

RC # 110557141

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
FEMA Region VII  
C/o Iowa Recovery Bureau  
Iowa Homeland Security and  
Emergency Management Department  
7900 Hickman Road, Suite 500  
Windsor Heights, Iowa 50324



FEMA

January 15, 2014

Douglas W. Jones  
Review and Compliance Program Manager  
State Historical Society of Iowa  
600 East Locust Street  
Des Moines, IA 50319-0290

JAN 17 2014

**Re: FEMA-1763-DR-IA, R&C# 110557141, FEMA PW 9882: Time Check Recreation Center –  
Demolition and Permanent Replacement, City of Cedar Rapids, Linn County, Iowa**

**FEMA Public Assistance program submission – standard project review for non-emergency  
undertakings (10-day review):**

Dear Mr. Jones:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) proposes to administer Federal disaster assistance pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, P.L. 93-288, as amended 42 U.S.C. 5121-5207. FEMA has received a funding request from the City of Cedar Rapids (sub-grantee) to replace the Time Check Recreation Center, which was substantially damaged as a result of the flooding incident that resulted in the federally declared disaster 1763-DR-IA.

FEMA is continuing consultation with your office regarding a phased Section 106 review for the above referenced undertaking in accordance with Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations Part 800 and the *Programmatic Agreement among the Federal Emergency Management Agency of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the State Historical Society of Iowa, the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation*, executed October 16, 2009.

FEMA initiated consultation with your office for this undertaking regarding demolition of the flood damaged Time Check Recreation Center on May 20, 2011. At that time a site for the replacement facility had not been identified. FEMA determined the area of potential effects (APE) for this undertaking was limited to the Time Check Recreation Center located at 1311 5<sup>th</sup> Street NW, at the northern edge of Time Check Park in Cedar Rapids. The APE would extend to the proposed site for the replacement facility, once selected.

The Time Check Recreation Center was constructed in 1962 and evaluated in the *Hull's Third Addition Reconnaissance Survey* conducted by the Louis Berger Group, Inc. to assist FEMA with National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) evaluations for properties damaged during the 2008 flooding event. Your office concurred with the recommendations in the survey report including the opinion that the Time Check Recreation Center building did not meet the criteria for listing in the NRHP in a letter dated July 21, 2009. FEMA considered the potential for the proposed demolition of the Time Check Recreation Center to affect archaeological resources, and determined that the area had been previously disturbed. Your office concurred with FEMA's finding that undertaking, regarding the initial phase of review, would result in no historic properties effected (enclosed).

During the course of demolition of the Time Check Recreation Center a brick cistern was discovered. This unanticipated archaeological discovery was documented and assessed by the Louis Berger Group. The cistern was assigned site number 13LN1067, and is documented in the enclosed *Archaeological Documentation of a Brick Cistern (Site 13LN1067) at 1311 Fifth Street NW in Cedar Rapids, Linn County, Iowa* dated June 2012. The cistern encountered at site 13LN1067 was not intact, nor was it determined to be a good representation of a late 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century residential cistern in Cedar Rapids. The Louis Berger Group recommended that site 13LN1067 be considered not eligible for listing in the NRHP under any criteria, and recommended no further archaeological investigation for the site.

The scope of work for this phase of review is in respect to the replacement recreational facility, now referred to as the Northwest Recreation Center, and proposed to be constructed at 1310 11<sup>th</sup> Street NW in Cedar Rapids, adjacent to the Harrison Elementary School.

FEMA has determined the APE for this phase of review concerning archaeological resources is limited to the ground disturbing activities associated with the construction of the Northwest Recreation Center and necessary utility connections. The APE regarding standing structures includes the Harrison Elementary School and extends to the surrounding, predominately residential neighborhood.

