



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. James M. Vaughan
State Historic Preservation Officer
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
300 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Dr. Vaughan:

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 lease is to provide managed public access to the house and also to provide revenue for its ongoing maintenance and preservation. One section of the house is currently used as the Park Library, accessible by appointment only. Other parts of the house are used by Park staff for occasional meetings and storage areas, and the remainder of the house is unused and vacant. During our General Management Plan/EIS process, NPS determined that there is no other feasible park operational or visitor services use for the building, and that it could be made available for alternate uses. The present initiative tiers off the EIS.

No modifications would be required or permitted to the interior of the house. On the exterior, the proposed project would include the construction of a gravel parking lot within the former walled garden west of the greenhouse and the addition of a new 10' wide access lane between Library Lane and the proposed parking lot. More details may be seen on the enclosed overview.

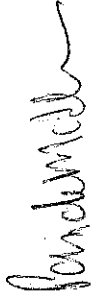
This letter serves as notification that we have begun the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process and Section 106 process and that we propose to complete a combined draft environmental assessment (EA) and assessment of effect (AOE) for public and agency review this summer. In accordance with 36 CFR 800.8 (c) we also are notifying the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, by copy of this letter.

We have had the opportunity to show the property to Jean Cutler, Mark Shaffer, and Ann Safely, of your staff at our annual on-site consultations, but have not yet discussed the specifics of this proposal. I encourage your staff's participation in the planning for this

project, to ensure that any of your office's concerns regarding potential impacts to historic properties are raised and addressed early in the planning process. As the EA/AOE for the proposed project is developed, I will also provide copies to you for your staff's review and comment and arrange meetings as necessary with your staff to discuss the project.

If you have any initial comments, 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

for

Enclosures

cc: Reid Nelson, Advisory Council for Historic Preservation