

Report - Demographics

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Report Criteria

Park:*

Project ID: **Document ID:**

Org. Type:

View Correspondences: **View Non-FormLetter Correspondences Only:**

Receipt Date From: **Receipt Date To:**

Printable Version: ([HTML](#)) ([Excel](#))

Independence NHP Demographic Report Results for Correspondence View (found total '54')										
Project ID	Project Title	Document ID	Correspondence ID	Correspondence	Receipt Date	Form Letter	Org. Type	Organization	Name Address Email	Kept Private
28017	Land Exchange	30298	30	It will be a tragedy if you don't keep as is the Archeology Lab of Independence Park in Philadelphia. They are researching, maintaining, and teaching our archeological heritage.	11/03/2009	No	Unaffiliated Individual		[Redacted]	Yes
28017	Land Exchange	30298	42	Re Land Exchang: Send the National Center for the American Revolution to 34d and chestnut St. Philadelphia. Keep National Valley Forge Park. Against National Center for the American Revolution to take over the Park Lands. Save Valley forge Park!!	11/05/2009	No	Unaffiliated Individual		[Redacted]	Yes
28017	Land Exchange	30298	21	I am representing no group or organization, other than as a citizen of Pennsylvania and the United States. While this is a well-intentioned effort to make whole Valley Forge Park, it is a bad deal for both the citizens of the United States and Pennsylvanians. There are no conditions on the transfer, other than an ESA, and the idea that NPS could negotiate effective deed restrictions with Lenfest, Rendell, and their political allies is ludicrous. As odd as the 1970's Visitor Center is on the Mall, I fully expect ARC to develop the property to be the vision it was at Valley Forge, i.e., a thriving Convention Center with an itsy, bitsy museum appended to its gift shop. Once ARC is on	10/31/2009	No	Unaffiliated Individual		[Redacted]	No

the Mall, no effort on the part of NPS, no effort on the part of the City of Philadelphia, no effort on the part of historians or preservationists will be able to reign in the crass, commercialized Disney-like building effort that awaits. That the Park Service would sell off its birthright in this fashion would shame even Esau. Acquire the acreage at Valley Forge, but don't sell out our nation's history in the process.

28017	Land Exchange	30298	17	<p>Change is not always progress. The proposed land swap that will leave the fate of the public archaeology lab at Independence Park (Philadelphia) in limbo, without closure, should be reexamined for its effect on the education of future field scientists. From my perspective, the lack of specificity regarding the migration of the lab to another site bespeaks a lack of appreciation for a resource many towns and cities would very much enjoy having. I can assure you that in rural Idaho, we would dearly treasure the resources that the public archaeology lab provides. What may be one man's castoff is another man's comfort.</p> <p>The National Park Service (NPS) is standing too close to the situation and not seeing the matter from a broad enough perspective. The issue is not one of swapping properties; it is a matter of sustaining the equilibrium of educational services heretofore enjoyed by Philadelphia stakeholders and students.</p> <p>I urge the NPS to engage the laboratory in "quid pro quo" discussions that will safeguard the future of the educational and scholarly resource Philadelphia has enviably at its fingertips.</p>	10/30/2009	No	Unaffiliated Individual	[REDACTED]	Yes
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28017	Land Exchange	30298	25	<p>I am a 40 year formal school education veteran who created and directed a large district wide, essential curriculum-based, school program in archaeology (in the Baltimore County Public Schools, the 22nd largest U.S. school district). Over the past decade I have watched the development of the Independence archaeology happenings closely and with great interest and have been pleased to see the government providing such excellent public educational opportunities in archaeology. When I retired and my program in the BCPS came to an end, I offered the lab at Independence Park equipment for use with their volunteers. I hope that this public lab with its up-close and personal experience with the material</p>	11/02/2009	No	Unaffiliated Individual	[REDACTED]	Yes
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culture of our past will remain an option for our fellow citizens.

A few years ago, as a Social Studies Curriculum Specialist in the Office of Social Studies, BCPS, I assisted two of your Independence Park educators (Sue Glenning and Amber Fry) in their Archeology Classroom planning. I hosted them at the BCPS Center for Archaeology where we talked over archaeology education issues. I also met with them when I traveled later to Philadelphia when the classroom was nearing preparation. After donating my expertise and time to assisting the James Dexter instructional lesson for the Archeology Classroom, I would like to inquire as to the plans for this most relevant educational offering: Is it being displaced by the land exchange for the American Revolutionary Museum? Will it continue?

Based on more than four decades of experience working with students, I can attest that no social studies classroom activity or interpretive presentation succeeds in sparking interest as effectively as providing students direct exposure to the discovery process of archaeology -- both in the field and in the lab. Witnessing the careful uncovering and recording of artifacts or the painstaking process of analyzing the artifacts allows students, and the visiting public as well, to gain an understanding of and appreciation for the interpretation of the past in a immediate manner unmatched by any interpreter's talking points or network of web pages.

I encourage the Park administrators to place a high priority on continued support of the fine work of the staff at the Independence Living History Center's Archaeology Lab.

[REDACTED]

28017	Land Exchange	30298	2	Yes, I support the exchange of land in VFNHP to Independence NHP in Philadelphia, it makes more sense to have it with the other National historic sites on the Mall, all in walking distance for a true historic experience.	10/28/2009	No	Unaffiliated Individual	[REDACTED]	Yes
28017	Land Exchange	30298	1	As someone who has been involved in the process of siting the American Revolution Center in Lower Providence, I can unequivocally support the exchange of 78 acres of land in Lower Providence	10/28/2009	No	Unaffiliated Individual	[REDACTED]	No

				Township for the land in Independence NHP in Philadelphia. We have many constraints here in Lower Providence, traffic, land use, open space issues, citizen outrage, and the bifurcation of the VFNHP to mention just a few. This site used by General Washington for his commissary is just wrong for everyone. Thanks for working toward a compromise that just makes sense to all.					
28017	Land Exchange	30298	18	I am in support of the land exchange so that the Pawlings Rd. tract of VFNP that was to be developed by the ARC is not developed by them or anyone else.	10/30/2009	No	Unaffiliated Individual	[REDACTED]	Yes
28017	Land Exchange	30298	14	I support the new ARC plan! Thanks	10/29/2009	No	Unaffiliated Individual	[REDACTED]	Yes
28017	Land Exchange	30298	51	<p>October 30, 2009</p> <p>Independence National Historical Park ATTN: American Revolution Center Public Comments 143 South 3rd Street Philadelphia, PA 19106</p> <p>Hello,</p> <p>My husband and I would like to applaud the National Park Service and the American Revolution Center for what is about to transpire regarding the land exchange.</p> <p>We are thrilled that the 78 acres of land within the boundaries of Valley Forge National Historical Park on Pawlings Road will be preserved and that the Museum will have a home at the Independence Living History Center, an existing building.</p> <p>Too many of these parcels within Park boundaries like the one on Pawlings Road get developed.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p> <p>Jeffrey and Joanne Burns</p>	10/30/2009	No	Unaffiliated Individual	[REDACTED]	No
28017	Land Exchange	30298	23	I respect and appreciate the sacred history associated with the 78-acre parcel within the Congressional boundary of Valley Forge National Historical Park, which was purchased with funds donated by H.Gerry Lenfest on behalf of the American Revolution Center for what was originally stated to be the site upon which to build only a modest Museum to educate our children and grandchildren about this	11/01/2009	No	Unaffiliated Individual	[REDACTED]	No

