



December 7, 2009

Matthew Jarosz, Chair
Milwaukee Historic Preservation Commission
HistoricPreservation@milwaukee.gov

RE: Department of Veteran's Affairs Milwaukee, Assisted Community Living Center

Dear Mr. Jarosz,

Commonwealth Cultural Resources Group, Inc. (CCRG) is contacting you on behalf of the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) Milwaukee. The VA Milwaukee proposes to construct an Assisted Community Living Center (CLC) at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center Grounds (VAMC). The proposed CLC will consist of four pods; each will be approximately 10,000 feet². The proposed CLC site is situated in the north-east quadrant of the VA's Zablocki Hospital property, which is located within the VAMC at 5000 W. National Ave., Milwaukee, Wisconsin (Figure 1). The VA's Zablocki Hospital Property is part of the National Soldiers Home Historic District, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Properties. This historic district is comprised of 48 contributing resources and the historic landscape.

The building site was selected because it is the only viable location for the proposed CLC facility within the VAMC. The site contains two buildings which may be removed for construction of the CLC. Building 37 (Figure 2) is the former Quartermaster's residence and Building 93 (Figure 3) is the associated garage. Both buildings are contributing resources to the National Soldiers Home Historic District.

CCRG was contracted to conduct the archaeological survey and architectural field review of the proposed CLC site. Pre-field research indicated the presence of three archaeological sites within the VAMC, none of which are located within the proposed CLC site. The building site comprises an area of 5.9 acres (2.4 ha) (Figure 1). A portion of this was subject to archaeological survey in 1984; the remainder was surveyed in 2009. No archaeological resources were identified within the proposed CLC site. The architectural review addressed potential impacts of construction within the Area of Potential Effect. Information obtained from these studies will assist the engineers in the design to avoid, minimize or mitigate the proposed project's effect on historic properties.

The VA would be pleased to receive any comments or information you wish to share pertaining to cultural resources located in the project area. Please let us know if your organization wishes to

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become a consulting party under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act or would like to receive any additional information regarding this proposed project. Please contact Jeff Dulka (VA CLC Project Manager) at VAMC, FM-138, 5000 W. National Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53295; (414) 384-2000 x41084; jeff.dulka@va.gov with any concerns or information.

Sincerely,

Kathryn C. Egan-Bruhy
Regional Director

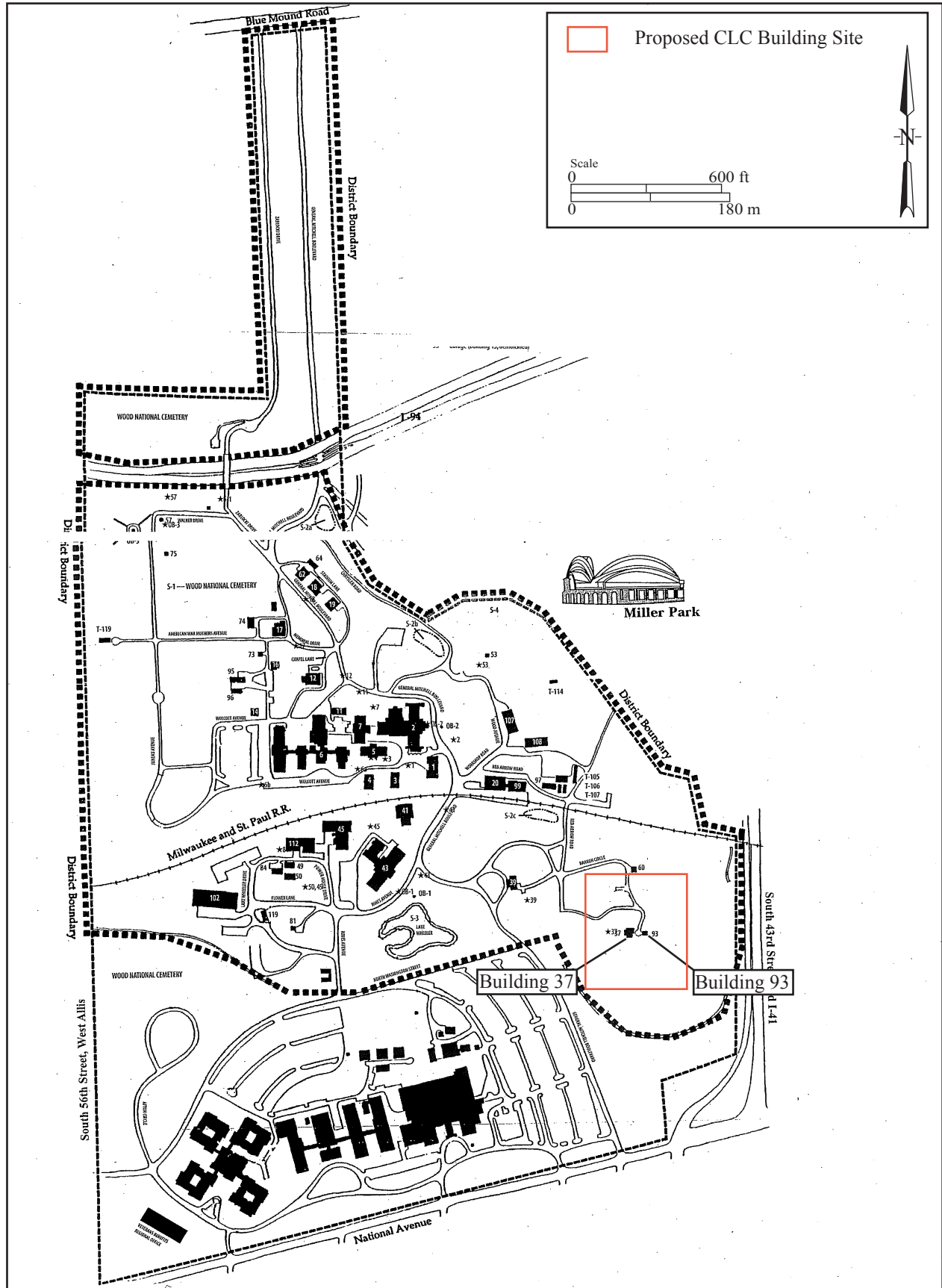


Figure 1. VAMC and Proposed CLC Building Site



Figure 2. Overview of Building 37



Figure 3. Overview of Building 93