



FEMA

April 12, 2023

Josette Amato
Executive Director, West End Preservation Society
514 West End Ave, 15B
New York, NY 10024
(Electronic submittal only)

RE: Potential Interested Parties Notification of Adverse Effect to Historic Properties
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Region 2
79th Street Boat Basin, West 79th Street and Henry Hudson Pkwy, NY, NY 10024
(40.78608, -73.98510)
Hurricane Sandy NY, DR-4085

Dear Director Amato:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will be providing funds authorized under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Act, P.L. 93-288, as amended, in response to the major Disaster Declaration for FEMA-4085-DR-NY, dated October 28, 2012, as amended. The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation (NYC DPR) has applied to FEMA for Public Assistance grant funding for site repair and mitigation work at the 79th Street Boat Basin located adjacent to Riverside Park on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. New York City Economic Development Corp. (NYC EDC) is providing project management services for the proposed scope of work.

In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and Stipulation II.D. of FEMA's New York Statewide Programmatic Agreement (executed on November 26, 2019) between FEMA, the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (SHPO), NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission, and participating Tribes, an Area of Potential Effect (APE) has been developed and a historic property (the Riverside Park and Drive) has been identified within the APE that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). FEMA has determined with concurrence from SHPO rendered January 13, 2023, that the proposed scope of work, construction of a new two-story dock house at the 79th Street Boat Basin, will result in an Adverse Effect to Historic Properties.

In accordance with 36 CFR 800.3(f) and FEMA's 2019 New York State Programmatic Agreement, FEMA is providing this project information to the West End Preservation Society as a potential interested party. We invite your participation as an interested party to comment or to share any information on the historic resource that may be pertinent to the project.

Project Description (“Undertaking”)

The proposed Undertaking is to construct a two-story dock house building at the 79th Street Boat Basin. The dock house will have an overwater footprint of 2,730 square feet, with two enclosed stories totaling 4,070 square feet of interior space elevated on a full story supported by concrete pilings. A deck will provide an additional 695 square feet. This proposal matches the overwater square footage of the existing dock house, while providing the minimum amount of space necessary to support required programming for NYC DPR. The new dock house will be located to the south of the existing dock house, placing it further from the West 79th Street Rotunda Pedestrian Plaza.

Impact on Historic Resources

The 79th Street Boat Basin is located adjacent to the NRHP-listed Riverside Park and Drive Historic District (NR: 90PR03411). The historic district is listed under NRHP Criteria for Eligibility “C” for significance to landscape architecture. Adjacent to the Boat Basin is West 79th Street Rotunda Pedestrian Plaza (USN: 06101.017120) and the West 79th Street traffic circle and ramp (USN: 06101.006669), which are both contributing resources to the Riverside Park and Drive Historic District. Additionally, the section of the Henry Hudson Parkway running from West 72nd Street north to St. Clair Place is considered a contributing resource to the historic district. Riverside Park and Riverside Drive are also identified as a NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission Scenic Landmark (LP-2002).

FEMA determined that the construction of the two-story dock house elevated on pilings at the 79th Street Boat Basin would obstruct clear views to the Hudson River from the Riverside Park and Drive Historic District and, therefore, would be an Adverse Effect to Historic Properties.

At this time, FEMA, on behalf of NYC DPR (and NYC EDC), and in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, is contacting potential interested parties that may have additional information pertinent to the project and the Adverse Effect to Historic Properties determination. If you have any questions or additional information about the historic resource, please reply via e-mail (james.zwolak@fema.dhs.gov) within fifteen (15) calendar days.

Sincerely,

**JAMES M
ZWOLAK**

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ZWOLAK
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James M. Zwolak
FEMA Environmental & Historic Presevation Advisor
DR-4085 Hurricane Sandy NY
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