WISCONSIN OFFICE
669 N. Deerwood Dr.
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53209
P: 414.446.4121 | F:414.446.4325

November 24, 2021
W-2128

Dan Glynn, CPRP
Parks and Recreation Director
City of Stoughton

RE: Architecture/History Investigations
Yahara Riverfront Development Project
City of Stoughton, Dane County, Wisconsin

Dear Mr. Glynn:

The City of Stoughton is planning to redevelop the Yahara riverfront area to improve recreational use of the Yahara River. As currently designed, the project primarily involves partial removal of the Yahara River dam and creation of a whitewater park. The project also will include river access improvements, development of additional trails in the area, a trail underpass, and pedestrian plazas and seating areas. The existing millrace adjacent to the dam will be filled. See Figure 1 for a conceptual plan of the project.

The project may be funded by a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) Land Water Conservation Fund Grant (LWCFG) and therefore must comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106) and its implementing regulations 36 CFR Part 800. Section 106 requires the consideration of effects to properties listed on, or determined eligible for listing on, the National Register of Historic Places (National Register). Commonwealth Heritage Group, Inc. (Commonwealth) was contracted to complete architecture/history investigations for the project in accordance with Section 106.

Above-ground resources (building and structures) within the project footprint include the existing Yahara River dam and the bridge carrying 4th Street over the Yahara River. A review of the Wisconsin Historic Preservation Database (WHPD) indicated the dam has been previously surveyed (AHI #242947) and determined not eligible for the National Register. The bridge was built in 1990 and therefore is not of historic age (50 years or older).

Adjacent to the project on the north side of the 4th Street bridge is the Stoughton Municipal Power Plant #1 (Figure 2). This property (AHI #5842) has been determined eligible for the National Register and is in the process of being listed. It has local significance under National Register *Criterion A: Community Planning and Development* for its role in municipal electrical power generation and the growth of the community. The property does not appear to have architectural significance.

Commonwealth obtained a copy of the draft National Register nomination from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), which proposes a historic boundary that encompasses only the power plant building (Figure 3). Neither the existing millrace or dam are considered to contribute to the significance of the property, and they are therefore excluded from the soon-to-be nominated property. The project will have no physical impacts on the power plant building or to any features within the property's historic boundary that contribute to its historical

significance. Similarly, none of the proposed riverfront improvements will detract from the property's ability to convey its historic character, essential historic features, and identity as a former powerplant for which it is significant.

Commonwealth concludes that the proposed redevelopment of the Yahara riverfront area in Stoughton will have no effects on above-ground historic properties under Section 106. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns regarding the results of our architecture/history investigations. As always, the project may need to be reassessed if plans change.

