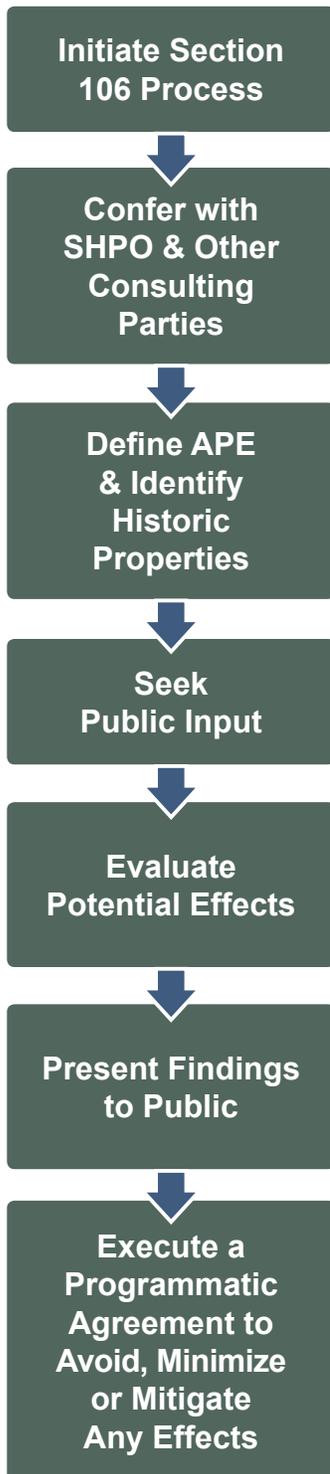


National Historic Preservation Act



Fort Belvoir, Virginia



Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires federal agencies to consider the effects of their undertakings on historic properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) or officers having jurisdiction over the potentially affected resources.

Steps in the consultation process include initiating the process; defining the Area of Potential Effects (APE); identifying the historic properties within the APE; assessing the potential adverse effects of the proposed undertaking on those properties; and developing measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate those adverse effects. Government agencies, non-profit institutions, civic organizations, Native American tribes, and individuals with a demonstrated interest in the undertaking and its effects on historic properties must be invited to participate in the process as consulting parties. The general public also must be given the opportunity to participate.

