Public notice

Regarding the Initiation of Section 106 Review of the Jesús T. Piñero Library

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has offered the Universidad del Este a grant to contribute to the construction of the Jesús T. Piñero Library at the University’s Carolina, Puerto Rico campus. NEH is an independent grant-making agency of the United States government dedicated to supporting research, education, preservation and public programs in the humanities. This public notice is issued as part of NEH’s responsibilities under 36 C.F.R. Part 800, the regulations which implement Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended, 16 U.S.C. § 470. NEH, as 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 the final decisions that affect historic properties.

The Universidad del Este (UNE) is a private, non-profit institution of higher learning and is part of the Ana G. Méndez University System (AGMUS). The Jesús T. Piñero Library will be constructed on the UNE campus in the Sabana Abajo Sector of Carolina on land adjacent to the Baldorioty de Castro Avenue. The site for the proposed library is currently used for parking for students, employees and visitors to the University. The university proposes to build on this site a 17,000 square foot, two-story library that will include an archive with a vault, an exhibition hall, a reading and research hall, as well as an auditorium and a reception area.

The new library will be located at the Universidad del Este campus at Km. 1.8 of Highway 190 in the Sabana Abajo north sector of Carolina, Puerto Rico, which is a 20.1-acre parcel of land that currently adjoins the Sabana Abajo residential areas (to the south) and commercial and light industrial zones (to the east and north) and the Baldorioty de Castro Avenue (to the west). No historic properties were located on this site.

In this initial public notice, NEH is providing information about the Universidad del Este’s Jesús T. Piñero Library project and its effects on historic properties. We are also seeking public input on the project, and would appreciate comments identifying any concerns or issues pertinent to the project by July 18, 2012. Comments may be submitted to the NEH via e-mail at gencounsel@neh.gov or by regular mail to: National Endowment for the Humanities, Office of the General Counsel 1100 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Room 529, Washington, DC 20506.