FEMA has considered the undertaking's potential to affect historic standing structures. FEMA requested that Marlys Svendsen, Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department, (IHSEMD) Historic Preservation Project Specialist evaluate the Harrison Elementary School for its potential for listing in the NRHP. The results of this evaluation are presented in the enclosed Iowa Site Inventory Form (ISIF), State Inventory No. 57-06418. The Harrison Elementary School was designed by Cedar Rapids architect Harold E. Hunter in the Tudor Revival style and constructed in 1929-1930, with classroom additions in 1955, and an annex added to the site in 1995. Ms. Svendsen concludes that Harrison Elementary School is eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criteria A and C. Harrison Elementary School is situated at the confluence of Wagner's Addition to the east, Hull's Third Addition to the southeast, and Highland Park Addition to the south. These three residential subdivisions were subject to reconnaissance level architectural and historical surveys conducted in 2009 by the Louis Berger Group to assist FEMA with NRHP evaluations for properties damaged during the 2008 flooding event. The referenced reconnaissance surveys identified one property that is listed individually in the NRHP, and resulted in recommendations of NRHP eligibility for a small number of individual resources, none of which are located on blocks facing the Harrison Elementary School. No NRHP listed or eligible districts were identified in the reconnaissance surveys. Your office concurred with the NRHP eligibility recommendations in these surveys in 2009. A map that indicates the location of areas surveyed in Cedar Rapids by the Louis Berger Group, and maps excerpted from the three survey reports, which identify the NRHP listed and eligible resources are enclosed.

Detailed construction plans for the proposed Northwest Recreation Center have not been prepared; however, the sub-grantee has provided FEMA with the enclosed schematics that illustrate the proposed site plan, massing, scale, form, exterior cladding, including relocated parking for the 14,295 square foot recreation center addition to the Harrison Elementary School site (enclosed). The proposed adjacent new construction would not be an attached addition to the Harrison Elementary School, and would therefore not result in the loss or destruction of historic fabric or features that characterize the historic school building. The addition would be located along a secondary elevation where surface parking currently exists, and would not result in the destruction of important landscape features on the site. The recreation center would be setback thirty-three (33) feet from the façade of the school, and would not diminish the historic property's ability to convey its historic significance. The plan includes a single-story multi-purpose room on the east end of the recreation center building; therefore, the large street-facing gable end of the gymnasium roof would be setback to nearly align with the rear elevation of the school. The simplified design elements depicted in the schematics reference the school's gable ends with stepped-end parapets, and the new building would be clad in brick similar to that of the historic school. The proposed

recreation center's form respects the architectural style of the historic building, and its restrained design would ensure that it is compatible with, yet differentiated from the historic building.

On the basis of the limited information in the schematics, FEMA concludes that the historic character of the overall property would not be diminished; therefore, construction of the proposed Northwest Recreation Center and relocation of the parking to the public right-of-way would not result in adverse effects to the Harrison Elementary School. Whereas detailed construction plans are not available, FEMA would condition this project approval to require that exterior materials for the recreation center building, particularly the brick-cladding and roofing closely match those of the Harrison Elementary School in texture, color, and value, and that the windows and doors would closely match those of the historic school building in color and value to ensure the new building is harmonious with the historic one. Additionally, as a proposed south elevation is not included in the schematics, the conditions will include that the horizontal trim feature located underneath the first floor windows continue around the entire building, including the south elevation. Finally, the windows in the east and west facing gable ends of the gymnasium roof would be required to replicate the patterning of the divided lights as indicated for the first floor windows of similar size.

FEMA has considered the undertaking's potential to affect archaeological resources. To determine the potential for the presence of archaeological sites, FEMA conducted a desktop assessment. Archaeological sites are fairly dense around the Cedar River, and there are three mound groups located on the bluffs overlooking the river. The closest mound group recorded is approximately 750 meters to the northwest, and a known prehistoric camp is located along the riverfront to the northeast. LANDMASS modeling indicated high archaeological suitability for the bluffs, but does not document the floodplain suitability, where the APE resides. The USDA soil survey indicates the APE is on the border of Fayette Silt Loam and Ackmore-Nodaway-Urban Land Complex. Fayette is an upland and high stream terrace soil that is suitable to prehistoric site location. Ackmore and Nodaway are Camp Creek member soils of the Deforest Formation, meaning they are the result of flooding within the last few hundred years. FEMA determined the APE is close enough to the margin to merit investigation. Additionally, the LiDAR imagery depicted what appeared as a possible prehistoric burial mound at the base of the bluffs just 80 meters (~250 feet) west of the APE. Due to the proximity to significant archaeological sites, LANDMASS, questions about the level of previous disturbance, actual soil type, and a possible mound in the immediate vicinity; FEMA required the sub-grantee to undertake a Phase I archaeological survey of the APE. FEMA requested that the survey include investigation into this possible mound feature, as its nature would have an effect on the sensitivity and level of effort of survey within the APE.

