



Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism

January 25, 2005

Historic Preservation
& Museum Division

Mr. James R. Davidson
U.S. Army Installation Support Management Activity
National Capitol Region Field Office
600 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-0600

Stratford Project
Hartford, Connecticut
06106

Subject: Stratford Army Engine Plant
Stratford, CT

J. Paul Loether
Director

Dear Mr. Davidson,

J. Paul Loether
Director
Historic Preservation
Division

The State Historic Preservation Office has reviewed the above-named project. In particular, this office has consulted with the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection and has reviewed the *Final Remedial Investigation Report, Stratford Army Engine Plant, Stratford, Connecticut* (2004). Further, we note that the Stratford Army Engine Plant possesses historic, architectural and technological importance and has been recommended for National Historic Landmark designation within the National Park Service's *World War II and the American Home Front Theme Study* (2003).

In the opinion of the State Historic Preservation Office, the proposed remediation actions and the recent landmark analysis represent sufficiently substantive circumstances to render inappropriate and inapplicable the previously ratified Memorandum of Agreement (1996) for the Stratford Army Engine Plant.

The State Historic Preservation Office believes that the proposed contamination-related demolition will constitute an adverse effect upon the historic and architectural integrity of the Stratford Army Engine Plant. However, this office concurs with the professional evaluation of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection Waste Management Bureau that no feasible or prudent alternative exists that would facilitate retention and adaptive use of the historic structures and effectively meet applicable health safety and remediation requirements.

The State Historic Preservation Office recommends that the National Capital Region Field Office consult with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation pursuant to 36 CFR 800.10, *Special Requirements for Protecting National Historic Landmarks*. This office further recommends that the National Capital Region Field Office draft a Memorandum of Agreement that would satisfactorily mitigate project-related impacts upon the Stratford Army Engine Plant.

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In this regard, we strongly encourage that the following mitigative measures be incorporated into the proposed Memorandum of Agreement.

DEPARTMENT OF
CONNECTIONS

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

J. Paul Loether
DIRECTOR
Historic Preservation
& Museum Division

- Prior to demolition-related activities, the National Capitol Region Field Office shall document the Stratford Army Engine Plant to the professional standards of the State Historic Preservation Office. Documentation shall consist of narrative text, unbound 35mm black and white photographs, high-quality digital images, an index to photographs, and a photographic site plan. Final documentation shall be provided to the State Historic Preservation Office for permanent archiving and public accessibility.
- The National Capitol Region Field Office shall develop a high-quality public education booklet on the Stratford Army Engine Plant. The booklet shall match or exceed the publication standards of *Fort Trumbull: Ramparts, Subs and Sonar* (2000). The National Capitol Region Field Office shall provide the final booklet (1,000 copies and a web-compatible electronic version) to the State Historic Preservation Office for public distribution.
- The National Capitol Region Field Office shall prepare a historic and industrial analysis, including pertinent photographs and plans, of the Stratford Army Engine Plant and submit it to *IA (Journal of the Society for Industrial Archeology)*, the *Society for Industrial Archeology New England Chapters Newsletter*, and the *Society for Industrial Archeology New England Chapters Annual Symposium*.
- The National Capitol Region Field Office shall consult with the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center at the University of Connecticut (Storrs) regarding the transfer and long-term preservation of pertinent plans, drawings, and other paper records that exist at the Stratford Army Engine Plant and/or off-site storage.
- The National Capitol Region Field Office shall coordinate with the Connecticut Aerospace Hall of Fame and Museum Inc. and the Town of Stratford regarding the adaptive use of Building B-6. The National Capitol Region Field Office shall retain the facilities layout model for potential interpretive use within Building B-6.




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- The National Capitol Region Field Office shall develop a trust fund of \$100,000 for the development of professional quality exhibits on the history of the Stratford Army Engine Plant. Exhibit planning shall be carried out in coordination with the Connecticut Aerospace Hall of Fame and Museum Inc. and the Town of Stratford.

The State Historic Preservation Office looks forward to further coordination with the National Capitol Region Field Office, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Office and all interested parties regarding the expeditious furtherance of the proposed undertaking as well as the professional management of the nationally significant Stratford Army Engine Plant.

For additional assistance please contact Dr. David A. Poirier, Staff Archaeologist.

Sincerely,

J. Paul Loether
Division Director and Deputy
State Historic Preservation Officer

cc: Mr. Don L. Klima/ACHP
Mr. Ken Feathers/CDLP