DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT AGENCY
NORTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE GARRISON
PICATINNY ARSENAL, NEW JERSEY 07806-5000

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HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

May 27, 2008

Environmental Affairs Division

Mr. Terry Karschner
Acting Administrator
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
State of New Jersey Historic Preservation Office
Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Parks and Forestry
501 East State Street CN 404
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0404

POC: Jason Huggan
Cultural Resource Manager
Chugach Industries, Inc.
Environmental Affairs Office
Bldg. 319
Picatinny Arsenal, NJ 07806-5000

08-1451-1183
HPO-F2008-131

SUBJECT: Building 613, Interior and Exterior Upgrades and Exterior Additions

Dear Mr. Karschner,

Picatinny Arsenal has planned interior upgrades and repairs, along with exterior accessibility additions to Building 613 to meet the current safety and Army mission standards for ordnance testing within the structure (enclosed scope of work, drawings, and photos). This building is a contributing structure of the 600 Ordnance Testing Area Historic District that is determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP; HPO-G99-10). The safety regulations that are necessary to be met are part of the standards promulgated under the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA), and are a requirement of the Army Military Command (AMC) and other Dept. of Defense installations similar to Picatinny. Other enforcing regulations include Army Regulation 385-64 and Dept. of the Army Pamphlet 385-64 (http://www.wbdg.org/ccb/ARMYCOE/ARMYCRIT/ar385_64.pdf; http://www.army.mil/usapa/epubs/pdf/p385_64.pdf). Due to this, the enclosed scope of work and preliminary construction drawings meet the Secretary of Interior's Standards as effectively as possible, especially for Rehabilitation and Preservation requirements, while still achieving the necessary safety requirements.

According to Building 613's historic assessment and recordation in 1982-83 (Thurber, and Buchanan), in 1994 (Harrell), and again in 1999 (Panamerican Consultants, Inc.), the building was constructed in 1928 with a historical function as a Mortar Powder facility for Ballistic Testing. The building consists of a concrete foundation, with concrete and brick load-bearing walls (1944 brick addition with saltbox shape), and a steel roof truss covered by corrugated asbestos shingles. (To note, the replacement of the roof will be handled in a separate consultation letter at a later date). The building also has casement windows, double loading doors for ordnance entry and a small loading platform on the south side. All of the buildings in the 600 Area were particularly designed to resist shock and blast effects (enclosed historic assessment figure [40]). Historic drawings from the Picatinny Directorate of Public Works remain only from the 1944 brick addition to the structure (enclosed), while the 1994 historical assessment (Harrell) indicates that overhead mortar support beams are also within the interior, and that the walls are lined with wood planks and filled with concrete.

Photo 1, below, is a western and southern façade view of Building 613 depicting the main areas of interior upgrades and exterior additions from the nearest effected viewpoint. The southern half of the building is the original half of the structure, while the north half is a brick addition from 1944 that was needed to meet the ordnance testing being conducted within the building at that time period. It appears from the historic drawings that a full interior upgrade renovation was performed in 1944 to meet the necessary code, engineering, and military mission standards for the testing operation being performed within the structure at that time. Photos 2-5 demonstrate the existing interior conditions of both rooms of the building, along with the firing/detonation chamber at the rear of the structure. The proposed scope of work for the interior upgrades and repairs for both rooms of the building is as follows:

- wall surfaces repaired to eliminate any air gaps or spaces;
- both rooms will be painted tan (Benjamin Moore 'Richmond Bisque'), with the trim being a dark green ('Cactus Green'), and floors being gray ('Concrete Gray');

- three (3) windows and frames replaced to match the historic design in-kind and visual appearance;
- electrical panels and telephone circuits upgraded to meet necessary code compliance and safety standards for range clearance inside and outside the structure;
- two-leaf door will be added to the opening in-between the rooms to close off the area(s) during testing;
- light fixtures upgraded to meet the electrical code compliance requirements, energy efficient, and visually updated (painted) for appearance;
- partition viewing port repaired and reframed with the appropriate thickness of Lexan or other approved glass material;
- firing/detonation chamber closed off with a framed door as it is currently not needed to meet the ordnance testing mission requirements; and
- existing heating system upgraded to allow for a constant temperature of 70 degrees Fahrenheit (+/- 2 degrees) at all times to meet the ordnance testing mission requirements.

