September 27, 2016

Mr. Jay Vogt
Director, South Dakota State Historical Society
State Historic Preservation Officer
900 Governors Dr.
Pierre, SD 57501

RE: Section 106 Consultation for a National VHA Member Services call center at the VA Black Hills Health Care System, Hot Springs Campus, Fall River County, South Dakota

Dear Mr. Vogt,

I am very pleased to initiate consultation with your office under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 USC § 306108) for a recently proposed National Veterans Health Administration Member Services call center in Buildings 3 and 4 at the National Historic Landmark Hot Springs campus of the VA Black Hills Health Care System (VA BHHCS). This federal undertaking will involve outfitting interior space of the vacant historic buildings to accommodate approximately 120 employee workstations.

Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.5(b), VA BHHCS finds, subject to your review of the attached documentation required by 36 CFR 800.11(e), that creating the National VHA Member Services call center in Buildings 3 and 4 will have no adverse effect on historic properties. I hope you concur with this determination, allowing VA BHHCS to quickly implement this undertaking.

The implementation of this call center would not impact the still pending decision regarding the reconfiguration of health care services in the VA BHHCS service area. The National VHA Member Services call center, if implemented, will not be managed by VA BHHCS. This initiative will be pursued by the National program office regardless of the ultimate decision regarding the reconfiguration proposal.

If you have any questions or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me by email at sandra.horsman@va.gov or by phone at (605) 720-7170.

Sincerely,

Sandra L. Horsman
Director
cc:
Advisory Council for Historic Preservation
AFGE Hot Springs Local
Apache Tribe of Oklahoma
Arapaho Tribe of the Wind River Reservation, Wyoming
Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation
Blackfeet Nation
Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation of Montana
Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, Oklahoma
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe of the Cheyenne River Reservation
Chippewa-Cree Indians of the Rocky Boy's Reservation
City of Hot Springs
Comanche Nation
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation
Crow Creek Sioux Tribe of the Crow Creek Reservation
Crow Tribe of Montana
Department of the Interior, National Park Service
Fall River County Commissioner Office
Fall River County Historical Society/Pioneer Historical Museum
Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe of South Dakota
Fort Belknap Indian Community of the Fort Belknap Reservation of Montana
Hot Springs CLG - Historic Preservation Commission
Individual Veteran
Kiowa Indian Tribe of Oklahoma
Lower Brule Sioux Tribe of the Lower Brule Reservation
Lower Sioux Indian Community in the State of Minnesota
Minnesota Chippewa Tribe- Bois Forte Band (Nett Lake)
Minnesota Chippewa Tribe- Fond du Lac Band
Minnesota Chippewa Tribe- Grand Portage Band
Minnesota Chippewa Tribe- Leech Lake Band
Minnesota Chippewa Tribe- Mille Lacs Band
Minnesota Chippewa Tribe- White Earth Band
National Trust for Historic Preservation
Northern Arapaho Tribe

Northern Cheyenne Tribe of the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation
Oglala Sioux Tribe of the Pine Ridge Reservation
Omaha Tribe of Nebraska
Ponca Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
Prairie Island Indian Community in the State of Minnesota
Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians, Minnesota
Rosebud Sioux Tribe of the Rosebud Indian Reservation
Santee Sioux Nation
Save the VA
Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community
Shoshone Tribe of the Wind River Reservation
Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation
South Dakota American Legion
South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office
Spirit Lake Tribe, North Dakota
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe of North and South Dakota
Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation
Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians of North Dakota
Upper Sioux Community
Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska
Yankton Sioux Tribe of South Dakota
Documentation Supporting the finding of “No Adverse Effect” by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Black Hills Health Care System (VA BHHCS) on plans to create a National Member Services Call Center in Hot Springs, South Dakota, per 35 CFR 800.11(e) (September 27, 2016)

1) Description of the undertaking and area of potential effect (APE): VA proposes to create a National VHA Member Services call center in Buildings 3 and 4 of the Hot Springs Campus of the VA Black Hills Health Care System (VA BHHCS). The project will include installation of modular workstations within the existing interior floorplan for approximately 120 employees and involves installation of telecommunications and power cabling (some surface mounted), and new surface treatments such as flooring and paint.

VABHHCS has defined the APE as buildings 3 and 4 of the Hot Springs campus, as no work is proposed external to the building. (Attachment 1)

2) Steps taken to identify historic properties: The Secretary of the Interior designated the Battle Mountain Sanitarium a National Historic Landmark on June 17, 2011.

3) Description of the affected historic properties: Buildings 3 and 4 are contributing resources to the National Historic Landmark property, exhibiting a high level of exterior integrity. Originally used for patient care as part of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, the interior was modified over the years for various uses but is currently either underutilized or vacant. (Attachment 2)

4) Description of the undertaking's effects: The interior of buildings 3 and 4 will be configured to accommodate approximately 120 workstations. The new workstations will be movable, modular furniture. No walls will be added or removed. New telecommunication and power cabling will use existing conduits if available or new surface mounted conduit as required.

5) Explanation of inapplicability of criteria of adverse effect: The criteria of adverse effect do not apply to the undertaking as no qualifying historic characteristics will be altered nor will the property’s integrity be diminished.

6) Views provided by consulting parties and the public: By copy of this consultation package, VA BHHCS is notifying Consulting parties, as defined under 36 CFR 800.2(c): SHPO; Indian tribes; representatives of local governments; and additional parties that have been consulting on the reconfiguration proposal, including the National Park Service. (Attachment 3) VA BHHCS has also posted this document on its website: www.blackhills.va.gov, to allow the public an opportunity to comment. Comments received by October 28, 2016 will be promptly shared with your office.

Attachment 1: Map and Area of Potential Effect
Attachment 2: Existing conditions of Buildings 3 and 4
Attachment 3: List of parties contacted and web notice
Figure 1: Building 3 - Second Floor
Figure 2: Building Four - First Floor
Figure 3: Building Four - First Floor
Figure 4:  Building Four - Second Floor
Figure 5: Building Four - Second Floor
Attachment 3
Consulting Parties Contacted

Advisory Council for Historic Preservation
AFGE Hot Springs Local
Apache Tribe of Oklahoma
Arapaho Tribe of the Wind River Reservation, Wyoming
Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation
Blackfeet Nation
Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation of Montana
Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, Oklahoma
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe of the Cheyenne River Reservation
Chippewa-Cree Indians of the Rocky Boy’s Reservation
City of Hot Springs
Comanche Nation
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Department of the Interior, National Park Service
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Minnesota Chippewa Tribe- Fond du Lac Band
Minnesota Chippewa Tribe- Grand Portage Band
Minnesota Chippewa Tribe- Leech Lake Band
Minnesota Chippewa Tribe- Mille Lacs Band
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Ponca Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
Prairie Island Indian Community in the State of Minnesota
Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians, Minnesota
Rosebud Sioux Tribe of the Rosebud Indian Reservation
Santee Sioux Nation
Save the VA
Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community
Shoshone Tribe of the Wind River Reservation
Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation
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