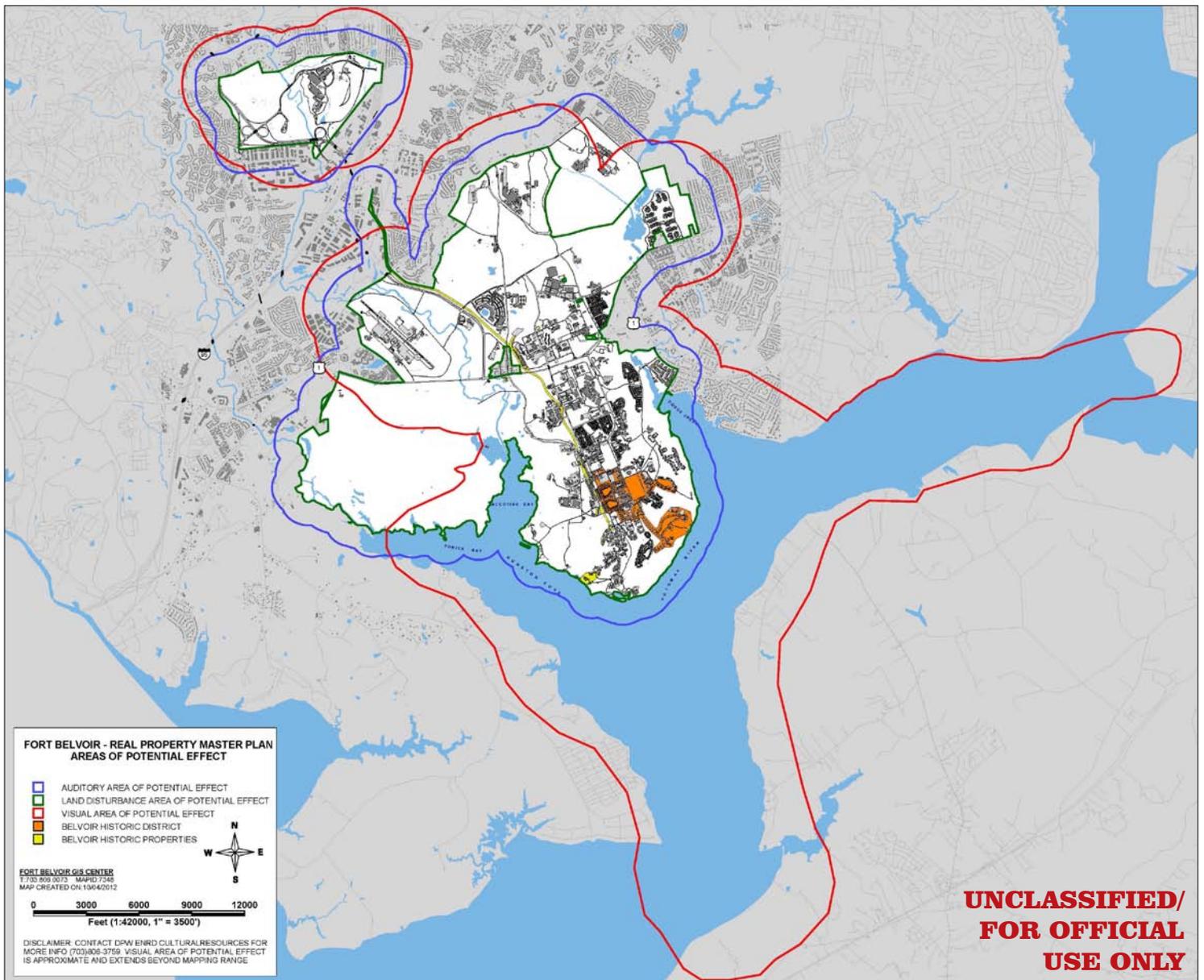
Initiation of the Section 106 Process

In 2008, Fort Belvoir initiated a Section 106 consultation process with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR), which is the designated SHPO for Virginia, in parallel with the development of the Real Property Master Plan (RPMP). The goals of this process are to streamline future Section 106 consultations for new facilities to be constructed or renovated on Fort Belvoir, including RPMP short-and long-range component projects, and to seamlessly integrate preservation restrictions and considerations into the RPMP and future planning processes. Because of changes in the scope of the project, the consultation process was put on hold but resumed early in 2012 as the EIS got underway and the RPMP was progressing. Like the Section 106 process and the RPMP process, the EIS process, which assesses the impacts of implementing the proposed short-range projects and the RPMP on the human environment, is conducted in parallel.

Area of Potential Effects (APE)

The APE is “the geographic area or areas within which an undertaking, [in this case the implementation of the proposed master plan], may directly or indirectly cause alterations in the character or use of historic properties. The APE is influenced by the scale and nature of an undertaking and may be different for different kinds of effects caused by the undertaking.”

SECTIONS 106 & 110



To evaluate the direct and indirect effects of implementing the proposed master plan, Fort Belvoir has defined an APE with three components as shown in the accompanying figure:

- **The Land Disturbance APE** – the area within which implementing the master plan may require conducting ground-disturbing activities. The land disturbance APE encompasses all lands covered by the Fort Belvoir RPMP, including Fort Belvoir Main Post (North Post, South Post, Southwest area and Davison Army Airfield), and Fort Belvoir North Area (FBNA). Although portions of Fort Belvoir lands (shoreline and areas adjacent to the installation boundary) are unlikely to be developed, the range of activities undertaken by Fort Belvoir means that all of the lands managed by Fort Belvoir are subject to possible disturbance. Undertakings that may result in land disturbance that are not related to development include, but are not limited to, shoreline stabilization, former range testing activities, stream stabilization, installation of security fencing, etc.
- **The Visual APE for Main Post and the FBNA** – broadly defined as the distance from which an undertaking will be visible. A number of factors influence the visual APE including the nature of the undertaking, terrain, vegetation and surrounding development. The visual APE for Main Post and the FBNA is defined as an area extending one-half mile from the outer edge of the “Developable Areas” of Fort Belvoir, as defined and illustrated in “Framework Plan” of the Fort Belvoir RPMP. These developable parcels consist of both currently undeveloped land and land that is already developed. In instances where the edge of the developable area is within one-half mile of the Potomac River, the width of the river is excluded from the measurement calculation used to define the APE. This APE is based on the assumption that future development on Fort Belvoir will consist of structures that do not exceed ninety feet in height (roughly the equivalent of a six-story building with fifteen-foot floor to ceiling heights). In instances where the Visual APE continues over water for more than one mile and

strikes landfall in a densely vegetated area, the limit of the APE will be met at the shoreline.

- **The Auditory APE** – the area from which noise generated by activities associated with the proposed master plan is expected to be perceived. The auditory APE is defined as one-half mile from the outer edge of all property covered by Fort Belvoir RPMP, including Fort Belvoir Main Post (North Post, South Post, Southwest area and Davison Army Airfield), and Fort Belvoir North Area (FBNA).

Historic Properties within the APE

Section 106 defines historic properties as “any...historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places...” Multiple historic properties have been identified in the APE for the proposed master plan. On Main Post, historic properties include the Fort Belvoir Historic District; the SM-1 Nuclear Reactor Complex; the A.A. Humphreys Pump Station/ Water Filtration Facility; the Thermo-Con House; Facility 2287 (Amphitheater); and the Fort Belvoir Military Railroad. Main Post also contains more than 300 archaeological sites, 171 of which are either National Register-listed or eligible, or are potentially eligible and need further study. FBNA, on the other hand, has been surveyed and contains no historic properties.

