



Department of Economic and
Community Development

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December 5, 2014

Mr. Frank Gardner
Brownfield Coordinator for New England
United States Environmental Protection Agency
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100
Boston, MA 02109

Subject: Comments on Three EPA Clean-up Grants for properties located at 1 Riverview Way - Mitchell Building, 2 Riverview Way - Ray Building and 21 Riverview Way - Gallup Building, Preston Riverwalk, Preston, CT

Dear Mr. Gardner:

The State Historic Preservation Office understands that the Town of Preston seeks grant funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to assist in the clean up of the referenced properties located within the former Norwich State Hospital grounds. Please note that SHPO has commented previously regarding the Gallup and Mitchell Buildings (letter dated June 7, 2012, attached).

SHPO continues to support the redevelopment of this property in a manner that fosters economic development within the Town and which respects the significant historical and cultural resources present within the area. SHPO provides the following comments in reference to Section 106 of the National Historical Preservation Act (NHPA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

As we have previously noted, the Norwich State Hospital property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The State completed extensive documentation of the architectural resources associated with the historic hospital complex and we do not believe further mitigation is warranted with respect to the potential loss of buildings *other* than the Administration Building. We understand that the proposed clean-up grant work will be used to abate hazardous building materials of the existing buildings. SHPO believes that work confined to the area within the building footprints and extending 30 feet from the exterior building walls will have no adverse effect on significant historic properties. This comment is conditional upon the restriction of ground disturbance during demolition to the area within 30 feet of each building's exterior walls. If the Town determines that workspace outside these buffers will be required during the abatement work and that such workspace would be subject to ground disturbance affecting sediments below a depth of one foot, we are requesting that project plans be submitted to SHPO for further comment and guidance on measures to avoid disturbance of significant archaeological resources associated with the extensive prehistoric use of the area by Native American people. Any plans for federally- or state-funded actions that cause ground disturbance outside the building buffers established in this comment letter should

State Historic Preservation Office

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be submitted to our office for additional comments.

The State Historic Preservation Office appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed work at the former Norwich State Hospital property and looks forward to further coordination with the Town of Preston as plans for the redevelopment progress.

Sincerely,

Daniel T. Forrest
State Historic Preservation Officer

CC: K. Warzecha/Preston Town Planner