important time in our country's history. We local residents were not shown by the then C.E.O, Tom Daly, the extent of the project and the commercial plans for a hotel and other support buildings when this was initially proposed. We did not at first understand that more than 70% of the land would be disturbed by the ARC project. I just knew that this all felt "wrong" for this tract of land from the beginning. I am a history buff.

I am a resident and tax payer in Lower Providence Township. I and my family members (4 generations) have visited, understand and do appreciate the profound meaning to each of us Americans of those soldiers who suffered disease and hardship, sacrificed and survived at Valley Forge under the leadership of General Washington. I believe from my studies that troops trained on this side of the river in the Pawlings farm area on the Peninsula prior to their march-out and successful rout of the British troops at Monmouth Courthouse. I purchased my home on Vaux Lane 20 years ago with consideration of the nearby boundaries of VFNHP. I walk these trails and visit this Park often.

After viewing the expanded commercial development plans by the ARC, and realizing that this was simply the wrong place for this project, in July, 2007 I joined with fellow citizens and lawyers both from N.P.C.A. and my neighborhood to fight against the certain destruction of this land. As a member of the National Parks Conservation Association and the Friends of Valley Forge Park I could not in good conscience support the ARC Museum project there. However, I have expressed in person to Dr. Cole, the new Director of the ARC, that I DO support the concept of the Museum and the importance of the preservation of this history for future generations. When I met him in February 2009, I told him that I will support the Museum project at another site. I begged him to help save this historic land on Pawlings Road.

I am delighted with the decision of the National Park Service and the ARC Board to complete this "Land Exchange" and to have the American Revolution Center take title to the property at 3rd and Chestnut Streets in Philadelphia, PA, for the Museum while having ARC sign over the title to the 78-acre Pawling Road tract to Valley Forge National Historical Park. I firmly believe that this 78 acres of land is

just as sacred as all of VFNHP and should belong to all Americans forever and should not be developed commercially. On the other hand, to have this Museum in the historic area of Philadelphia will certainly add prestige to the city and value to the visitor experience.

In proceeding post-haste with all the stated title searches and other requirements in the listed documents on both sides for this "Land Exchange", the multitude of citizens from around the United States of America who wrote hundreds of letters, emails and post-cards to our elected government representatives, or who attended the local protest rallies with me concerning the desecration of this part of Valley Forge National Historical Park will certainly be ecstatic when this is accomplished. This "Land Exchange" is a definite "Win Win" for all involved. A huge "Thank You" to those in power who came up with this solution!

Thank You for allowing me to add my comments.

28017	Land Exchange	30298	54	Dear Superintendent - ATTN: American Revolution Center Public Comments,	11/10/2009	No	Unaffiliated Individual	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	No
				I, Fernand Cohen, Professor and Director of the Imaging and Computer Vision Center in the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department at Drexel University, am writing to inquire about the fate of the Archeology Lab at Independence Park given the land swap involving the American Revolutionary Museum. I have research interests directly associated with the Archeology lab and am concerned that the lab should continue to operate and be available to scholars.						
				I am Principle the Investigator on a significant (\$737,000) National Science Foundation Grant project (NSF no. 0803670, entitled, "The 3D Colonial Philadelphia Project'Digital Restoration of Thin-Shell Objects for Historical Archaeological Research and Interpretation) which involves research using the National Constitution Center Site archaeological remains being processed in the Independence Park Archeology Lab. The site's ceramics are being used in the development of 3D computer vision enabling technologies. Some of this research takes place on-site in the Archeology lab using the ceramic artifacts and the necessary expertise of Jed Levin.						

My particular part of this research involves shapes/pattern matching of 3D surface using global geometric shape and generic models. This is a major thrust towards the advancement of computational archaeology, collections management, and American history interpretation through our joint work with the Archaeology Lab. I am conducting this work with the assistance of two graduate Drexel students who likewise are making use of the Archeology Lab for their degree research. Only the first of our three years of the NSF-funded research has been completed and I therefore ask what provisions is the National Park Service making to ensure that this archeology lab will continue in operation?

For Drexel University and its students, the Independence Park Archeology Lab has served as a tremendous resource. We would like such a relationship to continue and hope that the Archaeology Lab will continue in operation so that this can happen.

Sincerely,

Fernand Cohen
 Professor
 Director of the Imaging and Computer Vision Center
 Electrical and Computer Engineering Department
 Drexel University
 Philadelphia, PA 19104
 Phone #: 215-895-1420
 e-mail: fscohen@coe.drexel.edu

28017	Land Exchange	30298	22	This is a GREAT idea. Thank you for having the forthought to do this. I support this 100%.	11/01/2009	No	Unaffiliated Individual	[REDACTED]	Yes
28017	Land Exchange	30298	10	I think the land swap should definitely take place. Valley Forge Park surrounds the 78 acres by 94 percent. The 78 acres is open fields with some trees and with the ARC plan it is to pave over at least 75 percent of it. A hotel and a conference center inside the park boundaries is unacceptable and should not happen. The 78 acres may be historic and should be researched by the Park Service staff. Competition will occur for visitors if the ARC is across the river from the parks welcome center and there is no easy way to get to both sites on the same day of the visit. Walking trails that go around the 78 acres	10/29/2009	No	Unaffiliated Individual	[REDACTED]	No

are very scenic and relaxing to walk.(Lots of birds and red foxes are located on this property)
Once this land is paved over there is no chance of the park service ever owning it. Philadelphia is more of an attraction area and can handle the traffic and the use of public transportation then Valley Forge.

11/03/2009 No Unaffiliated Individual

28017 Land Exchange 30298 29

Dear NPS,

As a tourist from Alabama, I visited the ARCHAEOLOGY LAB in the INDEPENDENCE LIVING HISTORY CENTER about a year ago, and thought it was just about the best visitor experience I had in Philadelphia. It gave me an authentic look behind the scenes; it was something I could experience firsthand in a very personal way. It was great to talk directly to the archaeologists while they studied these important artifacts.

