



Preserving America's Heritage

August 11, 2016

Mr. Donald W. Kinard  
Chief, Regulatory Division  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Jacksonville District  
P.O. Box 4970  
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

Ref: *Corps Permits for Submerged Telecommunication Cables Impacting Maple Leaf Shipwreck Site  
St. John's River between Mandarin Point and City of Orange Park  
Duval and Clay Counties, Florida*

Dear Mr. Kinard:

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) has received an inquiry from the office of Congressman Ander Crenshaw of Florida's 4th Congressional District regarding Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District (Corps) permits related to placement of submerged telecommunication cables through the Maple Leaf Shipwreck Site. The Maple Leaf Shipwreck Site contains the well-preserved remains of a Civil War Union troop carrier which sank on April 1, 1864, off Mandarin Point in the St. John's River, Duval County, Florida. The site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and also was designated a National Historic Landmark (NHL) in 1994 by the Secretary of Interior.

As we understand, the Corps verified Nationwide Permits for construction of underwater telecommunication cables through the NHL site in 1990 and 2013, and was engaged in the review of another permit this year. We have no record of these undertakings, or evidence that the Corps has complied with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)[54 U.S.C. 306108] and its implementing regulations, "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 C.F.R. part 800). If the Corps has consulted with the State Historic Preservation Officer and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers regarding past permits in 1990 and 2013, please provide us relevant documentation. We are particularly interested in the current status of the latest permit application, including steps the Corps has taken to consult with interested and consulting parties.

We thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. Should you have questions, please contact Dr. John T. Eddins at (202) 517-0211 or by email at [jeddins@achp.gov](mailto:jeddins@achp.gov).

Sincerely,

Charlene Dwin Vaughn, AICP  
Assistant Director  
Office of Federal Agency Programs  
Federal Permitting, Licensing, and Assistance Section

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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