



NEVADA  
**STATE HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION OFFICE**

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Brian Sandoval, Governor  
Leo M. Drozdoff, P.E., Director  
Rebecca L. Palmer, SHPO

March 4, 2016

Ms. Lisa Howard, Director  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System  
Ioannis A. Lougaris VA Medical Center  
975 Kirman Avenue  
Reno, Nevada 89502-2597

RE: Continued Section 106 Consultation for the Purchase of Land for Medical Center Expansion and Parking, Sierra Nevada Health Care System (VASNHCS), Reno, Washoe County, Nevada (UT 2015-3811)

Dear Ms. Howard:

The Nevada State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has reviewed the submitted documents in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended.

This undertaking is the acquisition and demolition of 11 buildings within the direct Area of Potential Effect (APE) which is to the east of the hospital campus. The campus is bounded by East Taylor Street to the north, Kirman Avenue to the east, Burns Street to the south, and Locust Street to the west. Due to a shortage of on-campus parking, the VA proposes to acquire up to 11 parcels adjoining the VASNHCS for a construction project intended to meet its parking needs.

This approximate two-acre area of land to be acquired will be cleared of any existing buildings or structures and will include the necessary improvements needed to provide surface level parking spaces. Eleven single-family and multi-family residences are slated for demolition. The inventory of buildings and structures for possible acquisition includes two single-family residences (885 Belli Drive and 703 Balzar Circle); five duplexes (691/693 E. Taylor Street, 697/699 E. Taylor Street, 700/710 E. Taylor Street, 825/835 Kirman Avenue and 805/807 Belli Drive); two triplexes (701/707/715 Belli Drive and 801 Belli Drive); one four-plex (825/827/829/831 Belli Drive); and four apartments (735 Belli Drive, 765 Belli Drive, 845 Belli Drive, and 865 Belli Drive), together with a handful of ancillary structures such as garages. Acquisition of some or all of these properties will allow the VASNHCS to increase available surface parking by 200 spaces.

This undertaking will also include the reduction of the two-way Kirman Avenue to one, one-way south-bound lane between E. Taylor Street and Balzar Circle.

The complete APE (i.e., addressing both direct and indirect effects) is defined as the footprint of the proposed undertaking, as described above, and also includes the VA hospital complex and Kirman Avenue, as well as Burke's Addition, City of Reno Wells Addition Neighborhood Conservation District, Belli Addition, and Mountain View Subdivision.

901 S. Stewart Street, Suite 5004 ✦ Carson City, Nevada 89701 ✦ Phone: 775.684.3448 Fax: 775.684.3442

[www.shpo.nv.gov](http://www.shpo.nv.gov)

Lisa Howard  
March 4, 2016  
Page 2 of 2

Many historic properties were found within the APE and they have previously been identified and federal agency determinations of eligibility were concurred upon by SHPO.

The SHPO concurs with the Department of Veterans Affairs finding of Adverse Effect.

There is still the potential of additional adverse affects to archaeological resources within the direct APE for this undertaking. The VASNHCS conducted a sensitivity study at the site of the hospital complex and, based upon those results, the SHPO recommends that the VA coordinate with their archaeology consultants to identify appropriate identification and treatment methods for possible resources within the direct APE of the proposed acquisition parcel. SHPO staff archaeologist Jessica Axsom would be happy to discuss this with you further. This additional potential for adverse effects should be resolved prior to initiating consultation on development of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for this undertaking.

Should you have any questions regarding this correspondence please contact staff architectural historian Mara Thiessen Jones at 775-684-3439 or [mara.jones@shpo.nv.gov](mailto:mara.jones@shpo.nv.gov) or staff archaeologist Jessica Axsom at 775-684-3445 or [jaxsom@shpo.nv.gov](mailto:jaxsom@shpo.nv.gov).

Sincerely,



Julie H. Ernstein Ph. D., RPA  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

21324