



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION

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January 23, 2024

Via email: [jlagana@cranstonri.gov](mailto:jlagana@cranstonri.gov)

Joseph Lagana  
Director of Community Development  
City of Cranston  
35 Sockanosset Crossroad, Unit #6  
Cranston, Rhode Island 02920

Re: RIHPHC Project No. 17859  
Budlong Pool and Pool House Renovation  
222 Aqueduct Avenue  
Cranston, Rhode Island

Dear Mr. Lagana:

The Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission (RIHPHC) staff has reviewed the additional information provided by Weston & Sampson for the above-referenced project. The City of Cranston is proposing to provide U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development funds for a project to replace the existing pool and renovate the existing pool house at 222 Aqueduct Avenue in Cranston, Rhode Island.

In our letter to you dated November 1, 2023, the RIHPHC opined that the Budlong Pool and Pool House are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the fields of Entertainment/Recreation and Community Planning and Development, and under Criterion C as a fine and intact example of WPA rustic architecture. We noted further study would be required to determine if the larger park is also historic and to define a period of significance.

RIHPHC Executive Director Jeffrey Emidy and Project Review Coordinator Elizabeth Totten met with representatives of the City of Cranston and various consultants onsite on December 20, 2023. Following that site visit, the RIHPHC received a memo on the condition of the pool including code and life-safety deficiencies, cost estimates for repair and replacement, and the City's intention for the property. As we indicated during our meeting, the replacement of the pool with a smaller pool and associated improvements will have an adverse effect upon the Budlong Pool and Pool House. Based upon our review of the provided information, the RIHPHC concurs that the retention of the current pool or the replacement in-kind is neither prudent nor feasible – therefore, the adverse effect cannot be avoided. The City proposes to mitigate the adverse effect through (1) preserving the exterior of the pool house, (2) adding appropriate signage to the pool house, (3) demarcating the boundary of the historic pool through granite markers at the corners, and (4) installing educational interpretive displays to “relay images of the former pool and stats” on site. In addition to these items, the RIHPHC suggests the preparation of a Rhode Island Historic Resources Archive (RIHRA) for the property, which includes

photographs, historical context, an architectural description (of the building and pool), any associated historic images, and drawings (if available). The RIHRA would include contextual information about the Works Progress Administration in Cranston and would supply the information for the educational interpretive displays. The RIHPHC will provide more specifications for the RIHRA within a memorandum of agreement (MOA), which we can prepare upon request.

If these terms are agreeable, the City must inform the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation of the finding of effect and a MOA must be drafted. These comments are provided in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. If you have any questions, please contact RIHPHC Project Review Coordinator Elizabeth Totten at 401-222-2671 or [elizabeth.totten@preservation.ri.gov](mailto:elizabeth.totten@preservation.ri.gov).

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Emidy  
Executive Director  
State Historic Preservation Officer