The APE also contains multiple historic properties outside of Fort Belvoir in both Virginia and Maryland. Among the most notable are Woodlawn and the Pope-Leighey House, the Woodlawn Quaker Meetinghouse, Pohick Church and Cemetery, and the George Washington Grist Mill, as well as other architectural and archaeological sites too numerous to list here.

Consulting Parties

To date, the following Consulting Parties have been invited by Fort Belvoir to participate in the Section 106 review process and have accepted (this list is expected to expand, as more parties accept or request to participate):

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (which is the federal agency charged with overseeing the Section 106 process); The Virginia SHPO; The Maryland SHPO; The Catawba Tribal Historic Preservation Office; Fairfax County; The National Trust for Historic Preservation; Woodlawn and Pope-Leighey House; The Woodlawn Friends Meetinghouse; Ms. Martha Catlin, an

Interested Party; The Council of Virginia Archaeologists; The Mount Vernon Ladies Association; The National Capital Planning Commission; The National Park Service - George Washington Parkway; Gum Springs Historical Society.

The following Consulting Parties have been invited by Fort Belvoir to participate but thus far have not accepted:

Pohick Church; Woodlawn United Methodist Church; Historical Society of Fairfax County; Woodlawn Baptist Church; National Park Service; National Park Service - Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail; United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee; Eastern Band of Cherokee; Tuscarora Nation; City of Alexandria, Virginia; Virginia Council on Indians; National Capital Park East; Gunston Hall.

Addressing Potential Effects

Section 106 requires lead agencies, such as Fort Belvoir, to take into account the effects of their undertaking on historic properties, work with consulting parties to identify adverse effects, and minimize them to the maximum extent practicable. According to Section 106, “adverse effects occur when an undertaking may directly or indirectly alter any of the characteristics of a property that qualify it for inclusion in the National Register in a manner that would diminish the integrity of the property’s location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, or association.”

Fort Belvoir’s Section 106 process is expected to result in the execution of a Programmatic Agreement (PA). Section 106 defines a PA as a “document that records the terms and conditions agreed upon by consulting parties to resolve the potential adverse effects of a Federal agency program, complex undertaking, or other situations.” Fort Belvoir is developing a PA with the consulting parties that will streamline the Section 106 process with respect to the master plan’s implementation as well as other future actions not related to the master plan in a manner that will facilitate project planning and execution while ensuring any effects on historic properties are adequately identified and resolved. For instance, actions that would affect only buildings already determined to be ineligible for listing in the National Register would not require further consultation with the SHPO, thus allowing both Fort Belvoir and the SHPO to focus on those actions with the potential to have an adverse effects on historic properties.



What is the Role of the Public in the Section 106 Process?

Section 106 requires the federal agency to involve the public in the review process. Tonight's meeting is one opportunity for members of the public to be informed about the proposed undertaking and how Fort Belvoir is planning to meet its responsibilities under Section 106. We invite you to share with us any concerns or questions you may have about the historic properties you think may be affected by the implementation of the proposed master plan. Fort Belvoir will consider your input when evaluating the effects of the proposed undertaking and developing the PA. Further opportunities for information and public feedback will be provided in parallel with the NEPA process.

Section 110

Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act directs federal agencies to manage historic properties under their jurisdiction in a manner that takes into consideration their historic, archaeological, architectural, and cultural values. Historic properties that are not under the control of a federal agency but may be affected by its actions also must be given consideration. To comply with Section 110, federal agencies must develop a program for the identification, evaluation, nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, and protection of historic properties.

In compliance with Section 110, over the years Fort Belvoir has conducted multiple archaeological and architectural surveys through which the resources within the APE listed above were identified. This is one of several ways in which the Section 110 and Section 106 processes work together. Fort Belvoir's efforts to comply with Section 110 are ongoing. As buildings reach fifty years of age – which is the threshold for most architectural resources to be potentially eligible – Fort Belvoir evaluates their historic integrity and significance to determine whether they are indeed eligible. Known resources can also be re-evaluated. This is the case for the Fort Belvoir Historic District: the district includes 213 contributing resources. During the preparation of the revised nomination to the National Register, these resources were reappraised; 18 new resources were determined to contribute and 21 others were determined not to contribute to the significance of the district.

Fort Belvoir's preservation goals and the procedures through which historic properties must be managed in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, including Sections 110 and 106 as laid out in the installation's Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP). Fort Belvoir is committing to updating the ICRMP as a stipulation outlined in the RPMP PA.



Abbott Hall



Gerber Village