



From the office of the President
Lake County Historical Society
PO Box 1011
Lakeport, CA 95453
IRS #94-6128982

Reid Nelson
Executive Director, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
401 F Street NW, Suite 308
Washington, DC 20001

10-25-2025

RE: Concerns about illegal demolition of portions of the White House Historical Resource District.

Dear Mr. Nelson,

We would like to express our horror at the un-permitted and illegal damage that has occurred to the White House and it's associated historic/archaeological materials during this past week. In addition to violations of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Archaeological Resource Protection Act (ARPA), we are sure that other local D.C. codes and regulations have been violated (e.g. lack of permits for operating a business, operating a commercial vehicle, and construction within the National Mall and Historic Parks).

Cultural landmarks like the White House are essential for community identity. The loss of the East Wing signifies a broader disengagement from our country's roots, threatening the coherence and unity that historical sites provide. The White House has connected generations, and demolition without meaningful public input and review ruptures that continuity.

How the ACHP deals with a pattern of non-compliance or problematic agency implementation of the Section 106 process:

The ACHP can contact policy-level officials in an agency, Office of Management and Budget, or Department of Justice. The latter case may arise when agency actions present what ACHP believes to be a violation of Section 106 or seem to be leading to litigation. ACHP can also interject itself into the agency's Section 106 compliance per Section 800.9(d)(2). ([Section 106 Regulations Section-by-Section Questions and Answers | Advisory Council on Historic Preservation](#))

Archaeological Resource Protection Act (ARPA) Criminal and Civil Penalties:

The legal remedies for ARPA violations include both criminal and civil penalties. Criminal penalties are enforced for acts such as unauthorized excavation,

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removal, or destruction of archaeological resources. Civil penalties are applied when criminal prosecution is deemed inappropriate or unsuccessful. These penalties can include restitution to the affected parties and fines for the violators. The ARPA provides a clear framework for the enforcement of these penalties, ensuring that archaeological resources are protected and their value is preserved for future generations ([Using ARPA Civil Penalties](#)).

A civil violation of ARPA is a strict liability offense. Strict liability means the department or agency still must prove that the suspect committed a prohibited act on public or Indian land and that the damages caused by the suspect are in the amount of the proposed penalty, but need not prove the intent of the violator in committing the act. thus, both the person who unintentionally commits an act prohibited by ARPA and the person who intentionally engages in offensive conduct, but whom the United States attorney declines to prosecute criminally, may be assessed an ARPA civil penalty.

The demolition of the East Wing of the White House and its associated historic/archaeological materials represents a collective loss; a serious affront to United States history and architectural heritage.

This horrific demolition of the East Wing demands immediate attention. The Lake County Historical Society questions what is gained by sacrificing the country's collective history for vanity. Preserving the East Wing was not about nostalgia; rather, it signified a vital commitment to honoring Americans' shared heritage.

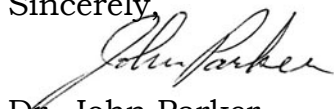
The Lake County Historical Society calls on the ACHP and all remaining federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to immediately uphold and enforce the NHPA and ARPA in this situation. The perpetrators, enablers, actual demolition personnel, and companies accepting the demolished material must be brought up on both civil and criminal charges for these violations. Those places where the soils and materials from the demolished structure have been taken must now be recorded and mapped as "significant" historic archaeological resources worthy of preservation.

The ACHP must immediately call for changes in policy, that demand oversight of the architectural integrity of the White House to ensure that this significant legacy endures for future generations.

If the NHPA Section 106 process is initiated during this process, The Lake County Historical Society would like to be added as an interested consulting party.

Feel free to contact me for additional information, if needed.

Sincerely,



Dr. John Parker

CC:

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