

National Endowment of the Humanities
Public Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental
Assessment and Section 106 Determination of No Adverse Effect
for the
Historic Hudson Valley
Philipsburg Manor Millpond Restoration

To: All Interested Agencies, Groups, and Individuals

This is to give notice that Historic Hudson Valley, Inc. has been offered a Challenge Infrastructure and Capacity Building Grant (CHA-295061) from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). The Historic Hudson Valley, Inc proposes to restore the historic Philipsburg Manor millpond through dredging.

Philipsburg Manor, a National Historic Landmark site, and listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NHRP #66000584), is located in Sleepy Hollow, New York. It is a former provisioning plantation with a manor house, wharf, mill, barn, and a modern visitors center owned and operated by Historic Hudson Valley, Inc., a 501(c)3 a non-profit educational organization. In 1964, the site was restored to recreate its historic appearance circa the 1730s-40s, when it included a dam across the Pocantico River to create a millpond and hydropower for the Philipsburg Manor gristmill. The site is located at 639 Bedford Rd., Pocantico Hills, NY 10591.

The proposed project will remove approximately 20,000 cubic yards of sediment and debris from the PMMP, restoring the property to its original function and historic appearance and reservoir capacity. Utilizing both mechanical and hydraulic dredging methods, the sediment will be dewatered using geotubes that retain the dredged sediments and allow the water to return to the Pocantico River. The sediments in the pond were sampled and tested using a New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) approved protocol. The chemical analysis was reviewed by the NYSDEC, and the sediments have been categorized as general fill. The sediments will be dewatered on the Village of Sleepy Hollow Commons in the area used for overflow parking by Historic Hudson Valley. The solids will be removed from the site post dewatering and will be disposed of at the facility permitted to compost organic matter and produce landscaping soils.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and NEH's implementing guidance, an NEH adopted an amended New York State Full Environmental Assessment Form (FEAF) prepared by Historic Hudson Valley, Inc., in place of a NEH NEPA Condensed Environmental Assessment without further modification for the proposed action described above. Based on the documentation, NEH has drafted a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

In addition, as required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106) (54 USC § 306101), and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800, NEH is providing the

public with information about this project, as well as an opportunity to comment on any knowledge of, or concerns with, historic properties in the proposed project area, and issues relating to the project's potential effects on historic properties.

NEH, a funding agency, is required by regulation to identify and assess the effects of any proposed actions on historic properties. If any proposed action will have an adverse effect on historic resources, NEH works with the appropriate parties to seek ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any adverse effects. Additionally, the Section 106 regulations require NEH to consider the views of the public on preservation issues when making final decisions that affect historic properties.

On May 8, 2024, Martha Staines, Historic Site Restoration Coordinator with the New York State Depart determined that the removal of sediment and debris will have no adverse effect on historic or archaeological resources. Therefore, NEH, after reviewing Section 106 documentation, issues a determination of No Adverse Effect.

This public notice invites public comments on the proposed project in accordance with NEPA and Section 106. NEH posts it's NEPA Environmental Assessments, FONSI's and public notices at <https://www.neh.gov/our-work/historic-preservation-environmental>. The draft EA with the incorporated Section 106 documentation is available online for review at <https://www.neh.gov/sites/default/files/inline-files/Draft%20EA%20CHA-296061%20Historic%20Hudson%20Valley.pdf>. The draft FONSI is available online for review at <https://www.neh.gov/sites/default/files/inline-files/Draft%20FONSI%20CHA-296061%20Historic%20Hudson%20Valley.pdf>.

Written comments regarding this action should be submitted no later than 5 pm on July 3, 2024, to Ann Piesen, NEH Federal Preservation and Environmental Officer at apiesen@neh.gov. If no substantive comments are received by this deadline, the draft EA and associated Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), and Section 106 determination of no adverse effect will become final and be published by NEH. Substantive comments will be addressed as appropriate in the final documents.