other senior leaders to discuss pre-1919 Army housing NHPA compliance issues and program alternatives. Attendees included the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations, and Environment; Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior; Chairman, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP); Chairman, National Capital Planning Commission; Associate Director, National Park Service (NPS); Executive Director, ACHP; and the Executive Director, National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (NCSHPO). There was general agreement among stakeholders that a nationwide programmatic NHPA compliance approach to pre-1919 Army housing was needed.
- **20 July 2023**, as a follow-up to the Ft McNair meeting the Army Federal Preservation Officer (FPO) held a consultation meeting with the ACHP Executive Director, NCSHPO Executive Director, and the NPS Associate Director to obtain their views on a program alternatives for programmatic treatment of pre-1919 housing for the Army's consideration.
- **24 August 2023**, the Army FPO again met with the ACHP, NPS, and NCSHPO to further discuss program alternatives for pre-1919 Army housing including a Nationwide Programmatic Agreement and a Program Comment.
- **24 August 2023**, the Army FPO also had a separate discussion directly with the ACHP Executive Director regarding program alternatives.
- **19 September 2023**, after thorough consideration of the range of program alternatives, the Army FPO officially notified the ACHP Executive Director of the Army senior leadership's decision to seek a program comment for its pre-1919 housing.

I. SUMMARY

- The Army initiated public participation for the Program Comment process (per 36 CFR 800.14(e)(2)), by publication of a Notice of Availability (NOA) in the Federal Register on 23 October 2023. The Federal Register NOA at 88 FR 72743 informed the public of the Army's intent to seek a Program Comment for pre-1919 housing from the ACHP and provided the *Army Program Comment Plan* for a 30-day public review and comment period.
- The Army FPO also reached out directly via email to over 840 NHPA stakeholders to ensure awareness of the Federal Register NOA and invite stakeholders to weekly consultation conferences. Interested parties identified themselves and were invited to the consultation conferences.
- The Program Comment Plan along with extensive associated information is located on the Army's Program Comment website established by the Army at <https://denix.osd.mil/army-pre1919-pchh/>. Interested parties were encouraged to review the Program Comment Plan since it informed the consultations that occurred between 8 Nov and 20 Dec 2023.

I. SUMMARY

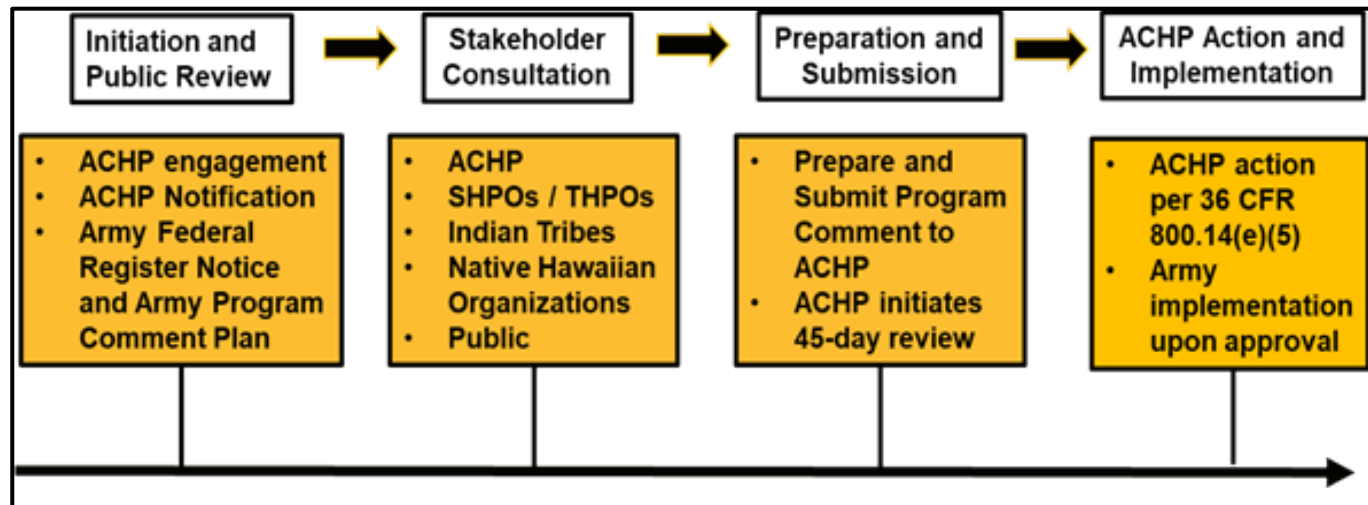
- A series of six in-depth consultation conferences with interested parties began 8 Nov 2023 and addressed critical topics in Program Comment Plan.
 - Consultation Conference #1: 08 Nov 23 - Introduction, Goal, Objective, and Development
 - Consultation Conference #2: 15 Nov 23 - Scope, Pre-1919 Housing Inventory, NHL Status
 - Consultation Conference #3: 29 Nov 23 - Category of Undertaking and Potential Effects
 - Consultation Conference #4: 06 Dec 23 - Design Guidelines and Building Materials Catalog
 - Consultation Conference #5: 13 Dec 23 - Applicability, Effect, and Duration
 - Consultation Conference #6: 20 Dec 23 - Summary and Conclusion
- Army committed to make several changes to the Program Comment based on the consultation conferences including adding additional tax act consideration in the materials selection procedure and clarifications of language. Additional changes are anticipated based on Federal Register comments.

II. CONCLUSION

- The Army is implementing the requirements for Program Comments in accordance with 36 CFR 800.14(e)(1) and (2) and the ACHP's recommended best practices for the Program Comment process.
- Army's Program Comment Plan identified the category of undertakings, specified the likely effects on historic properties, specified the steps the Army will take to ensure the effects are taken into account, and identified the time period requested for the Program Comment.
- The Army considered the nature of the undertakings and their likely effects on historic properties and invited individuals, organizations, and entities likely to be interested to participate in consultation on critical Program Comment topics.
- The Army arranged for public participation appropriate to the subject and scope of the proposed Program Comment. The Army will summarize reviews submitted by the public in the Program Comment Administrative Record that will be provided to the ACHP.

II. CONCLUSION

- The Army's Program Comment Plan outlined a four step Program Comment process. The Army has now completed the first two steps in the process, *Initiation and Public Review* and *Stakeholder Consultation*.



- The next step in the process is *Preparation and Submission* of the Program Comment. During this step, the Army FPO will prepare the Program Comment based on the most current information and consider all comments from prior public participation and consultation with interested parties.
- The final step in the process is *ACHP Action and Army Implementation*. The Army FPO will submit the proposed Program Comment to the ACHP Executive Director on or about 31 January 2024 and request ACHP action. The ACHP then has 45 days to consult with SHPOs, THPOs, Indian tribes, and Native Hawaiian Organizations and then vote to approve or disapprove the Program Comment.