



Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION

February 2, 2026

Jeff Irwin
NPS-Gettysburg Natl Military Park
Gettysburg National Military Park
1195 Baltimore Pike
Gettysburg, PA 17325

RE: ER Project # 2025PR00966.005, Removal of Wright Farm and Bishop Farm Structures, National Park Service, Cumberland Township, Adams County

Dear Jeff Irwin,

Thank you for submitting information concerning the above referenced project.

Proposed Project

The project proposes to demolish the Wright House and Barn and the Bishop House and Barn at the Gettysburg National Military Park. Demolition will include removing structures and foundations to a maximum depth of 2 feet below grade, removing any exterior walkways, steppingstones, exterior stairs, concrete slabs, and paved parking lots. Sites will be restored to approximate grades present prior to development using only fill materials and protection will be provided of existing trees. The driveway of the Bishop House will remain in place and be used for staging. The Bishop barn will be fully removed including the stone foundation and earthen bank. Archaeological monitoring will be in place during all demolition work involving potential ground disturbance. The goal of the proposed project is to reduce as many excess park resources as possible to ensure limited funding can be directed to the most significant resources that are fundamental to the Park's mission.

Area of Potential Effect

We agree with the Area of potential Effect (APE) as presented in PA-SHARE.

Archaeological Resources

SHPO Sends Comments - Environmental Review - No Effect - Archaeological - Avoidance

The PA SHPO concurs with the proposed scope of work and avoidance plan for site(s) 36AD260 and 36AD285. PA SHPO concurs with the following monitoring and avoidance plans: avoidance of the Locus 1 area of the Bishop Farmstead site (36AD260) and for the demolition of the western barn wall, limiting heavy machinery operation to the opposite side of the barn (southeast side) and having a professional archaeologist present to monitor the use of heavy equipment in the area. For the Guinn/Wright farmstead site (36AD285), PA SHPO concurs that a professional archaeologist should be present to monitor the ground disturbing work. If project plans change and the site(s) cannot be avoided and/or if additional historic properties are located during project construction, you will need to reinitiate consultation with our office using PA-SHARE.

Above Ground Resources

Identified Historic Properties

The Gettysburg National Military Park (Resource # 1966RE000042) is listed in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) under Criteria A, B, C, and D in the areas of Military, Politics/Government, Landscape Architecture, Conservation, and Archaeology. The period of significance (POS) is 1863-1938.

The Gettysburg Battlefield Historic District (Resource # 1975RE00197) is listed in the National Register under Criteria A and C in the areas of Agriculture, Architecture, Conservation, Education, Military, Religion/Philosophy, and Transportation and incorporates most of the town of Gettysburg and the Civil War Battlefield area. The district has two specific areas of significance: the development and evolution of Gettysburg presents regional characteristics of town planning and in architectural history including excellent examples of vernacular and formal residential, commercial, industrial, educational and ecclesiastical architecture from the late 18th century through the mid20th century. The second area of significance is the history surrounding the events leading to and occurring during the Battle of Gettysburg. The POS is 1786-1920.

The Bishop Farmstead (Resource # 1983RE00500) is located within the Gettysburg Battlefield Historic District and is listed as a contributing resource to the historic district. The farmstead consists of a ca. 1890-1900 dwelling and Pennsylvania barn with later shed, garage, and milking parlor additions.

Assessment of Effects

Based on the information received and available in our files, we concur with the agency that the proposed project will have an Adverse Effect on the National Register-Listed Gettysburg Battlefield Historic District as demolition of the Bishop house and barn will result in the physical destruction of a resource that contributes to the historic significance of the district.

We concur with the agency that demolition of the Wright House and Barn will have no adverse effect on historic properties as the house and barn are not contributing to the Gettysburg Battlefield Historic District or the Gettysburg National Military Park and are not individually eligible for listing in the National Register.

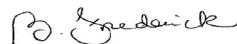
Continued Consultation

The NPS held a consulting party meeting on August 27, 2025, and included the PA SHPO, representatives from Historic Gettysburg Adam County (HGAC), and the Gettysburg Foundation, invited consulting parties to the project. The meeting discussed several alternatives that would avoid or minimize the adverse effect. We understand the NPS has considered alternatives that include partnering with HGAC to rehabilitate and maintain the historic core of Bishop barn, relocation of the historic core of the barn by HGAC and leaving the barn in place with exclusion fences and signage for safety, without future plans for maintenance. After consideration of all the alternatives, and HGAC's decision not to acquire the barn, the NPS preferred alternative is the complete removal of all above-ground evidence of the existing structures with re-grading to pre-development conditions as this is the only alternative to meet the project goal of reallocation of funds to resources more fundamental to the Park's mission; the Bishop House and Barn post-date the Battle of Gettysburg.

We recommend you continue to consult with the PA SHPO and other consulting parties on ways to mitigate the adverse effect on historic properties.

For questions concerning archaeology, please contact Kristen Walczesky at kwalczesky@pa.gov. For questions concerning above ground resources, please contact Tyra Guyton at tyguyton@pa.gov.

Sincerely,



Barbara Frederick

Environmental Review Division Manager