



CONGRESS OF RUSSIAN AMERICANS, INC.

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To: The Department of Land and Natural Resources. Division of State Parks

Attn: Martha E. Yent, Interpretive Program Supervisor

Copy: To United States Department of the Interior. National Park Service

Dear Martha,

In reviewing the Minutes (No. 5) of September 11, 2018 of the work group on the study, preservation and popularization of Fort Elizabeth on the prepared draft of the National Register of Historic Places Registration form, as well as from various members of the working group, we have learned about the upcoming renaming of the National Historic Landmark of the Russian Fort Elizabeth (site number: 50-30-05-1000).

Whereas, the fort was built in 1816 and at that time named Fort Elizabeth, as evidenced by the entry on page 103 dated November 18, 1816 in the diary of Georg Schaeffer, which is kept in Bancroft Library (California);

Whereas the proposed name change (Pa'ula'ula) refers to a later period of the existence of the monument. It's "Pā'ula'ula", and we have no previous documentary evidence;

Considering that the question of renaming was already raised last year at a forum dedicated to the Russian Fort Elizabeth, and the participants expressed the unequivocal opinion that the renaming of the fortress should not take place,

We believe that the renaming of the park is not necessary and against historical factual documentation.

We propose to suspend the renaming activities and discuss this topic at the next forum of Fort Elizabeth, which is planned to be held at the end of 2019.

We believe that it is very important to raise such questions only after a comprehensive scientific and public discussion of this issue has been made and only with the consent of all interested parties.

Respectfully,

Natalie Sabelnik
President, Congress of Russian Americans