OFFICE OF PARKS · RECREATION · HISTORIC PRESERVATION
NEW YORK STATE
Bernadette Castro
Commissioner

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau
Peebles Island, PO Box 189, Waterford, New York 12188-0189 518-237-8643

April 10, 2006

Rachel Shatz
Empire State Development Corporation
633 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10017

Dear Ms. Shatz:

Re: FRA/ESDC
James A. Farley Building
New York County
06PR02122

Thank you for requesting the comments of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for the proposed rehabilitation of the Farley Post Office in Manhattan. We have reviewed the information in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and relevant implementing regulations. Since we understand the project seeks to participate in the Federal Historic Tax Credit program, we have also reviewed the project in our role to provide guidance in interpreting the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

Included in our review is the information submitted to our office, supplemented by the information presented at our meeting on March 23, 2006. Our comments are based on our understanding of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, an interpretation that is not entirely static. Generally, the project appears to be progressing well and judging from the materials submitted to date, the proposed work seems appropriate and in overall accordance with the Standards. There are a number of details regarding the rehabilitation that are still being defined and, given the magnitude of the proposed project, we suggest inviting the National Park Service (NPS) to participate in early consultation on this project. As you know, it is the NPS that provides the approval for Tax Credit projects.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions, I can be reached at (518) 237-8643, ext. 3282. Please refer to the SHPO Project Review (PR) number in any future correspondences regarding this project.

Sincerely,

Beth A. Cumming BAC
Historic Preservation Specialist – Technical Unit
e-mail: Beth.cumming@oprhp.state.ny.us

CC: Vishaan Chakrabarti – R/V Moynihan Station Developer, LLC