



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

PHILADELPHIA HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

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Sam Sherman, Jr.
Chair

Jonathan E. Farnham, Ph.D.
Executive Director

8 April 2010

Cynthia MacLeod, Superintendent
Independence National Historical Park
143 S. 3rd Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

RE: Programmatic Agreement/Section 106 Consultation, NPS/ARC Land Exchange

Dear Superintendent MacLeod:

In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended in 1980 and 1992, and the regulations (36 CFR 800) of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, as revised in 1999 and 2004, the Philadelphia Historical Commission (PHC) has reviewed the draft programmatic agreement and associated deed restrictions that would govern the National Park Service (NPS)/American Revolution Center (ARC) land exchange and subsequent development of the ARC museum building at S. 3rd and Chestnut Streets in Philadelphia. Established in 1955, the PHC is the City of Philadelphia's regulatory agency responsible for ensuring the preservation of historically significant buildings, structures, sites, objects, interiors, and districts in Philadelphia. The PHC has not designated the proposed ARC site as historic, but the Area of Potential Effect (APE) does include sections of the locally designated Old City and Society Hill Historic Districts as well as several locally designated historic buildings including but not limited to Independence Hall, the First and Second Banks of the United States, and Merchants Exchange.

The PHC comments that the terms and provisions set forth in the draft programmatic agreement and accompanying attachments including the draft deed restrictions will adequately protect historic resources including archaeological resources at the site and within the APE. The PHC notes particularly that the massing and height limitations as well as the signage review requirements will help to ensure that the new museum building will be compatible with the surrounding historic buildings and environment, especially the First Bank and Merchants Exchange. Although without direct regulatory power over this site, the PHC pledges to assist in ensuring that the City of Philadelphia conducts an open and transparent review process for the exchange parcel rezoning and redevelopment and takes the views of the public into account before issuing final approvals.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate as a consulting party in the Section 106 review of the NPS/ARC land exchange. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide any additional information.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon H'.

Jonathan E. Farnham, Ph.D.
Executive Director

cc: Alan Greenberger, Deputy Mayor, City of Philadelphia