I enjoyed the idea that I was looking at the "real stuff." I truly enjoy all the many ranger led tours of the historic sites throughout our National Parks, but it was very special to peel away the layers of storytelling, and get to experience, at this location, a more immediate connection with a range of authentic artifacts the bits and pieces of our shared past and to talk directly to the front line researchers.

So please, IF you must trade away this location, you MUST also find an equally acceptable home for this operation, so citizens can continue to have this wonderful firsthand experience with the process of recovering important and diverse buried histories. (and please publicize it well and make it easy for out of town visitors like me to find!)

Also, I have the expectation that the NPS, before it trades away any property, would make sure there are no significant buried archaeological sites that will go unprotected if this property leaves the public domain.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to comment, and for always thoughtfully protecting our national heritage. Please do not disappoint those of us that love the NPS for programs like the ARCHEOLOGY LAB, and for the consistently great experiences we've had since childhood at NPS sites.

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted address]

Yes

				[REDACTED]					
28017	Land Exchange	30298	52	<p>We need to make the exchange happen. He's very against the VAFO location, very much in favor of the new location and fully supports it.</p> <p>He pointed out a number of typos on the parkplanning.nps.gov/inde website, including our address and the name of the ARC.</p>	11/11/2009	No	Unaffiliated Individual	[REDACTED]	No
28017	Land Exchange	30298	27	<p>It has come to my attention that the land exchange in Philadelphia, PA would involve moving or eliminating the archaeology lab at Independence Mall. This would be a huge mistake. This is the primo, public archaeology laboratory in the United States. It is open to the public, explains in an open and inviting manner the remarkable information that can be gleaned from records, artifacts and qualified people about the history of the area. The storage facility, a used-to-be movie house with graduated elevated seating, has been converted to a state of the art climate controlled space perfect for sensitive materials. The lab itself, is laid out for viewing so the public can attend and participate.</p> <p>The whole of the lab is, in conjunction with the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall, a wonderful contributor to our understanding of early American history.</p> <p>Jed Levin, NPS archaeologist and drector of the lab, headed the archaeology excavations of the first President's house and Ben Franklin's home. Dr. Patrice Jeppson has volunteered hours and hours to research of both the President's house and the Ben Franklin 300th birthday celebration, creating on-line journeys through the history gleaned from these excavations. These two people are invaluable in establishing a contributory link between the elusive past and our fleeting present.</p> <p>I believe it a huge mistake to exchange away this opportunity given to all Americns to gain intellect and understanding of the past. The tutelage we are being given brings our glorified past to a reality and engages it with our lives today.</p> <p>PLEASE do not take this away. PLEASE do not take this away.</p>	11/02/2009	No	Unaffiliated Individual	[REDACTED]	Yes
28017	Land Exchange	30298	38	<p>The decision to place the Ark in Phila is without a doubt the best decision for a</p>	11/05/2009	No	Unaffiliated Individual	[REDACTED]	Yes

museum of this kind. It will be near the Liberty Bell, the area is highly traveled by tourists , the most impressive relics from this time are on view with in walking distance. there will be no destruction of trees or historic lands since the bldg already exists. I can't imagine a better place to view John Adams waist coat than in a temperature controlled bldg ! Putting this museum out in the sticks with no decent highway or method of transportation available was a regrettable idea that would have ill served the good will and intentions of the Arc committee. Their endeavors will be far more appreciated in the City of Brotherly Love....

[REDACTED]

28017	Land Exchange	30298	3	I think the exchange is good for all parties. Without it, there would be years of litigation and a lot of money wasted on legal fees. Next to the Visitors Center in Valley Forge Park would be the best location but center city Philadelphia is a close second. And placing the land in Lower Providence Township in the park gives the Township a win in that the land becomes essentially open space. It's a good deal. I hope nothing goes wrong.	10/28/2009	No	Unaffiliated Individual	[REDACTED]	Yes
28017	Land Exchange	30298	16	Please note that I am in favor of the plan for Valley Forge Park.	10/30/2009	No	Unaffiliated Individual	[REDACTED]	Yes
28017	Land Exchange	30298	44	Dear Superintendent, We have read that there is to be a land swap at Independence Park and are are writing to express our concern that this development may potentially impact the Park's presentation of archaeological history to the public. We have very much enjoyed visiting the Archeology Lab located on the land parcel in question. We have visited the lab every year since 2005. My wife and I have traveled to more than 150 National Parks, Monuments, and Sites during the past 50 years. Indeed, our 3 week honeymoon was spent driving to as many parks as possible as we traversed the country in 1957. We believe the National Parks truly are 'America's best Idea'. That is why we are doubly alarmed at what might happen to the archaeology lab currently located at the site of the land swap. We have a family member who is involved with this lab but we write today as citizens who love and are very active in visiting their parks. Are provisions being made by the National Park Service to insure that this public archaeology lab at Independence Park will	11/05/2009	No	Unaffiliated Individual	[REDACTED]	No

remain in operation after the land swap?
We feel it would be a travesty if tourists to Independence National Historical Park were no longer able to see the archaeology of early America discovered at this major national park?

Sincerely,
John and Maureen Jeppson

cc: Senator Diane Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Pete Stark

28017	Land Exchange	30298	28	<p>The National Park Service's agreement should include provisions that protect the archaeological resources within Independence Park. The ARC is group of businessmen that choose to tell history from their biased viewpoint. Archaeology tells the history of those peoples that aren't written about in the history books, the servants, slaves and working class people that helped to build Philadelphia and this nation. The benefit of having a working lab for volunteers to learn about the past and the importance of these historic resources. Viewing the process of archaeology for the public allows them to connect with their heritage to see daily life as it truly is, not as historians have recorded. History is often written with a bias, archaeological evidence is never biased. To use a common phrase today "it is what it is".</p> <p>Allowing a business venture to operate a facility within Independence Park suggests that our National Parks are "for sale" to the highest bidder. This is setting a precedent for a slippery slope that I for one do not want to see happen to our parks.</p>	11/03/2009	No	Unaffiliated Individual	[REDACTED]	Yes
28017	Land Exchange	30298	26	<p>Comments on the land exchange between INHP and the Center for the American Revolution:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The concept of developing a center about the Revolutionary War in the heart of Philadelphia's historic district is perfect for both the area and the center. Great idea. However, like always, the devil is in the details.2. The transfer document should detail that now as private land, the new center will be subject to all state and local regulations. Specifically, any new construction must comply with city zoning and building codes, be subject to any terms and conditions that apply to property originally obtained under Urban Renewal regulations and the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority, and be compatible with local overlay districts.3. New construction on the site should fit its surrounds: materials should be	11/02/2009	No	Unaffiliated Individual	[REDACTED]	No

compatible with surrounding buildings (stone and brick), the building should match the heights surrounding buildings, the building should be set back similar to other buildings in the area (built out to the sidewalk), its appearance should create a sense of "invitation" and activity on the first floor (no blank walls like the existing building), trash disposal must be hidden, etc.

4. In recent years the site has become a favorite location for tour buses to load and unload because of the existing facility's generous and clean toilet facilities and the site's capacity to handle several bus loads of people at one time. While any new facility should be built out to the sidewalk line, it is possible to continue to accommodate these tourist needs with an open first floor gathering space.

Rob Kettell

28017	Land Exchange	30298	9	I feel that this move is the best thing that could happen. The building of the museum on the 78 ackers of park land was just incorrect. It should of been at the visitors center in valley forge.	10/29/2009	No	Unaffiliated Individual	[REDACTED]	Yes
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28017	Land Exchange	30298	40	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am writing to express my concern about the proposed land exchange in Philadelphia and potential impacts to the Public Archaeology Lab at Independence Park.</p> <p>The historical archaeology collection at this lab, collected during the construction of the National Constitution Center, is important not only because of it research value, but also because of its value to the local-- and national community.</p> <p>These publics are served by this unique facility, which offers people the opportunity to get "up close and personal" with their history. We know that this kind of experience builds awareness of the importance of preserving our past, and thus helps to create new stewards who will join the fight to preserve and protect cultural resources. It is not clear what will become of this facility and of the ongoing work on the NCC artifact collection if the land exchange is enacted.</p> <p>In addition, it is not clear what the impact will be on other cultural resources that might exist on the land in question. Will archaeology sites be preserved if they are no longer under federal protection?</p> <p>The public, including the archaeological</p>	11/05/2009	No	Unaffiliated Individual	[REDACTED]	Yes
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community, expect and deserve answers to these troubling questions and concerns.

Thank you.

Additional information can be found in the attached write up. Time is of the essence as the public comment period is unusually short - just one week.

28017	Land Exchange	30298	48	<p>The public Archeology Lab at Independence Park has been processing millions of new colonial period artifacts recovered from the site of the National Constitution Center (NCC).</p> <p>The work on the NCC site artifacts must continue regardless of any land swap or other actions potentially affecting this work. Moreover, the work of the Lab must continue to operate as a public lab, as any other ownership would compromise access and research, and hinder transparency and timely and first-hand access to the latest evidence of American and African American history by the public.</p> <p>Furthermore, federal protection must be maintained to save these resources from degradation, sale, other loss.</p> <p>The land swap has implications for any potential archaeological resources, and could all too easily result in restricted, and potentially biased, access to resources that may exist on the parcel of land in question, and, therefore, the issue of protection, access, and preservation of these resources must be addressed regardless the outcome.</p>	11/06/2009	No	Unaffiliated Individual	[REDACTED]	Yes
28017	Land Exchange	30298	45	<p>Having reviewed the documents related to this Land Exchange the Philadelphia Archaeological Forum has two main areas of concern: 1) the ongoing processing and analysis of archaeological materials from the National Constitution Center Site (being completed in the Public Archaeology Laboratory within the Independence Living History Center); and 2) the specific deed restrictions included in the proposed land transfer document, as related to archaeological resources potentially contained within the present ILHC property.</p> <p>With respect to the NCC collections and analysis, the PAF is an official consulting</p>	11/06/2009	No	Unaffiliated Individual	Philadelphia Archaeological Forum [REDACTED]	No

party to that project, and our members are extremely concerned that the planned movement of the public archaeology lab to a new location following the land transfer in no way impedes, negatively effects, or otherwise does harm or causes unreasonable delay to that important work. Specifically, we are concerned that the movement of the lab will could effect the ability of INHP staff to meet all goals and time tables laid out in the current Programmatic Agreement for that project. The present lab facilities are well equipped to conduct the analyses of artifacts from the NCC, and any new facility for the lab must be similarly well-equipped and suited for this task. A significant aspect of the ongoing success of the public archaeology lab is its ability to allow interaction with members of the public who are interested in the history of this city, and in the archaeological findings from the NCC Site. We stronly believe that any new home for the NCC collection and archaeology lab should also be able to fulfill this commitment to public outreach, without any significant reduction in public access.

With respect to the deed restrictions pertaining to archaeological resources within the current ILHC property, the PAF raises the following points:

1) in paragraph 3 of the deed section covering Archeological Resources, the second sentence reads: "The review and evaluation of the Superintendent of Independence National Historical Park will include....". We believe this sentence is mistated - the review in question should be that of the Grantee and its qualified consultants, as spelled out in the paragraph above.

2) regarding the provisions for arbitration, the PAF believes that the terms of this section place the Grantee and Grantor on too much of a level playing field. INHP staff possess the professional skills and knowledge necessary to review and evaluate any potential archaeological resources that may be contained within the ILHC property, and to determine what appropriate mitigation measures should be taken if such resources are likely to be impacted by proposed construction or development. As such, any review of potential impacts to such resources, as spelled out in the deed of transfer, should give deference and priority to the determinations of INHP staff.

We are also concerned about the possible

outcomes of any arbitration that could occur with respect to the treatment of archaeological resources within the current LHC property. While it is understood that arbitration can take many forms, we are concerned that the results of arbitration could result in an outcome or agreement that does not comply with all of the requirements of the Secretary of the Interior's standard regarding archaeological resources. For example, if arbitration results in a compromise whereby only certain resources within the property would be subjected to archaeological documentation and/or mitigation. Such an outcome would not comply with the Secretary's Standards and would itself be a violation of the terms of this deed of transfer. We believe that it should be specifically and clearly stated that any arbitration must result in an agreement that fully complies with all Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines related to the documentation, study, and/or preservation of archaeological resources contained within the property. We also believe that it should be specifically stated that if the arbitration occurs, then no development or construction on the property will be allowed to proceed until the successful conclusion of that arbitration process.

Finally, we believe that the definition of "Archeological Resources" as included in the proposed deed language may need to be modified. The last sentence in sub-part 2 of the definitions states that :
"Archeological Resources' as used herein shall not be construed to include historic items that were obtained from a source outside the Protected Property". Does this definition apply to archaeological artifacts that were manufactured or purchased originally from a location outside the protected property, and therefore obtained from some other location by an original historic occupant of this space? We believe that this was not the intended meaning of this part of the definition; however, we believe the definition as currently stated is unclear and could be misinterpreted in the future.

Thank you very much for allowing us to submit these comments. Please feel free to contact me at the e-mail address above if you have any questions regarding the concerns raised above.

Sincerely,

Douglas Mooney
President
Philadelphia Archaeological Forum

28017	Land Exchange	30298	35	I notice that no mention is made of plans to continue the Public Archeology Laboratory which is curating, researching and interpreting the million-plus artifacts and records acquired from archeological projects at the National Constitution Center. These cultural materials and data are important for extending our understanding of America's Colonial period. Since these activities are housed in the property being swapped, where does the park propose to house them?	11/04/2009	No	Unaffiliated Individual	[REDACTED]	No
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28017	Land Exchange	30298	19	<p>As a regular volunteer at the Living History Archeology Laboratory, my objections to this land exchange are, admittedly, personal -- and apolitical. I'm deeply committed to the painstaking and important work of processing the artifacts recovered from the National Constitution Center site. And, as an outsider, I'm baffled by why the National Park Service would interrupt this work by displacing the professional staff and the millions of artifacts currently stored in the building at 3rd and Chestnut Streets. Though the building wasn't originally designed to function as a lab, it offers advantages that would be difficult to replicate elsewhere: space, natural light, and a public "theater", all of which support the physical and philosophical work the archaeologists undertake.</p> <p>I've lived here 25 years, but this experience has connected me to Philadelphia far more compellingly than any museum could. (In fact, it was a visit to the lab as a spectator that drew me to volunteering there.) During my nearly two years of service, I've been riveted by the history these fragments of Colonial life reveal. But I have been even more impressed with the archaeologists' enthusiasm for the public part of their job: that of cheerfully and skillfully educating the countless groups of tourists and school children that visit the lab. The Living History Archaeology Laboratory serves a crucial purpose within Independence National Park: that of returning our history to us in the form of these long-buried objects and the stories they tell.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Elizabeth Mosier Volunteer, Living History Archaeology Laboratory</p>	10/30/2009	No	Unaffiliated Individual	[REDACTED]	No
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Superintendent Cynthia MacLeod
Independence National Historic Park
Philadelphia, PA 19106

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Dear Superintendent MacLeod,

I enjoyed meeting you the other night at the Independence National Historical Park's information session, and thank you for reaching out to the public regarding the proposed land exchange by which the private organization known as the "National Center for the American Revolution" would receive ownership of the hallowed ground on the southeast corner of Third and Chestnut Streets currently held in trust for the American people by the National Park Service and currently occupied by the Archaeology Lab at Independence Park.

As a Philadelphia resident, anthropologist, media producer, and educator I attended the session out of deep concern. The tract of land that forms Independence National Park may be the most extensively documented historic parcel of land in the United States. It is a cultural resource and a national treasure that must be protected, for it still contains untapped valuable resources that are unique and critical for gaining a more comprehensive understanding of the birth of our nation. This fact has been dramatically illustrated over the past few years with archaeological excavations conducted at the site of what is now the National Constitution Center, and at the site of the Robert Morris House which served as the Executive Mansion for the first two Presidents of the United States. As our technologies for interpreting the past continue to improve, there will be a growing number of opportunities to use valuable historical remains that exist within the Park to interpret the past and provide a deeper understanding and appreciation for our cultural heritage. The archaeological artifacts recovered from the sites mentioned above, together with historical records from city and church archives, the Park archive, and other archives from area institutions are providing a dynamic picture of a colonial and post colonial America that has, until now, escaped the history books. The Archaeology Lab at Independence Park is not only working to recover the past, but is actively educating the general public about it. The Lab also plays an important role in higher education and research.

Presently, I am a Co-Investigator on

National Science Foundation Grant # 0803670 "The 3D Colonial Philadelphia Project - Digital Restoration of Thin-Shell Objects for Historical Archaeological Research and Interpretation." Work conducted under the auspices of the grant might make it possible to lend computer support to the interpretation and dissemination of historical archaeological information and could impact the entire field of historical archaeology. This grant would not have been possible if not for the work being conducted by Jed Levin and the staff of the Archaeology Lab at the Independence Living History Center.

With assistance from Jed Levin, and his staff Drexel Digital Media undergraduate students and faculty have made 3D scans of artifacts recovered from the NCC site. Also with assistance and guidance from Jed my students and faculty have made a 3D model of the James Oronoco Dexter House, which was excavated at the NCC site. The 3D model was featured in a Philadelphia Inquirer article and used in a public school to explain local history. Currently, a Digital Media graduate student is working to construct a 3D digital model of the Morris House. The model is based in part on a 3D scan of the archaeological excavation conducted on the site. The student is seeking information regarding similar period construction techniques that might be useful in rendering the model. The other night, at the information session, Doris Fanelli mentioned that Bishop White's House on the grounds of the Park might provide an example for similar construction techniques. I again thought how fortunate we were to have such a rich and dynamic national resource for understanding and appreciating our cultural heritage. Almost immediately, the thought followed that if sections of the Park were given away, even in well intentioned land exchanges, the possibilities of new insights gained from primary source material contained in the Park would no longer be available for future generations. What a terrible loss!

I urge you to do all you can to keep our valuable and irreplaceable Independence National Historical Park intact.

Sincerely,
Dr. Glen Muschio
Associate Professor
Digital Media Program Director
Westphal College of Media Arts & Design
Drexel University

28017	Land Exchange	30298	8	After a hard fought fight to keep the American Revolutionary Center's museum/hotel complex out of Valley Forge National Historical Park, this land swap comes as the perfect compromise and solution to everyone's problem. Center City Philadelphia is able to provide the needed hotel accomodations ARC believed to be vital to the success of its operation. Moreover, the proposed land swap will put ARC's Revolutionary War Museum right in the heart of things in terms of the new proposed site's area's history. A winning deal for everybody.	10/29/2009	No	Unaffiliated Individual	[REDACTED]	No
28017	Land Exchange	30298	15	Great idea to house the American Revolution Museum in Philadelphia. The building already exists, public transportation is easily accessible, it'll be located near an already established and very close National Hist. Park. To have the 78, or so, acres to go to Valley Forge Nat. Hist Park is excellent because: it maintains the bucolic atmosphere, doesn't tax already overburdened roadways, keeps the focus of VFNHP beginning at Visitors Center (no confusion about 2 museums. Thank you for this compromise-- fabulous!!!!!!!!!!!!	10/29/2009	No	Unaffiliated Individual	[REDACTED]	Yes
28017	Land Exchange	30298	39	Alot of money and time has been spent dealing with the ARC The time has come to cose this issue Please proceed to have the ARC transfer the deed back to Valley Forge National Park thank you	11/05/2009	No	Unaffiliated Individual	[REDACTED]	Yes
28017	Land Exchange	30298	4	I think the land transfer is a terrific idea that will benefit all. I hope the two artifact collections can be merged at the new Revolution Center. I think it will cause people to stay in Philadelphia longer to see all that there is downtown as well as Valley Forge Park. The Park is a treasure for the residents and saving the inholding from development critical.	10/28/2009	No	Unaffiliated Individual	[REDACTED]	Yes
28017	Land Exchange	30298	36	The Friends of Valley Forge Park has, from the beginning, believed that the concept of a Museum dedicated to the story of the American Revolution was a great concept. While we had issues with certain details of the plan, we always believed in the project and were prepared to support it in its final version whatever that turned out to be. It is our firm belief that the new location, within sight of Independence Hall, serves all sides of the issue. The Center will be within walking distance of the genesis of	11/04/2009	No	Unaffiliated Individual	Friends of Valley Forge Park [REDACTED]	No

