



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Valley Forge National Historical Park
1400 North Outer Line Drive
King of Prussia, PA 19406-1009

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H42 (VAFO-P)

JUN 13 2012

Dr. Anthony Wonderley, Oneida Nation Historian
Oneida Indian Nation
1256 Union Street
Oneida, NY 13421

Dear Dr. Wonderley:

At Valley Forge National Historical Park the National Park Service proposes to issue a Request for Proposals to lease the house and immediately associated grounds of the Philander Chase Knox estate. The tenant will use the area for private events between April and the end of October, erecting a tent on the lawn east of the house.

The purpose of the project is to provide managed public access to the house and also to provide revenue for its ongoing maintenance and preservation. Proposed exterior work includes construction of a gravel valet-parking lot and access lane within the former walled garden. The enclosed description provides more detailed information. During our General Management planning/EIS process, which incorporated consultation with the Oneida Indian Nation, we determined that the building and site could be made available for alternate uses.

The project lies in an upland area of the park approximately 500' from any water course. At this time, based on the results of shovel test pits, the park archeologist does not expect that Native American archeological resources will be discovered.

This letter serves as notification that we have begun the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process and propose to complete a draft combined environmental assessment (EA) and assessment of affect (EOA) for public and agency review this summer. We are initiating consultation with you in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

If you have any initial comments or would like additional information about the scope of the project or the affected area, please contact Deirdre Gibson, Chief of Planning and Resource Management at the above address or by telephone at (610) 783-1047. Your continued participation in the planning process for this project is important to us and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Kate H. Hammond
Superintendent

Enclosures