



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



July 21, 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

08-1863-1 AS  
HPO-H2008-150

SUBJECT: Building 172, Americans with Disabilities Act Entrance Upgrades

Dear Mr. Karschner,

Picatinny Arsenal Garrison has planned replacement and installation of the front and rear entrances to Building 172 to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Architectural Barriers Act, and standard Dept. of Defense and Army regulations like 420-70 ('Buildings and Structures', Ch. 2-8; Photo 1). This building is a contributing structure of the Administrative and Research Historic District that has been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP; HPO-G99-10). Enclosed map, drawings and photos depict the proposed installation of new sidewalks, railings, and accessibility entrance with ramp to the front; along with new sidewalks, railings, a wheel chair lift, and an awning to the rear of the building.

According to Building 172's historic assessment and recordation in 1994 by Harrell and again in 1999 by Panamerican Consultants, Inc., the building was built in 1942 for ordnance administrative purposes and is still used for these purposes. As described in 1994,

the building has a concrete foundation, a structural steel frame encased in concrete forming piers and beams, with brick spandrels and panels, and metal windows with cast stone sills... The front entrance stairs are concrete, with iron railings and standard lamps topped with eagles. Modifications to the original building include aluminum entrance doors, anodized aluminum windows, metal gutters and downspouts, a metal entrance canopy at the [rear] basement entrance (Harrell: E-92).

The enclosed drawings demonstrate the following for each ADA entrance upgrade,

Front: The existing stairs, sidewalk, and right metal post railing will be removed and replaced. The right railing will be removed to allow placement for a ramp, while the railing on the left will remain in place and be updated with black paint to match. Both light poles will remain in place and also updated with black paint to match. This front ramp will then lead into a new sidewalk landing area that will continue out to the main sidewalk along Buffington Road. A new railing will be added to this ramp and sidewalk landing. This proposed railing will match the design and color of the remaining left front railing, but will also be updated to meet ADA regulations with appropriate handles. Finally, new shrubs will be planted along both sides of the proposed ramp and sidewalk, and also added in-between the existing window wells. These shrubs will also be surrounded with concrete colored brick edging and red landscape gravel similar to the picture shown in the drawings. Please see Photos 2 and 7 below, along with the enclosed drawings for additional pictures and further construction details.

Rear: The existing stairs, sidewalk, railing, and awning will be removed and replaced. Additionally, a mechanical wheel chair lift will be added going down to the basement entrance level with a proposed concrete retaining wall surrounding. The proposed railings will match the new front railings in both design and color. The proposed awning will match other awnings that are presently on Building 171. (To note, one of these existing awnings on Building 171 is located adjacent to the rear of Building 172 [enclosed map]). Finally, the proposed

mechanical wheelchair lift will be sand tan in color, similar to Photo 6. Please see Photos 3, 4, and 7 below, along with the enclosed drawings for additional pictures and further construction details.

All proposed concrete areas will be colorized and dyed to match what currently exists, as feasible, on the stairwells themselves, and the surrounding walkway and building landscape of the remaining historic district (Photo 7). (To note, some of these existing concrete areas along the Buffington Road are mismatching and have been continuously upgraded and replaced in the past.) The new stair risers and handrails shall conform to all local building codes and engineering design standards as required and necessary to meet the ADA regulations and guidelines stated above.

Lastly to note, a letter was sent to your office in November 2007 for signage changes and power-washing to Building 172. This project is approaching completion, however the Garrison has decided against the signage as it did not meet the Installation Design Guide; instead, the standard Army brown sign was updated for its current tenant users (HPO-K2007-175, enclosed for further reference; Photo 2, picture 1).

Picatinny Arsenal Garrison feels that this ADA Entrance Upgrade to the exterior of Building 172 within the Administrative and Research Historic District will have 'no adverse effect' upon the building itself, and the overall landscape and fabric of the surrounding district. We request that your office provide a review and concurrence of these determinations. If you require further information, please feel free to contact Mr. Jason Huggan at (973) 724-3664, [jason.j.huggan@us.army.mil](mailto:jason.j.huggan@us.army.mil).

Sincerely,

Thomas Solecki  
Chief, Environmental Affairs Division

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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.

**DAVID D. SAUNDERS**  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

8/20/08

Date