our declaration of independence and Valley Forge will remain an undisturbed memorial to General George Washington and the men and women who persevered through the many trials of the winter encampment of 1777-78 to emerge, for the first time, as the true United States Army.

The Friends of Valley Forge Park not only supports the land exchange but remains prepared, as before, to do what it can to support the effort of the American Revolution Center.

Don R Naimoli
Chairman
The Friends of Valley Forge Park

28017	Land Exchange	30298	43	<p>In the documentation provided there is no indication as to the disposition of the public archaeology laboratory and the multitude of artifacts it is responsible for cleaning, cataloguing, and preserving. The artifact collection from the National Constitution Center is immensely important to understanding the history of the site, and as a result, understanding the history of our country.</p> <p>A public archaeology laboratory that provides an interactive experience for the visiting public is invaluable as a demonstration of actual archaeological study processes. The staff have an opportunity to engage the public in the educational process, and perhaps instigate pursuit of participation and education in the processes of investigation and preservation while mitigating some of the damage done by Indiana Jones and Lara Croft.</p> <p>The public archaeology laboratory must be kept in operation and be made available for the education of the public, a resource for our elementary, secondary and post secondary schools. The best way to foster an attitude for, interest and participation in archaeology, history, preservation, and conservation is to engage the public in conversation with projects like the public archaeology laboratory.</p> <p>Please ensure that the laboratory will remain as an entity available to the public.</p>	11/05/2009	No	Unaffiliated Individual	[REDACTED]	No
28017	Land Exchange	30298	24	<p>Dear Superintendent</p> <p>I [REDACTED] Assistant Professor of Computer Science, am writing to inquire about the fate of the Archeology Lab at Independence Park given the land swap involving the American Revolutionary Museum. I have research interests directly associated with the Archeology lab and am concerned that the lab should continue to operate and be available to scholars.</p>	11/01/2009	No	Unaffiliated Individual	[REDACTED]	Yes

I am Principle Investigator on a significant National Science Foundation Grant project (NSF IIS-0803670, entitled, "The 3D Colonial Philadelphia Project -- Digital Restoration of Thin-Shell Objects for Historical Archaeological Research and Interpretation) which involves research using the National Constitution Center Site archaeological remains being processed in the Independence Park Archeology Lab. The site's ceramics are being used in the development of 3D computer vision enabling technologies. Some of this research takes place on-site in the Archeology lab using the ceramic artifacts and the necessary expertise of Jed Levin.

My particular part of this research involves 3D reconstruction of excavated artifacts from their shards using local geometric and photometric cues. I am conducting this work with the assistance of two graduate Drexel students who likewise are making use of the Archeology Lab for their degree research. Only the first of our three years of NSF-funded research has been completed and I therefore ask what provisions is the National Park Service making to ensure that this archeology lab will continue in operation.

As part of this NSF research, I have also found, and based, other education opportunities for my Drexel student's at the Archeology Lab. Last year, a team of five Drexel undergraduate senior students collaborated with the Archeology Lab Director Jed Levin, under my and my graduate student's supervision, to build a front-end interface to the GIS model for the National Constitution Center site. One of the highlights of this year-long project was to integrate the Collections Management program to ensure timely processing of excavated remains. For this development project, the students earned second place at the Senior Design competition within the Department of Computer Science at Drexel University.

From our perspective, this project developed with close collaboration and numerous on-site meetings at the Independence Park Archeology Lab has provided tremendous educational opportunities, well beyond the conventional framework of Senior Design at Drexel University. At the end of the competition the students had matured into professional consultants and domain experts, which I am sure they are currently fully leveraging in their post-college life.

For Drexel University and its students, the Independence Park Archeology Lab has served as a tremendous resource. We would like such a relationship to continue and hope that the Archeology Lab will continue in operation so that this can happen.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

28017	Land Exchange	30298	47	<p>As an amateur archaeologist I have several concerns about this land swap.</p> <p>There must be provisions (physical and financial) for the relocation (in a timely manner) of the Archaeology Lab at Independence Park, and the million plus artifacts from the National Constitution Center site which it was to process?</p> <p>The lab must continue to operate as a Public lab, allowing timely and first-hand access to the latest evidence of American and African American history. If not, then I am opposed to this swap?</p> <p>Also, the land currently owned by the NPS is therefore protected by law as to any potential archaeological resources that may exist on that parcel of property. They must continue to be so protected after the land swap until such time (which could be decades in the future) when a thorough survey and possible excavations can be undertaken. Meanwhile the new "owners" must not be allowed to alter any of the existing structures without conducting all the surveys and excavations that would be required if the land were still owned by the NPS. This area has very high potential for important archaeological work.</p>	11/06/2009	No	Unaffiliated Individual	[Redacted]	No
28017	Land Exchange	30298	11	<p>I support the plan. It is great that the 78 acres of land within Valley Forge NHP boundaries will remain preserved!</p>	10/29/2009	No	Unaffiliated Individual	[Redacted]	Yes
28017	Land Exchange	30298	7	<p>What a wonderful solution to a difficult dilemma. Well done!</p>	10/29/2009	No	Unaffiliated Individual	[Redacted]	No

