

[Federal Register: July 8, 1996 (Volume 61, Number 131)]

[Notices]

[Page 35736]

From the Federal Register Online via GPO Access [wais.access.gpo.gov]

=====  
-----

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

[GSA Bulletin FPMR D-238]

Locating Federal Facilities on Historic Properties in Our  
Nation's Central Cities

1. Purpose. This bulletin announces the policy concerning the location of Federal facilities on historic properties in our central cities.

2. Expiration date. This bulletin contains information of a continuing nature and will remain in effect until canceled.

3. Background. a. On May 21, 1996, President Clinton signed Executive Order 13006, entitled ``Locating Federal Facilities on Historic Properties in Our Nation's Central Cities,' ' to encourage ``leasing, acquiring, locating, maintaining, or managing' ' Federal facilities on historic properties in our nation's central cities. So that federal agencies may benefit from GSA's real property management expertise, government-wide policy guidance is being provided concerning the acquisition and use of historic properties to be utilized by federal agencies where operationally appropriate and economically prudent.

b. The Public Buildings Cooperative Use Act of 1976 (40 U.S.C. 601a) directs the Administrator of General Services to ``acquire and utilize space in suitable buildings of historic, architectural, or cultural significance, unless use of such space would not prove feasible and prudent compared with available alternatives.' ' In the past, some Federal agencies have successfully promoted the acquisition and use of space in ``buildings of historic, architectural, and cultural significance' ' by extending a 10 percent cost preference for these properties.

4. Action. In accordance with Executive Order 13006, and subject to the requirements of section 601 of title VI of the Rural Development Act of 1972, as amended, (42 U.S.C. 3122), and Executive Order 12072, when locating Federal facilities, Federal agencies shall give first consideration to historic properties within historic districts. If no such property is suitable, then Federal agencies shall consider other developed or undeveloped sites within historic districts. Federal agencies shall then consider historic properties outside of historic districts, if no suitable site within a district exists.

All Federal agencies must use procedures which implement the policy to extend first consideration to locations as prescribed in the Executive order. These implementation procedures should be consistent with the existing policy set forth in Executive Order 12072 (Federal Space Management), which extends first consideration to central business areas (CBAs), and should consider applicable requirements relating to full and open competition under the Competition in Contracting Act, 41 U.S.C. 253 et seq.

Federal agencies are encouraged to consider the Government's previous approach extending preference to historic properties. Where operationally appropriate and economically prudent, Federal agencies may extend first consideration to historic properties using various methods, including but not limited to extending a cost preference (similar to GSAR 570.701-4, Historic Preference); limiting competition to historic districts and/or historic properties; conducting market surveys and market analyses to identify historic properties or districts to be included in the area of consideration; providing notice of a requirement and an opportunity to respond to local, state or regional historic preservation officials; or a combination of the foregoing.

Dated: June 28, 1996.

G. Martin Wagner,  
Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation.  
[FR Doc. 96-17208 Filed 7-5-96; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 6820-23-M