The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has offered California State University, Fullerton (CSUF) a grant to undertake renovations at 800 North State College Boulevard in Fullerton, California, a property known as Pollak Library. 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. As a funding agency, NEH is required by regulation to identify and assess the effects of any proposed actions on historic properties. If any proposed undertaking 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 final decisions that affect historic properties.

CSUF proposes significant interior renovation of the sixth floor of the Pollak Library to house the Center for Oral and Public History. The renovation will result in 10,709 square feet of offices, conference room, and archival facilities. The proposed area of potential effect for this project appears to be the interior sixth floor of the Pollak Library building itself. (See attached images.)

The California Office of Historic Preservation, which serves as the California State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), through a letter dated October 19, 2012, has stated that the planned renovation, due to the fact that it will be limited to the interior of the sixth floor and would not affect potential character defining features of the building, will have no adverse effect on the building. (See attached.)

In this initial public notice, NEH is providing the public with information about the CSUF project. We are also seeking public input on this project, and would appreciate comments reflecting any knowledge of, or concerns with, historic properties in the proposed project area, including any issues relating to the project’s potential effects on historic properties by 5/30/2013. Comments may be submitted to the NEH via e-mail at challenge@neh.gov or by regular mail to: National Endowment for the Humanities, Office of Challenge Grants, 1100 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Room 420, Washington, DC 20506.
October 19, 2012

Theresa Mendoza
Interim Vice President
University Advancement
California State University, Fullerton
2600 Nutwood Avenue, Suite 850
Fullerton, CA 92831

RE: Relocation and Expansion of Center for Oral and Public History, Pollak Library Building, Cal State Fullerton

Dear Ms. Mendoza:

Thank you for your July 30, 2012, letter requesting my review and comment with regard to the proposed undertaking on the campus of Cal State Fullerton in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 470f), as amended. Along with your letter, you also submitted photographs of the Pollak Library building, the results of an Information Center search, and DPR 523 forms for the building.

The proposed undertaking, as I understand it, involves improvements to the sixth floor of the Pollak Library to house the Center for Oral and Public History (COPH) that will be partially funded by a challenge grant by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). COPH will be relocated to the sixth floor of the library, the interior of which will be rehabilitated to provide 10,709 square feet of offices, conference room, and archival facilities. The proposed area of potential effect (APE) for this project appears to be the Pollak Library building itself.

According to the Information Center search results, Pollak Library, constructed in 1964, has never been evaluated for National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility. Your letter and the DPR 523 forms suggest that the building is not eligible for listing because it does not possess sufficient historic integrity, largely as a result of a large addition constructed in 1995. Although your letter does not say so, I assume you are requesting my concurrence on a Finding of No Historic Properties Affected to resolve the Section 106 responsibilities for this undertaking.

After reviewing the information submitted with your letter, I offer the following comments:

- I concur that this action qualifies as a federal undertaking as defined in 36 CFR 800.
- I do not object that the APE as proposed is appropriate.
- The information provided is not sufficient to concur that the 1964 Pollak Library building is not eligible for listing in the NRHP. In an email dated October 10, 2012, Dr. Fousekis, Director of COPH, agreed to assume eligibility of the building for the purposes of this undertaking only.
Because the proposed rehabilitation work will be limited to the interior of the sixth floor and would not affect potential character defining features of the building, I can concur that pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.4(d)(1), a Finding of No Adverse Effect is appropriate for the undertaking as described.

Please be advised that under certain circumstances, such as an unanticipated discovery or a change in project description, you may have future responsibilities for this undertaking under 36 CFR Part 800.

Your July 30 letter did not provide contact information for the NEH Program Officer. Please provide them a copy of this letter as evidence of your completing the Section 106 process.

Thank you for seeking my comments and considering historic properties as part of your project planning. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mark Beason, at (916) 445-7047 or mbeason@parks.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Susan K. Stratton for

Jenan Saunders
Acting State Historic Preservation Officer
Area of Potential Effect

<<< Sixth Floor Pollak Library >>>
Typical existing conditions at the site of proposed remodeling for COPH