



Preserving America's Heritage

Update on ACHP Archeology Task Force Activities September 2, 2005

Much has happened since the July 19, 2005 update on the activities of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) Archeology Task Force.

Human remains policy: In early August 2005, the full ACHP, meeting in Chicago, offered no objection to the recommendation that the Task Force proceed with reconsideration of the ACHP's 1988 human remains policy and development of new guidance on the conduct of archeology in Section 106 review. To guide reconsideration of the 1988 policy, the Task Force has developed a set of six working principles. These working principles were published in "*Notice of Intent to Reconsider the Advisory Council's 'Policy Statement Regarding Treatment of Human Remains and Grave Goods'*" in the Federal Register on Thursday, September 1, 2005 (v. 70, no. 169, pages 52066-52068) and also are available on the ACHP's website, www.achp.gov.

Please take time to review and comment on the six working principles. Your comments, which are **due by November 4, 2005**, will be accepted in written or e-mail form. Please send e-mail comments to the Task Force at archeology@achp.gov. Written comments may be mailed to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 809, Washington, DC 20004. Note that all responses become part of the public record once they are submitted to the ACHP.

The Task Force will use the comments received to draft an initial revision of its 1988 human remains policy. This first draft then will be subject to further review and comment by Federal agencies, Indian tribes, Native Hawaiian Organizations, State and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, professional archeological organizations and other interested parties. The Task Force recognizes the unique legal relationship that exists between the Federal government and Federally-recognized Indian tribes, and the ACHP's consultation with Indian tribes will be held on a Government-to-Government basis. Following this consultation and outreach, the Task Force may present a revised policy statement to the full ACHP membership for adoption.

Guidance on archeology in Section 106 review: The Task Force is proceeding with the preparation of archeological guidance on the following initial topics – (1) Making Section 106 consultation more effective; (2) What constitutes a "Reasonable and Good-Faith Effort" to identify historic properties; (3) Applying the National Register criteria to archaeological properties in the Section 106 process; (4) Responsibilities of Federal agencies for undertakings on private lands; (5) Opportunities for creative approaches to resolving adverse effects to archeological sites; (6) Curation of archeological collections and permanent recordation of archeological properties; and (7) Ensuring quality work and completion of reporting requirements in Section 106 archeology. Currently, Task Force members are prioritizing the topics and working with their respective archeological staff to identify pertinent questions and issues that may be used to guide development of each of the seven topics.

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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Archeology heritage tourism: Ron Anzalone, archeologist and Director of the ACHP's Office of Preservation Initiatives, shared a paper on archeology and heritage tourism issues he had distributed to his committee at the ACHP's Chicago meeting. The Task Force is in the process of forming a subcommittee to work closely with the Office of Preservation Initiatives in exploring the role of archeology as practiced under Section 106 in heritage tourism and public education efforts.

New participants: Dan Roberts, representing the Society for American Archaeology, the Society for Historical Archaeology, the American Cultural Resources Association, and the Register of Professional Archaeologists has agreed to serve as a resource to the Task Force. The American Association of Museums also is in the process of identifying a resource person to assist the Task Force with questions concerning museums and archeology as practiced under Section 106.

Consultation and outreach: In August 2005, I had the pleasure of addressing the annual conference of the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers on the activities of the ACHP's Archeology Task Force, and will make a similar presentation in late September at the annual meeting of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. In November 2005, I look forward to speaking at the plenary session of the American Cultural Resources Association's annual meeting as well as with ACRA's executive board. In addition, I have accepted an invitation to address the executive board of the Society for Historical Archaeology at its January 2006 annual meeting. A proposal is currently under consideration to discuss the human remains policy at the Society for American Archaeology's annual meeting in Spring 2006. In early 2006, the ACHP plans to hold nine consultation meetings on the new draft human remains policy, conducted on a government-to-government basis, with Indian tribes and Native Hawai'ian Organizations.

Feel free to share this document with others who have an interest in archeology as practiced under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Should you have any questions, please contact me by e-mail at King@dhcd.state.md.us or the ACHP's staff contact, Tom McCulloch, at tmcculloch@achp.gov. Thank you, and on behalf of my colleagues at the ACHP, we look forward to hearing from you.

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