28017	Land Exchange	30298	12	I believe this is a great plan and will benefit visitors to the city of Philadelphia.	10/29/2009	No	Unaffiliated Individual	[REDACTED]	Yes
28017	Land Exchange	30298	33	<p>Dear Superintendent</p> <p>I [REDACTED] Associate Professor of Computer Science and co-director of Vision and Cognition Laboratory At Drexel University am writing to inquire about the fate of the Archeology Lab at Independence Park given the land swap involving the American Revolutionary Museum. I have research interests directly associated with the Archeology lab and am concerned that the lab should continue to operate and be available to scholars.</p> <p>I am co-Principle Investigator on a significant National Science Foundation Grant project (NSF no. o803670, entitled, "The 3D Colonial Philadelphia Project: Digital Restoration of Thin-Shell Objects for Historical Archaeological Research and Interpretation) which involves research using the National Constitution Center Site archaeological remains being processed in the Independence Park Archeology Lab. The site's ceramics are being used in the development of 3D computer vision enabling technologies. Some of this research takes place on-site in the Archeology lab using the ceramic artifacts and the necessary expertise of Jed Levin.</p> <p>My particular part of this research involves pattern matching of 3D surface textures for advancing computer science, collections management, and American history interpretation. I am conducting this work with the assistance of 2 Drexel graduate students who likewise are making use of the Archeology Lab for their degree research. Only the first of our three years of NSF-funded research has been completed and I therefore ask what provisions is the National Park Service making to ensure that this archeology lab will continue in operation?</p> <p>As an extension of this NSF research, I have also found, and based, other education opportunities for my Drexel student's at the Archeology Lab. This past spring, a new set of texture analysis algorithms that has resulted in two prestigious scientific publications and a set of methods for identifying canonical image features for texture analysis. Presently, we have students planning projects</p>	11/03/2009	No	Unaffiliated Individual	[REDACTED]	Yes

associated with the Archeology Lab including including texture and surface marking classification algorithms that will be the main focus of their PhD thesis research.

For Drexel University and its students, the Independence Park Archeology Lab has served as a tremendous resource. We would like such a relationship to continue and hope that the Archeology Lab will continue in operation so that this can happen.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

28017 Land Exchange 30298 50 July 2, 2009 07/07/2009 No Conservation/Preservation Christ Church Preservation Trust [Redacted] No

Cynthia MacLeod
Superintendent
Independence National Historical Park
143 S 3rd St
Philadelphia, PA 19106-2818

Dear Cindy:


We are delighted with the announcement that the American Revolution Center will be moving to 3rd and Chestnut Streets!

We will, of course, miss the archaeological exhibitions at the old visitors' center. And I will miss my conversations about early Philadelphia with Jed Levin as I pass by. But we are excited about the possibilities for increased visitation at the eastern end of the mall, and the links that we can create with ARC. Their stories will be supplemented by the authentic historic sites (State House, Carpenters Hall, Christ Church, Elfreths Alley) that surround the museum.

Congratulations on helping create wonderful new opportunities both in Philadelphia and (long-term) at Valley Forge.

Sincerely,

Donald U. Smith
Executive Director

				C: James Timberlake, Board Chairman					
28017	Land Exchange	30298	34	<p>Recent archaeological investigations in the City of Philadelphia - the National Constitution Center and the President's House - have aroused a great deal of interest among the general public in the city's history that is still buried underneath modern streets. The Archaeology Lab in the Living History Center of Independence National Historical Park provides an opportunity for the public to see how the cataloging and analysis of artifacts contribute to the reconstruction and interpretation of our nation's history. It also provides an opportunity for interested members of the public to become involved in this important task as volunteers. I am concerned about the effects of the proposed land exchange between NPS and ARC will have on this important educational and research facility. The NPS must make a commitment to continue the essential and valuable work of the Living History Center's Archaeology Lab as well as its invaluable public outreach component. It would be a great disservice to the American people to remove this extraordinary resource in the recovery and interpretation of American history.</p> <p>I am also concerned that the land exchange would remove the parcel on which the Living History Center stands in Independence National Historical Park from federal protection. There is still much to discover under the surface in Old Philadelphia, as we see anytime there is construction in this historic city. I would hope that any changes the ARC will make will be in keeping with the historic and architectural qualities of Independence National Historical Park. We must ensure that our archaeological and historical heritage is preserved so that future generations will understand and appreciate the significance of the events that happened in Philadelphia in the past and how they continue to have an impact on our country today.</p>	11/04/2009	No	Unaffiliated Individual	 	Yes
28017	Land Exchange	30298	37	<p>The public archaeology lab at the Independence Living History Center has given visitors to Independence National Historical Park a unique look at what happens to artifacts after the fieldwork. There are very few places where this kind of public access to the process of archaeology -- of working to extract meaning from the artifacts -- is available. By working on Independence NHP artifacts at the Independence LHC, the public is able to make the immediate</p>	11/05/2009	No	Unaffiliated Individual	 	Yes

				connection between the artifacts, the place, and the history. The ILHC has also provided valuable internship and volunteer opportunities for people, not just in processing archaeological collections, but of doing so in a public setting. I sincerely hope that the NPS has plans to continue public access to the processing of the archaeological collections from the National Constitution Center and other areas of Independence NHP.					No	
28017	Land Exchange	30298	31	I am concerned about the potentially negative impact that the land exchange will have on the curation, analysis, and interpretation of artifacts currently housed at the Independence Living History Center, as well as the subsequent dissemination of this information to the public. The existing program dealing with these materials has tremendous momentum which will be severely curtailed, if not eliminated, as a result of the exchange, creation of a new facility, and relocation of materials. Any formal agreement must explicitly address how these issues will be managed and funded, including the preservation of the volunteer labor base.	11/03/2009	No	Unaffiliated Individual	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	No
				Michael Stewart Associate Professor					No	
28017	Land Exchange	30298	32	I am concerned about the potentially negative impact that the land exchange will have on the curation, analysis, and interpretation of artifacts currently housed at the Independence Living History Center, as well as the subsequent dissemination of this information to the public. The existing program dealing with these materials has tremendous momentum which will be severely curtailed, if not eliminated, as a result of the exchange, creation of a new facility, and relocation of materials. Any formal agreement must explicitly address how these issues will be managed and funded, including the preservation of the volunteer labor base.	11/03/2009	No	Unaffiliated Individual	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	No
				Michael Stewart Associate Professor					No	
28017	Land Exchange	30298	13	I support the plan	10/29/2009	No	Unaffiliated Individual	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Yes
28017	Land Exchange	30298	5	We support the agreement for the land exchange between the ARC at Valley Forge NHP and the NPS at Independence NHP. We believe this is the best way to protect the critical cultural and natural resources of Valley Forge NHP.	10/28/2009	No	Unaffiliated Individual	Coalition of NPS Retirees	[REDACTED]	No
28017	Land Exchange	30298	46	Thank you for the opportunity to comment	11/06/2009	No	Unaffiliated Individual	National Parks	[REDACTED]	No

on the land exchange between the National Park Service (NPS) and the American Revolution Center (ARC). I am writing on behalf of the more than 325,000 members of the nonpartisan National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA), a national nonprofit advocacy organization dedicated to protecting and enhancing America's national parks for this and future generations.