Sincerely,

Greg Rainka
Architectural Historian

Enclosures

Yahara Riverfront Development Project
City of Stoughton, Dane County, Wisconsin

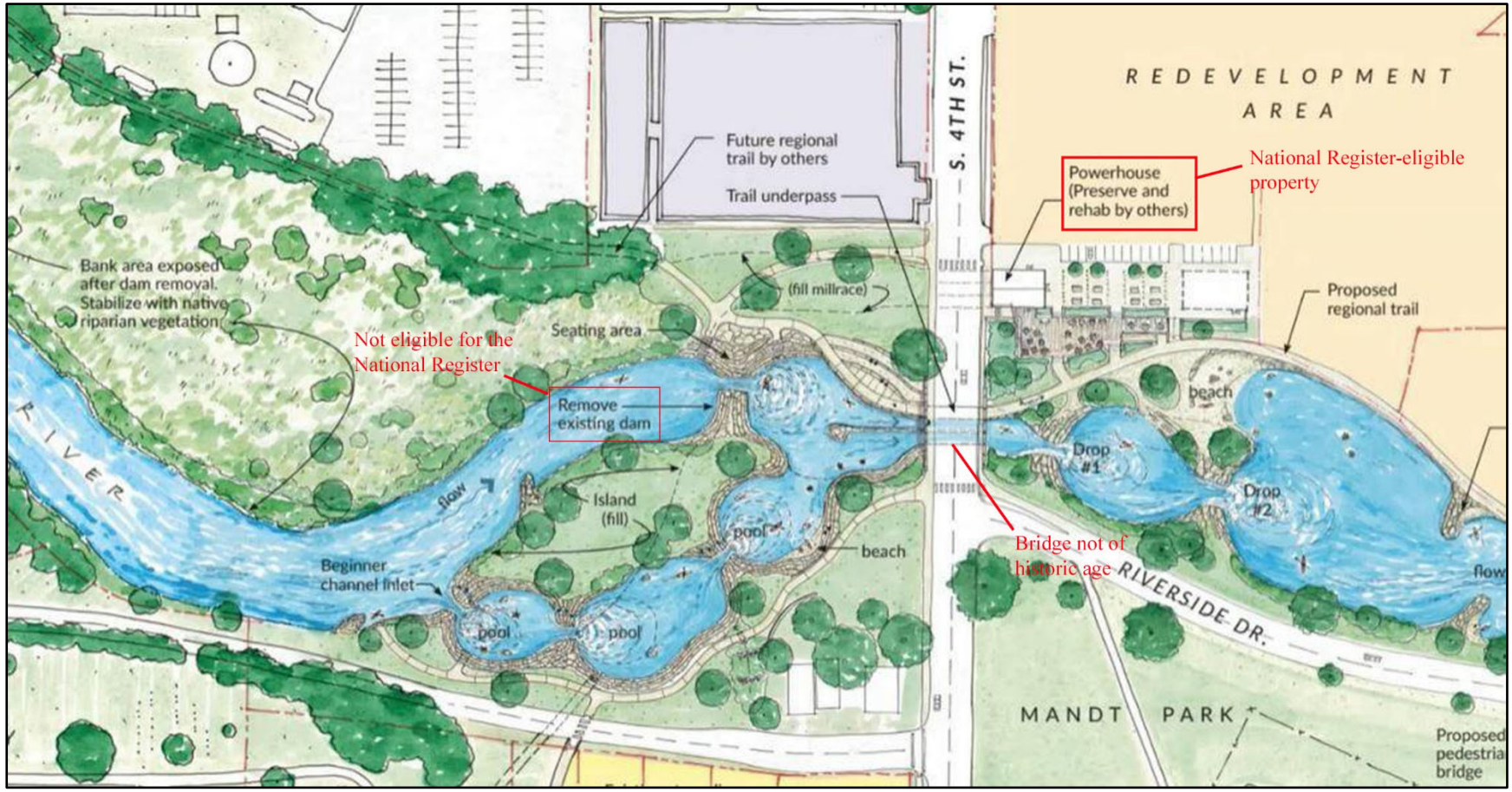

Figure 1. Conceptual Design of the Project

Figure 2. Stoughton Municipal Power Plant #1, View Northeast

Yahara Riverfront Development Project
City of Stoughton, Dane County, Wisconsin

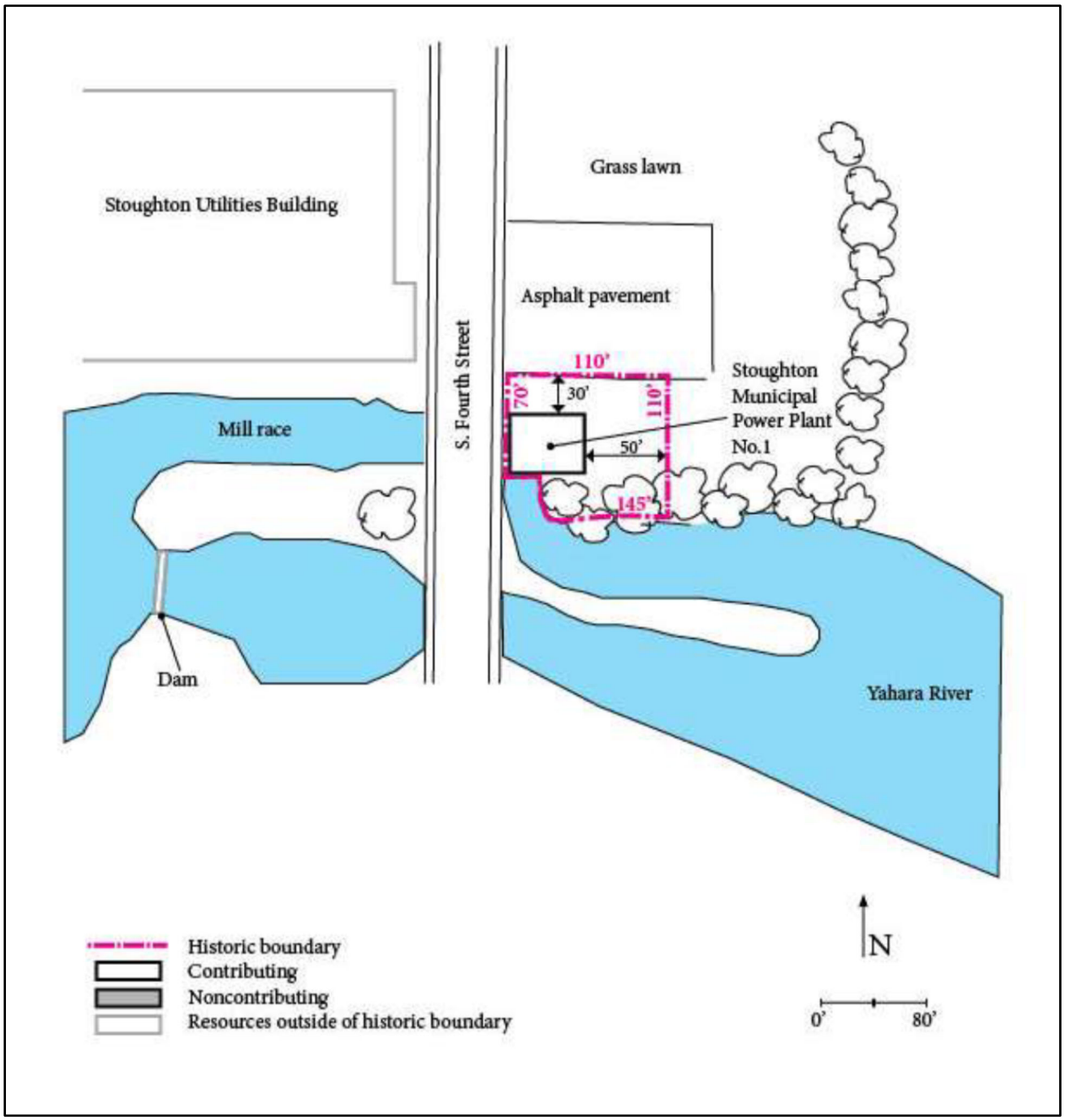

Figure 3. Proposed National Register Historic Boundary for the Stoughton Municipal Power Plant #1