

Ms. Judith Bittner  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Alaska Office of History and Archaeology  
550 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 1310  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3565

Subject: West Dowling Road Connection Project, Determination of Eligibility, pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(c)(2), and Finding of No Historic Properties Affected, pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1)

Dear Ms. Bittner:

Thank you for your comments dated November 13, 2006, on our submittal of a Determination of Eligibility and Finding of Effect for the West Dowling Road Connection Project, submitted to your office on October 18, 2006. The enclosed report on Eligibility Evaluation prepared by Cultural Resource Consultants, LLC (CRC) has been revised to provide additional information based on the questions you provided.

The revised eligibility evaluation supports the previous Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) determination. Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1), implementing regulations of Section 106 the National Historic Preservation Act, the FHWA finds that no historic properties would be affected by the proposed project.

The project's area of potential effect (APE) remains the same; it is largely defined by the toe of slope and right-of-way limits (see Figure 1). Specifically, the proposed right-of-way varies in width from 110 feet at the narrowest sections to approximately 180 feet near the Campbell Creek bridge. Between the Old Seward Highway and C Street, the road expansion is predominately northward (see Figure 2). Along the northern edge, the APE's boundary is defined by the right-of-way limit. Several residential parcels will be acquired and the structures removed to accommodate the widening of the roadway. The southern boundary of the APE is generally within the existing right-of-way except for a few segments where the proposed pathway requires several extra feet of right-of-way width. Along C Street, the APE for the new intersection is contained within the existing right-of-way. Between C Street and Arctic Boulevard, the alignment curves northward to minimize impacts to Tina Lake (see Figure 1). In this section, the majority of the APE is property that will be acquired for the project. The rest of the APE consists of existing DOT&PF right-of-way. Project effects are the same as those stated in our October 2006 letter (enclosed).

Although we appreciate your comments regarding the character defining features of a potential district adjacent to the proposed project area, this larger area will be unaffected by the proposed project, and thus is outside the scope of the present evaluation.

The enclosed documentation on the five properties located within the APE which were evaluated for eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places, has been revised to reference the correct Alaska Heritage Resource Survey (AHRs) numbers, and also includes data from tax records at the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA), as requested at our meeting on November 28,

2006. The historic context has been developed, and descriptions of the evaluated properties and their respective condition is well-documented by CRC. The FHWA believes that this documentation is sufficient to determine these five properties' eligibility, and demonstrates a reasonable and good faith effort at identifying historic properties within the APE, pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(b)(1).

***Determinations of Eligibility:*** A review of building records indicated that there are four ranch-style houses along the existing Dowling Road that are at least 45 years old, two of which are over 50 years of age (CRC, December 2006), as well as a "cabin" along East Dowling Road that is similarly over 50 years of age. Subsequently, research and documentation was prepared by CRC on these five structures to determine potential eligibility for listing in the National Register. The results of this research recommended that these five properties are not eligible, either individually or as part of a larger district (CRC, December 2006; please see enclosed report):

“[these five properties] are in an area where the once predominant single-family homes are gradually being replaced by apartment buildings condominiums, and commercial businesses. They certainly represent a dwindling number of the area's early residences, but there is no evidence that any of them are of particular historic or architectural significance.

These properties date to a period of growth of Anchorage, when many residents moved to the suburbs in the 1950s and 1960s due to the housing shortage in the original townsite. However, their association with this pattern of events is not significant. Also, while there is no doubt that the people who lived in these houses made contributions to the growth of Anchorage, there is no indication that any of them made a significant contribution to the history of Anchorage.

Even though the four main houses are described by municipality records as being "ranch style," they are in effect a hodge-podge of construction and do not reflect any particular style. Although they are recognizable as a product of the post-war era, they lack individual distinction and do not represent a significant and distinguishable group of houses from that era.”

The FHWA agrees with Yarborough's recommendations, and finds that there are no properties within the APE that meet eligibility requirements for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Subsequently, we request your concurrence with a determination of not eligible for these five evaluated properties, and a finding of "No Historic Properties Affected" for the proposed West Dowling Road Connection Project.

Please direct your concurrence and any comments to me at the address above, by telephone at 907-XXX-XXXX, or by email at [dale.lewis@fhwa.dot.gov](mailto:dale.lewis@fhwa.dot.gov).

Sincerely,

Dale Lewis  
Central Region Liaison Engineer

Enclosures: Figure 1. Area of Potential Effect  
Figure 2. Detail of Dowling Road  
*Eligibility Evaluation for Five Structures along East Dowling Road.* Cultural  
Resource Consultants, December 2006.  
Original Determination of Eligibility and Finding of Effect letter, Vinson to  
Bittner, October 18, 2006

Cc w/o enclosures:

Miriam McCulloch, P.E., DOT&PF Central Region, Project Manager  
Jerry Ruele, DOT&PF Central Region, Regional Environmental Coordinator  
Laurie Mulcahy, DOT&PF HQ, Environmental Program Manager