

Office of the
**STATE
HISTORIC
PRESERVATION
OFFICER**

for Connecticut

59 SOUTH PROSPECT STREET - HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106 - TEL: (203) 566-3005

May 13, 1980

Mr. Jeremiah F. Lombardi, Jr.
City of Danbury
Danbury Redevelopment Agency
142 Deer Hill Avenue
Danbury, Conn. 06810

Subject: Community Development Sixth Year Entitlement
Grant, DANBURY, CONN.
A95: #8003CD02

Dear Mr. Lombardi:

The State Historic Preservation Officer has reviewed the above-named project. This office understands that the City of Danbury's Community Development Program includes among its components a house rehabilitation program and the utilization of the former city jail. The State Historic Preservation Officer's comments with respect to each subprogram are as follows:

Housing Rehabilitation Program/Neighborhood Housing Service

Municipalities are reminded that their responsibility under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (80 Stat 915, 16 USC 470 as amended), and Advisory Council Guidelines 36 CFR 800, "Procedures for the Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties", include the identification of those properties which may be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as well as determining which properties are actually listed on the National Register. In the opinion of the State Historic Preservation Officer, the City of Danbury may satisfy this requirement by means of a good faith commitment to this office that a professional architectural and historical survey will be initiated at the earliest possible time. This office notes that the City of Danbury has partially investigated the Main Street area as part of your survey funded through this agency. This office believes that this survey data could serve as a data base for the formulation of the city's identification of cultural resources for its rehabilitation loan program. As the City

of Danbury is aware, surveys of historical resources are eligible for funding under the Community Development Program. Information concerning the Department of the Interior's matching grant-in-aid funds for survey purposes, administered by the Connecticut Historical Commission, has been included with this letter. Our office would be pleased to continue to provide your community with survey forms, instructions and technical assistance for carrying out this survey.

In addition to the identification of cultural resources, municipalities are mandated as Community Development program participants to assess what effect the rehabilitation grant program will have on those properties listed on or eligible for the National Register. If the City of Danbury is willing to incorporate the Secretary of the Interior's "Standards for Historic Preservation Projects" as the standard for the city's rehabilitation program, the State Historic Preservation Officer expects that the general concept of the City of Danbury's Community Development rehabilitation program would be in accordance with Advisory Council Guidelines 36 CFR 800.

Rehabilitation projects which contain items not in keeping with the Secretary of the Interior's standards, for example, sandblasting or artificial siding, should be individually submitted to the State Historic Preservation Officer for review and comment with respect to: 1) the property's eligibility for the National Register; and 2) if eligible, the effect of the proposed rehabilitation program on this property.

In summary, in order to ensure that the City of Danbury's Community Development Rehabilitation Program is in accordance with the spirit and intent of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and Advisory Council Guidelines 36 CFR 800, the State Historic Preservation Officer recommends that the City of Danbury should draft a Memorandum of Agreement which would incorporate the following major points:

- 1) The City of Danbury will undertake a professional survey of the historical and architectural resources in those areas targeted for the Community Development rehabilitation program. This survey will be conducted in accordance with the standards established by the State Historic Preservation Officer;
- 2) Until completion of this survey, all properties proposed for rehabilitation will be treated in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's standards; and
- 3) All exceptions to the Secretary of the Interior's standards will be submitted to the State Historic Preservation Officer for review and comment.

Restoration of Former City Jail

This office notes that this property appears to meet the eligibility criteria for the National Register. Therefore, the State Historic Preservation Officer recommends that the City of Danbury: 1) initiate compliance with the Advisory Council Guidelines 36 CFR 800; and 2) request a determination of eligibility for this property from the Keeper of the National Register, Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, U. S. Department of the Interior, 440 G Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20243.

Documentation should be in sufficient detail to enable the Keeper of the National Register, Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, to promptly respond to your agency's request for a determination of eligibility. In accordance with the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation Guidelines 36 CFR 63, "Determinations of Eligibility for Inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places" such documentation should include a physical and historical description, a statement of significance, and photographs and maps.

The State Historic Preservation Officer should receive a copy of this documentation so that he may submit his opinion to the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service. If a consensus of opinion exists as to the eligibility of this project, less extensive documentation is requested and the review period is considerably shortened under 36 CFR 63.3.

Liberty Street Acquisitions

The State Historic Preservation Officer understands that the City of Danbury proposes to acquire additional property on Liberty Street to facilitate the redevelopment of this area. This office requests supplemental information which specifically identifies the street addresses for those properties under consideration for acquisition. The submission of historical information and photographs would expedite the review of this office with respect to this subprogram.

Feasibility Study for Health and Human Services Facility.

The State Historic Preservation Officer understands that the Danbury Health Department proposes to investigate the rehabilitation or construction of a multiple use facility to better suit their needs. In this regard, the State Historic Preservation Officer suggests that this study should include an examination of the feasibility for the rehabilitation or conversion of Danbury's existing building stock to fulfill the Health Department's expansion problems. In this regard, the ongoing historic and architectural resources survey along Main Street might serve as an important source of information for this study.

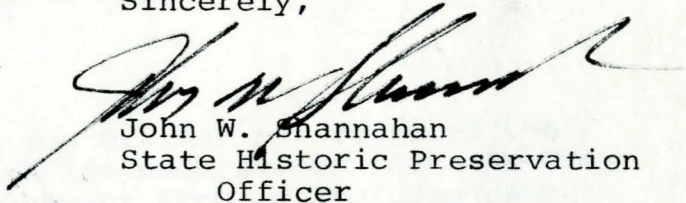
Administration and Social Service Programs

In the opinion of the State Historic Preservation Officer, all other aspects of the City of Danbury's Community Development Program, except as noted above, will have no effect on architectural, historical or archaeological resources listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

The State Historic Preservation Officer strongly supports and encourages the City of Danbury's efforts towards the preservation and continued utilization of the existing building stock through its rehabilitation program. In particular, this office supports the city's efforts for the rehabilitation and revitalization of the former city jail.

For further information, please contact David A. Poirier, Archaeologist or Linda S. Spencer, Historian.

Sincerely,



John W. Shannahan
State Historic Preservation
Officer

DAP:aas
Enclosure

cc: State Clearinghouse Dir.
Office of Policy and
Management, Hartford

Mr. Philip Forzley
U.S. Dept. of Housing and
Urban Development
Hartford, Conn. 06103