A Phase I archaeological survey was completed by Wapsi Valley Archaeology, Inc. of Anamosa, Iowa. The results of the investigation are presented in the enclosed *Phase I Intensive Archaeological Survey for the Proposed Northwest Recreation Center in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Wapsi Valley Archaeology Report #758*. To address the issue of the LiDAR anomaly regarding the potential mound feature, Wapsi Valley conferred with the Office of the State Archaeologist of Iowa's Burial Program, and performed a field inspection of this feature, which concluded that the feature is a remnant of previous modern construction activities and not a prehistoric burial mound. Archaeological Site 13LN1110 was identified during the field investigation. This site is a historic scatter adjacent to the Harrison Elementary School, which is comprised of historic debris isolated to a layer of fill. Wapsi Valley's opinion is that this archaeological site is not eligible for listing in the NRHP on its own merit, and is not considered a contributing element to the architectural site's importance. Wapsi Valley recommends no further archaeological investigation for the proposed project.

FEMA has determined that the brick cistern encountered during demolition of the Time Check Recreation Center at 1311 5<sup>th</sup> Street NW, and designated as site 13LN1067 does not meet the criteria to be considered eligible for listing in the NRHP. Based on Ms. Svendsen's opinion of NRHP eligibility, FEMA has determined that Harrison Elementary School is eligible for listing in the NRHP under criteria A and C. FEMA agrees with the methodology and results of the Phase I archaeological investigation

conducted by Wapsi Valley for the proposed Northwest Recreation Center, and FEMA has determined that Site 13LN1110 does not meet the criteria to be considered eligible for listing in the NRHP. FEMA finds that construction of the proposed Northwest Recreation Center will result in no adverse effects to the Harrison Elementary School if implemented in accordance with the provided schematics and referenced conditions.

In accordance with 36 CFR Part 800 and the *Programmatic Agreement among the Federal Emergency Management Agency of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the State Historical Society of Iowa, the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation*, FEMA finds that the proposed project will result in no adverse effects to historic properties.

FEMA respectfully requests your concurrence with this finding within the 10-day agreed upon timeframe. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Teri Toye, FEMA Region VII EHP Manager at (816) 260-0937 or by email at [teri.toye@FEMA.DHS.gov](mailto:teri.toye@FEMA.DHS.gov).

Sincerely,

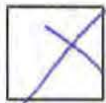


Eric C. Wieland  
FEMA Region VII EHP Advisor  
FEMA/DHS

Cc: Marlys Svendsen, IHSEMD  
Amanda McKnight, Cedar Rapids Historic Preservation Commission

Enclosures: May 20, 2011 FEMA/SHPO Consultation

Archaeological Documentation of a Brick Cistern (Site 13LN1067) at 1311 Fifth Street NW in Cedar Rapids, Linn County, Iowa, Louis Berger Group, Inc. June 2012  
ISIF 57-06418 Harrison Elementary School, Marlys Svendsen, IHSEMD  
Cedar Rapids survey area and reconnaissance survey maps, Louis Berger Group, Inc. 2009  
Phase I Intensive Archaeological Survey for the Proposed Northwest Recreation Center in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Wapsi Valley Archaeology Report #758 December 2013  
Northwest Recreation Center schematics, Novak Design Group, Cedar Rapids, IA



I concur that the brick cistern, Site 13LN1067 does not meet the criteria for listing in the NRHP. I further concur that Harrison Elementary School; Site Inventory Number 57-06418 is eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criteria A and C. I further concur with the methodology and results of *Phase I Intensive Archaeological Survey for the Proposed Northwest Recreation Center in Cedar Rapids, Iowa*, Wapsi Valley Archaeology Report #758, December 2013. I further concur that the historic scatter documented at Site 13LN1110 does not meet the criteria to be considered eligible for listing in the NRHP. I further concur the undertaking, if implemented in accordance with the available schematics, and the conditions listed above, will result in no adverse effects to historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800 and the *Programmatic Agreement among the Federal Emergency Management Agency of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the State Historical Society of Iowa, the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation*.



I do not concur with your findings for the following reason(s):



Douglas W. Jones  
Review and Compliance Program Manager, Archaeologist

Date 1/29/2014