Photos 6-15 demonstrate all of the exterior façades of the building for the scope of work. Proposed upgrades, repairs, and safety and accessibility additions to the exterior are as follows:

- exterior doors (3 sets) replaced. These doors were previously agreed with your office with a concurrence date of February 20, 2008 (HPO-B2008-128; enclosed for further reference). The new doors will match the existing designs, as feasibly possible and painted 'Cactus Green' to match what currently exists and previously concurred with your office. Additionally, Door C will include a steel-welded channel in place above it for an exhaust vent attachment. This channel attachment will be painted 'Cement Gray' to match the building itself (HPO-B2008-128). The existing doors are constructed of wood; however, the new doors will be of a steel design for the following reasons: future operations and maintenance issues allowing the doors to endure for the life of the buildings; security of the buildings in relation to the ordnance equipment and materials kept within; and for mission safety concerns for the testing that occurs within the buildings;
- concrete areas repaired to eliminate any air gaps or spaces and painted 'Concrete Gray' to visually update the structures appearance, while the brick half of the structure will be repaired and re-pointed as required to also eliminate any air gaps or spaces. Also, all areas of trim and framing will be repaired, painted and updated 'Cactus Green' (HPO-B2008-128). All gaps and spaces will be filled in accordance with Preservation Treatments outlined in Dept. of Interior Technical Preservation Standards #2 – "Repointing Mortar Joints in Historic Masonry Buildings" (http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/tps/briefs/brief02.htm).
- existing exhaust vent (Photo 6) closed off as it is no longer needed, left in place, and visually updated for exterior visual aesthetics and appearance;
- wooden steam station covering (Photo 10) will be painted 'Cactus Green' with white trim to match similar steam station in the immediate vicinity (HPO-B2008-128);
- two (2) lights above the southern half doors on the west and south façade replaced with an in-kind design to what currently exists with a 'Cactus Green' color (Photo 12);
- speaker (audible device and painted 'Cactus Green') added to the western façade within an area above and in-between the two doors (enclosed drawings). This speaker will be triggered when the telephone rings inside the building;
- concrete ramp, loading dock, new hand railing and chain railing, and safety bumper bollards (yellow; Photo 13) installed to the southern and southwestern façades of the structure to meet the safety requirements for bringing ordnance in and out of the building for testing (enclosed drawings). All areas of new concrete will be dyed and colorized as needed to match what currently exists (Photo 14);
- warning flagpole (red flag) for range clearance and testing added to the western façade to meet safety requirements (enclosed drawings); and
- lightning protection system on roof updated, bonded, and grounded to meet the necessary safety requirements and what currently exists (Photo 15).

Overall, these exterior upgrades, repairs, and safety and accessibility additions will adversely effect the immediate vicinity and adjacent surrounding historic district by Building 613, impeding the viewshed from Buildings 620A, 620B, and 621A; while the proposed flagpole and yellow bollards will be partially visible from a farther distance near Buildings 617, 617A, 617B, 621, and so on (Photo 16; enclosed maps).

By and large, Picatinny Arsenal realizes the importance of adhering to the Secretary of Interior's Standards for consultation with your office on projects adversely effecting historic buildings and districts on our installation. We continue to work with our mission staff to ensure that future projects and designs are in concurrence with the necessary safety regulatory requirements, while still striving to preserve our unique military landscape and heritage. Please review the enclosed documents, and provide comment and concurrence with our determination of *'no adverse effect'* regarding the proposed interior and exterior upgrades and repairs, and exterior safety and accessibility additions to Building 613 allowing for the mission to meet certain deadlines and requirements. *Lastly as an alternative, if your office feels that a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is needed for this project to resolve its understandable adverse effects, and also to assist with other similar future upgrades and renovations planned within the 600 Ordnance Testing Area Historic District and its eligible Buildings, please contact Mr. Jason Huggan as soon as possible* at (973) 724-3664, jason.j.huggan@pica.army.mil, so that the adequate paperwork can be prepared in a timely manner to meet our mission deadlines.

Sincerely,

Thomas Solecki
Chief, Environmental Affairs Division

Enclosures

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As proposed, the project will not adversely affect historic properties. Pursuant to 800.5(c), if no consulting parties object to this finding within the 30 day review period, the project may proceed, as proposed, unless resources are discovered during project implementation, pursuant to 800.13.

6-26-2008
Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer