



EXHIBIT SS - 1

In reply refer to:
2020-CUY-48358

June 5, 2020

Kristin M. Hopkins, FAICP, Manager of Planning Services
CT Consultants, Inc.
North Point Tower
1001 Lakeside Ave. E., Suite 1005
Cleveland, Ohio 44114
Email: khopkins@ctconsultants.com

RE: Section 106 Review: Nathan Hale Park Stormwater Basin, City of Parma Heights, Cuyahoga County, Ohio
(Project #14087)

Dear Ms. Hopkins:

This letter is in response to your email correspondence, and Section 106 Project Summary Form received by the Ohio State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) on March 7, 2020, regarding the above-referenced project. The comments of the State Historic Preservation Office are made in accordance with the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and the associated regulations at 36 CFR Part 800.

The City of Parma Heights is proposing to construct a retention basin covering approximately eight acres within the northern portion of the 25-acre Nathan Hale Park (NHP). Three areas are to be disturbed: 1) The area of the basin roughly 720 feet by 480 feet; 2) the area for a stormwater diversion channel in the northeast corner of the project area that will be 40-feet wide by 105-feet long; and, 3) construction of a channel along the northern boundary line to connect with a new stormwater pipe approximately 30 feet by 620 feet. In addition, approximately 300 feet of new storm sewer will be installed west of the retention basin. The area where the retention basin is to be built includes a former baseball diamond and two soccer fields. The site is predominantly in lawn surround to the west, north and east by successional woods, emergent wetlands, and forested wetlands.

One structure, Building #1, a 5,709 sq. ft. concrete block building located near the entrance of the park is to be demolished and replaced with a smaller building with restrooms and an attached pavilion. This building was once part of the former 187-acre Nike missile site (CL-59) which was activated by the U.S. Army in 1956 and was deactivated in 1961, and in 1971 the National Park Service (NPS) conveyed 25 acres of the former missile site to the City of Parma Heights for the specific purpose of creating a city park. Since that time Building #1 which was likely built to be a mess hall for the missile base, has been used by the park as a maintenance/storage facility.

According to an assessment of Building #1 by Hardlines Design Company (HDC), this structure has been heavily modified including both major changes to the exterior and interior, and as originally built it was a relatively common building type among military installations and does not possess any unusual architectural or engineering features.

In reviewing this information in conjunction with a review of the Ohio History Connection's (OHC) GIS Database, no previously-documented archaeological sites, buildings, structures, objects, cemeteries, historic markers, or historic landscapes are documented within the proposed project area, and it is clear that the proposed project area has undergone numerous and extensive past ground disturbances including construction, use, and de-activation of Nike Missile Base CL-59, removal of base buildings and infrastructure, construction and redevelopment as a city park, and most recently, the closing of the baseball field and two soccer fields within the project area in 2019.

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Based on the provided information, and in consultation with my colleague, Kristen Koehlinger, it is our opinion that Nathan Hale Park does not meet the minimum criteria for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. We have no objection to the project proceeding as proposed. The planned storm water basin should not have an effect on historic properties.

Under 36 CFR 800.4(d), federal agencies are required to make an effect determination regarding their undertakings and should request concurrence from the applicable State Historic Preservation Officer. Should the National Park Service or another federal agency determine that this project is a Federal undertaking and determine through consultation that no historic properties would be affected, we would concur with that effect finding.

Please be advised that this is a Section 106 decision and that this review decision may not extend to other SHPO programs.

If you have any questions, please contact me at jschweikart@ohiohistory.org or my colleague Kristen Koehlinger at kkoehlinger@ohiohistory.org

John F. Schweikart, Project Reviews Manager (archaeology)
State Historic Preservation Office

cc: Diana Welling, SHPO

Serial No. 1084067