

Opportunity to Comment Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act on the Renovation of Building 168 at JBAB

Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Section 106), as amended, Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling (JBAB) seeks public comment regarding the proposed renovation of the theater and sound stage of Building 168, currently occupied by NCIS. The historically significant building was determined to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places in 2009.

Building 168 was constructed in 1943 as the Navy's Photographic Science Laboratory. After World War II, it became the Naval Photographic Center (1947-1980), the Naval Audio Visual Center (1980-1985), the Naval Imaging Command (1985-1993), and finally the Naval Audio Center (1993-2011).

The renovation of the theater will upgrade the interior while maintaining the historic characteristics of the existing space. This project is necessary to restore functionality to the theater room and preserve its historic characteristics, as inaction will allow the resource to continue to degrade over time.

The renovation of the sound stage will provide office workspace for NCIS staff. JBAB and the consulting engineering team have concluded that significant changes to the overall floor plan is necessary to make the space usable for established government security operations. The proposed renovation would cause an adverse effect to the sound stage as defined by the National Historic Preservation Act.

JBAB intends to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office to comply with Section 106 and complete the agreed upon mitigation to resolve the adverse effect. Mitigation being considered includes a historic report and an interpretive display in the main lobby of the building.

Per 36 CFR Part 800.2, JBAB is seeking public comment and input regarding this project. Interested individuals may contact the JBAB Cultural Resource Program Manager by telephone at (202) 284-4609, by email at madison.cox.1@us.af.mil, or by mail at JBAB Cultural Resource Program Manager, 370 Brookley Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20032. The comment period will close on October 10, 2023.