NPCA praises the innovative NPS-ARC agreement that ended debate over the location of the ARC's proposed museum. The agreement will allow visitors to enjoy a new American Revolution museum on an appropriate site in a historically-rich area, while also protecting the historic landscape and character of Valley Forge National Historical Park (NHP) for our children and grandchildren.

In exchange for about an acre at Independence NHP, the NPS will receive 78 acres that not only are historically significant, but also provide critical wildlife habitat. Development of this land as allowed by current zoning unless invalidated in pending litigation would have many detrimental impacts on this historic property and on the surrounding parkland. These impacts include impairment of park views, noise, disturbance of important archeological resources, and degradation of important park wetlands.

While NPCA does not object to the terms outlined in the Independence NHP deed restriction, we are surprised the document does not address potential future uses of the Independence NHP site. This is critically important, because future owners of the land might not share ARC's interest in history. We urge that, as details are ironed out, the NPS and ARC work together to agree on future use restrictions that ensure the property's use will remain consistent with the park's values.

As the Park Service moves forward with this process, NPCA is available to assist in any way we can. Please feel free to contact me at 215.327.2529 or cwaldbuesser@npca.org.

Regards,

Cinda M. Waldbuesser
Senior Program Manager
Pennsylvania Field Office
National Parks Conservation Association

28017	Land Exchange	30298	20	<p>I am archaeologist and lifetime member of the Pennsylvania archaeological society. I would recommend that the 3rd deed restriction for Archeological Resources be more specific in the types of ground disturbance. It should include a list of activities that would require archaeological investigations such as landscaping, excavation for building activities, grading of the ground, and any utility instillation. There should be very detailed requirements regarding reporting, artifacts, and analysis in the deed restriction.</p>	10/31/2009 No	Unaffiliated Individual	<p>[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]</p>	Yes
				<p>The public Archeology Lab building currently contains the National Constitution Center (NCC) artifact collection. The NPS has done a very poor job in requiring that the NCC pay for the analysis and report preparation of this artifact collection. NCC has repeated refused to pay for the report and analysis of the artifacts. The NPS should require that the NCC pay for this analysis and report. It should not be the responsibility of the NPS to analyze this collection, but it's the NPS responsibility to make sure this assemblage is fully analyzed and a report be prepared. The NCC should be required to help provide for the cost of storing the material. Maybe the NCC artifact collection should be stored at the NCC until the report and analysis have been completed. It is the failure of the NPS that this issue has not been resolved. The NCC should not have been allowed to build their facility within having the report and analysis completed. I have been following the saga of the NCC artifacts since the excavation were conducted. This situation should never happen again. The tax payers should not have to fund the NPS to analyze and report on the NCC material.</p>				No
28017	Land Exchange	30298	53	<p>Email submitted from: [REDACTED] at /inde/contacts.htm</p> <p>Mailing Address [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]</p> <p>Testimony of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Sierra Club in Support of Locating the American Revolution Center in the Former Independence Historical Park Visitors Center November 6, 2009</p> <p>The Southeastern Pennsylvania Group of the Sierra Club (SPG) wishes to make</p>	11/06/2009 No	Conservation/Preservation	<p>Southeastern Pennsylvania Sierra Club [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]</p>	

known its support for locating the American Revolution Center (ARC) in the old Independence National Historic Park (INHP) visitor's center on Chestnut Street in center city Philadelphia. SPG believes this is not just a positive development as it relates to the acquisition of the 78 acres of in-holdings on the periphery of the Valley Forge National Historic Park (VFNHP) in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, but represents an ideal way to utilize the former Independence Visitor's Center.

While the Sierra Club supported the original concept of having the ARC museum located within the existing boundaries of the VFNHP, it adamantly opposed constructing what had become an ARC 'complex' at the edge of the park on land intended to be a future acquisition. Not only did this property represent a park addition of historically significant open space, the ARC development had grown to incorporate a host of inappropriate ancillary buildings.

By locating the ARC concept to the former INHP visitor's center, the U. S. Park Service benefits from not only an appropriate reuse of an attractive building already part of the INHP, but the opportunity to connect two historically-intertwined federal park lands even though they are 25 miles distant from one another. Joining the two historic parks in this manner, if properly managed and promoted, can enhance the experience of every historic park visitor.

Visitors to ARC, like visitors to INHP in general, also benefit from the availability of center city amenities, including the comfortably walkable urban street grid and the city's modally-diverse public transportation system. If ARC were to be built in on the 78-acre site in the suburbs, the necessary dependence on the automobile would have substantially increased the ARC visitor's impact on the environment. The increased energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions have been avoided by the relocation of the ARC museum to the INHP property.

SPG would like to thank the National Park Service for its role in accommodating this project in a much more environmentally sensitive way, for finding an appropriate historically-significant role for the former INHP visitor's center, and for allowing the Sierra Club to add its comments on this project.

28017	Land Exchange	30298	6	<p>Dennis R. Winters, Conservation Chair Sierra Club - Southeastern PA Group</p> <p>We worked hard with NPCA to secure the transfer to keep ARC out of the Park And we support the transfer of ARC to Philadelphia. The entire Fatlads at VAFO needs to remain open Space as most of the public commented at the GMP meetings at VAFO</p> <p>We prevented the the National Cemetery from coming into VAFO and got the Toll Bros. property. Please go ahead with the proposed transfer.</p> <p>Richard Wolf VAFO Project Chair Sierra Club</p>	10/28/2009 No	Unaffiliated Individual	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	No
28017	Land Exchange	30298	49	<p>November 4, 2009</p> <p>Independence National Historical Park ATTN: American Revolution Center Public Comments 143 S. 3rd Street Philadelphia, PA 19106</p> <p>To whom it may concern:</p> <p>As a professional archaeologist I am distressed to hear that the public archaeology lab in Independence National Historical Park will be closed as a result of the planned land exchange to facilitate construction of the American Revolution Center. The lab has contributed greatly to the public experience in the park and has finally put a focus on archaeology in the city that it deserves. I have been told by many out-of-towners, both professional and non-professional--what a memorable experience visiting the lab is and sincerely hope that wherever it is moved, there will still be opportunities for the public to view ongoing work.</p> <p>Please do all you can to ensure that this dynamic facility continues to add this important dimension to the visitor experience in the park. Now that we have seen what a success it is, it would be a shame to lose it. While the American Revolution Center is an important museum, it is just that--another museum. The lab is something else and the public deserves that something.</p> <p>Sincerely yours,</p>	11/04/2009 No	Unaffiliated Individual	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	No

