



Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

ROSE HARVEY
Commissioner

September 30, 2016

Ms. Suzanne Cahill
Planning Director
City of Kingston
City Hall - 420 Broadway
Kingston, NY 12401

Re: LWRP
Irish Cultural Center
32 Abeel Street, Kingston, NY 12401
16PR06101

Dear Ms. Cahill:

Thank you for requesting the comments of the New York State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). We have reviewed the provided documentation in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. These comments are those of the SHPO and relate only to Historic/Cultural resources. They do not include other environmental impacts to New York State Parkland that may be involved in or near your project. Such impacts must be considered as part of the environmental review of the project pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and/or the State Environmental Quality Review Act (New York Environmental Conservation Law Article 8).

We have reviewed your submission dated September 1, 2016 for the Irish Cultural Center project. We note that the construction site is within the National Register listed Rondout-West Strand Historic District. We understand that the proposed project will include construction of a 16,889 square foot building on a currently vacant parcel between Abeel and West Strand Streets.

Because this site had historically contained one or more buildings, it is appropriate to construct a new building in this location that will be compatible to the surrounding buildings within the historic district. Based on our review of the proposed building design, we have the following comments concerns:

- **Scale:** The scale is very large in comparison to surrounding commercial and residential buildings. Nearby buildings are around 4-5,000 square foot. Set-backs, landscaping, and varied massing may help reduce the visual impact of this large structure particularly on the West Strand Street facade.
- **Massing and Design Features:** The rectangular flat roofed façade with full width double height porches, does relate to the historic façade of the D+H Paymaster Building that was located adjacent to this site. Though the scale of the proposed building is much larger. Windows are not compatible in this way, particularly the circular motif.

Division for Historic Preservation

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- Siting: In this location, where residential structures were located historically, the set-back should relate closely with the residential buildings along Abeel Street. The proposed building footprint is set well back of the surrounding residential buildings, as it tries to relate more to the West Strand Commercial buildings.
- Solar panels “parapet”, appear to be a modern application of solar panels and we have no concerns.
- Materials: Yellow “Norman” brick cladding does not relate well to surrounding masonry buildings, which are standard sized locally produced red brick. Local brickyards were a major employer of the Irish population in town, and use of this brick type would relate well to local history.
- Abeel Street elevation is a too industrial in appearance. The height is good. We understand the reference to Sullivanesque panels however, they do not related to the the existing historic district. Please reconsider this treatment.
- Company Hill Path: we are encouraged by the proposed plan to repair and rebuild this historic pathway.

In order for our office to continue its review of this project, please submit comments and/or revised renderings, plans and elevations for the proposed building that take into account our concerns as listed above.

Plans, specifications, and other documentation requested in this letter should be provided via our Cultural Resource Information System (CRIS) at www.nysparks.com/shpo/online-tools/. Once on the CRIS site, you can log in as a guest and choose "submit" at the very top menu. Next choose "submit new information for an existing project". You will need this project number and your e-mail address.

If you have any questions, I can be reached at (518) 268-2181.

Sincerely,



Beth A. Cumming
Senior Historic Site Restoration Coordinator
Beth.cumming@parks.ny.gov

via e-mail only