



Department of Economic and
Community Development

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February 11, 2014

Ms. Mandy Ranslow
Department of Transportation
2800 Berlin Turnpike
Newington, CT 06111

Subject: State No. 170-3249
New construction at 24-36 Colony Street
Meriden

Dear Ms. Ranslow:

The State Historic Preservation Office has reviewed the Connecticut Department of Transportation's (DOT) proposed plans of the reference project. DOT proposes to participate in the development of a property in Meriden for a transit-oriented development (TOD) project. Parking for the Meriden rail station will be constructed at 24-36 Colony Street. The action will require the demolition of a building at the rear of the lot, which fronts Church Street. The project will be funded with state bond funds. DOT will contribute \$6.8 million for the construction of the parking garage, which it will own and operate.

DOT consulted with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) on November 5, 2013 on the demolition of the building at 24-36 Colony Street. A SHPO concurrence that no historic properties would be affected by the demolition of the building was signed November 6, 2013.

The project also includes the construction of a four-story, mixed use building that will include 63 residential units, retail space, and a shared-use parking lot. As you know, the proposed building is within the boundaries of the Colony Street/West Main Street National Register of Historic Places District. This office is concerned that the new construction will diminish the integrity of the district due to its massing.

While in the early 20th century there appeared to be a smaller 4-story structure on this lot, the current proposed building is a modern building and appears out of scale. To avoid an adverse effect, this office proposes two suggestions for mitigation:

- An interpretive panel of the historic district adjacent to the new structure between the new structure and 62 Colony Street (The First Congregational Church), and
- Signage bounding the district.

State Historic Preservation Office

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The State Historic Preservation Office appreciates the opportunity to review and comment upon this project. These comments are provided in accordance with the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. For further information, please contact Todd Levine, Environmental Reviewer, at (860) 256-2759 or todd.levine@ct.gov.

Sincerely,

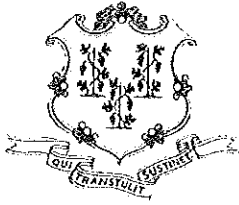
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniel T. Forrest".

Daniel T. Forrest
State Historic Preservation Officer

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STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

2800 BERLIN TURNPIKE, P.O. BOX 317546
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06131-7546



Transmittal:

From: Mandy Ranslow
Date: November 5, 2013
Through: Mark W. Alexander, Transportation Assistant Planning Director
To: Daniel T. Forrest
State Historic Preservation Officer

Project: State No.:
F.A.P. No.: N/A
Project Title: Transit-Oriented Development
Town: Meriden

NOV 10 5 2013

Subject: SHPO Consultation Documentation

Description of Activity:

The Connecticut Department of Transportation (Department) proposes to acquire property in Meriden for a transit-oriented development project. Station parking will be constructed at 24-36 Colony Street. The action will require the demolition of a building at the rear of the lot, which fronts Church Street.

Technical Review of Project:

The parcel of 24-36 Colony Street is the former site of the Wilcox Building, a 1935 commercial building that was demolished in 2008. The property is currently a vacant lot. The existing building was excluded from the National Register-listed West Main Street-Colony Street Historic District because of significant alterations to the building.

Archaeological and Historical Services, Inc. reviewed the project plans and determined that the building at 24-36 Colony Street is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Recommendation:

The Department's Office of Environmental Planning recommends that no historic properties will be affected by the demolition of the remaining building located at 24-36 Colony Street. This recommendation is made under Section 106

of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act.

Attached Documents:


- SHPO Letter
- Maps
- Photos – Historical Studies
- Supporting Documents

SHPO Use Only

Based on the information provided to the State Historic Preservation Office, we:

Concur Do Not Concur (additional comments attached)

with DOT's Office of Environmental Planning's opinion that no historic properties will be affected by this undertaking.



Daniel T. Forrest
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

11/6/13

Date



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