



Susana Martinez  
Governor

STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
**DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS**  
**HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION**

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May 18, 2017

Ms. Elizabeth Pentecost  
National Science Foundation  
Division of Astronomical Sciences  
4201 Wilson Blvd, Suite 1045  
Arlington, Virginia 22230

Re: Sacramento Peak Observatory Operations, Sunspot, Otero County, NM  
Request for Concurrence on the Revised Area of Potential Effects and Determinations of Eligibility  
HPD Log # 103900, 104236, 105254 and 105751

Dear Ms. Pentecost,

The Historic Preservation Division (HPD) is in receipt of the National Science Foundation's May 4, 2017 correspondence requesting concurrence on the Revised Area of Potential Effects (APE) and the Determination of Eligibility for the Sacramento Peak Observatory as a historic district with 63 contributing resources, including two telescopes that are also individually eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places

HPD concurs that Sacramento Peak Observatory is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district with 63 contributing resources, including the two telescopes. As discussed in your correspondence, the historic context under preparation will describe the historic district including historic designed landscape features. The dashed red line on the map showing surveyed areas indicates overall property limits. This is a reasonable boundary for the potential historic district. The boundary should include the heliport landing area which is associated with the rest of the contributing resources. It is advisable to prepare a Historic Cultural Property Inventory Form to document the heliport landing area since it is historically associated with the property.

In our March 2, 2017 correspondence, HPD recommends that the APE and the "Compound Area" identified in the Land Use Agreement should be the same because new discoveries or indirect effects may occur beyond the bounds of the historic district. For clarity, the area of potential effects is defined as "*the geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause alterations in the character or use of historic properties, if any such properties exist.*" Using the potential historic district boundary as the APE does not take into account the effects of the undertaking on the setting, i.e. the area along the entrance roads or the area around the heliport landing area. It does not provide for cultural resources that may be unknown and potentially affected, which may be located outside the historic district boundaries, such as recreation areas that were used by residents of the historic district. HPD encourages consensus among consulting parties and believes the larger APE boundary will facilitate the ease of consultation on the potential effects of the undertaking.

If you have any questions, you may contact me at (505) 476-0548, or [Barbra.zook@state.nm.us](mailto:Barbra.zook@state.nm.us)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barbra Zook".

Barbara Zook, RA

Cc: c. Blanco, FPO - NSF, B. Sapp, M. Gutzman USFS (all via email)