



July 28, 2017

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Richard Doucette
Federal Aviation Administration
1200 District Avenue
Burlington, MA 01803

RE: Conveyance of Former Navy Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant (2 Parcels), Former Aviation Hangar South of Hartwell Road and Former Industrial Plant North of Hartwell Road, Bedford, MA; MHC# RC. 52287

Dear Mr. Doucette:

The Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) understands that you are seeking clarity on the proposed conveyance of the former Aviation Hangar south of Hartwell Road and the former Industrial Plant north of Hartwell Road that are part of the former Navy Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant (NWIRP).

The conveyance is subject to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (36 CFR 800).

The MHC received notification of the proposed transfer from the Department of the Navy on July 29, 2016. The MHC concurred with the Department of the Navy's opinion that the former Navy Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant meets the criteria for eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

The MHC received correspondence from the General Services Administration (GSA), on behalf of the Navy, on September 30, 2016, stating that the GSA proposed to convey the property with restrictive covenants design to protect the architecturally significant features. A proposed historic preservation covenant was included in this submission. On October 28, 2016, the MHC recommended that the GSA make a determination of "no adverse effect" (36 CFR 800.5(b)) because the proposed transfer out of federal ownership will include a historic preservation covenant on the deed.

The proposed historic covenant requires all future owners of the property to maintain and preserve the property in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Treatment of Historic Properties. Complete demolition of a historic is not allowable under the Secretary of the Interior's Standards.

If the GSA had proposed to transfer the property out of federal ownership or control without adequate and legally enforceable restrictions or conditions to ensure long-term preservation of the property's historic significance, the GSA would have made a determination of "adverse effect" (36 CFR 800.5(a)(2)(vii)).

Please do not hesitate to contact Elizabeth Sherva of my staff if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Brona Simon
State Historic Preservation Officer
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

xc: John E. Kelly, United States General Services Administration
Michael H. Jones, Department of the Navy
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