

NOTICE OF PUBLIC OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT SECTION 106 CONSULTATION TO RESOLVE A FINDING OF ADVERSE EFFECT TO A WORLD WAR I (WWI) ERA HISTORIC PROPERTY, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, U.S. ARMY, FORT LEE. In accordance with 36 Code of Federal Regulations §800.2, the purpose of this notice is to provide an opportunity for interested members of the public to participate in the resolution of adverse effects to Site 44PG0299. The site is comprised of a WWI Training Trench Complex constructed between October of 1917 and May of 1918 by the Army's 80th Infantry "Blue Ridge" Division, which was comprised of "citizen-soldier" draftees from western Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Virginia. While the site was not the location of actual trench warfare, it is a rare surviving example of an engineered landscape associated with WWI, an event which made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. The remaining, non-contiguous 11.6 miles of trenches and associated features, located throughout the main cantonment area of Fort Lee, were determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places in 1997 under Criteria A, C and D. The reason for the finding of adverse effect is the requirement for increased field training of Soldiers, which requires more land and more unconstrained space on that land to accommodate. While the Army has previously made every effort to avoid impacting Site 44PG0299 through careful review of every activity which has the potential to cause effects on historic properties, as well as the establishment and enforcement of protective buffer zones around site components, the land areas encumbered by those components are needed to support increased field training requirements for Soldiers. On January 7, 2021, the Army received concurrence on the finding of adverse effect from the Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), as well as its proposal to continue to manage a representative sample of site components as historic properties and is now seeking comments from the public regarding ways to resolve (mitigate) the adverse effect. The types of mitigation thus far discussed with and well-received by the SHPO include (1) preparation of detailed topography maps of the entirety of Site 44PG0299, (2) completion of an Historic American Landscapes Survey which will be archived at the Library of Congress, (3) preparation of a long-term management plan for the portions of Site 44PG0299 to be preserved, and (4) creation of a Geographic Information System Story Map summarizing the history and significance of the site which will be made available to the public via a website link. Requests for additional information, comments or suggestions for other forms of mitigation may be submitted at any time during the 30-day public review period (January 17 – February 16, 2021) by US Mail to: Cultural Resource Manager, Fort Lee Directorate of Public Works Environmental Management Division, 825 19th Street, Building 6005, Room 110, Fort Lee, Virginia, 23801 or via email to: usarmy.lee.imcom.mbx.lee-crm-lee-org@mail.mil. All comments specific to the resolution of adverse effect postmarked or emailed by February 16, 2021 will be considered.