



Preserving America's Heritage

UPDATE ON ACHP ARCHEOLOGY TASK FORCE ACTIVITIES Office of Federal Agency Programs

Background. The ACHP devoted its spring 2005 ACHP business meeting to the subject of archeology, with members touring the excavations, buildings, and exhibits at historic Londontown, followed by a visit to the Maryland Archaeological Conservation (MAC) Laboratory and to square table discussion of various archeological issues.

At the business meeting, the ACHP members unanimously concurred that the Archeology Task Force should:

1. Move forward with guidance to address the following topics:
 - making Section 106 consultation more effective;
 - what constitutes a "reasonable and good-faith effort" to identify historic properties;
 - applying the National Register criteria to archeological properties in the Section 106 process;
 - responsibilities of Federal agencies for undertakings on private lands;
 - opportunities for creative approaches to resolving adverse effects to archeological sites;
 - curation of archeological collections and permanent recordation of archeological properties; and
 - ensuring quality work and completion of reporting requirements in Section 106 archeology.
2. Explore options for expanding the *Preserve America* initiative by ensuring public enjoyment of our Nation's heritage through greater knowledge and appreciation of archeological properties by:
 - coordinating with the Preservation Initiatives Committee to examine pertinent issues and recommend possible action by the ACHP members at a future ACHP business meeting;
 - compiling a set of Federal, State, and private "best practices" on archeological heritage tourism and education; and
 - considering ways to encourage outcomes reached under Section 106 that, where practical and feasible, will use archeological resources to promote heritage tourism.
3. Revisit the ACHP's current "Policy Statement Regarding Treatment of Human Remains and Grave Goods." The members agreed with the recommendations of the task force on two items:
 - the ACHP's current policy statement on the treatment of human remains and grave goods does not take into account current Federal law and regulation, and should be brought up to date; and
 - the task force should develop a set of working principles to guide development of a new policy statement, and prepare a tribal and stakeholder consultation plan for review by the membership.

The Archeology Task Force has now completed the "Working Principles," which would be distributed to Section 106 stakeholders and federally recognized tribes to initiate consultation on revising the human remains policy. This outreach and consultation on a revised policy should begin in August 2005. While this consultation is underway, the task force will turn to the other two principal issues on its agenda, heritage tourism and archeological guidance.

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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Action needed. The ACHP members do not need to take any action at this time, although they are encouraged to review the consultation plan and “Working Principles” document, and to provide any comments to task force Chair Julia King.

Attachments: Draft consultation plan for revising the ACHP’s human remains policy
Draft “Working Principles” for revising the ACHP’s human remains policy

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