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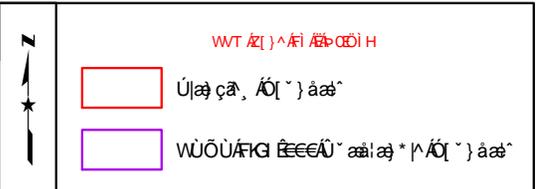
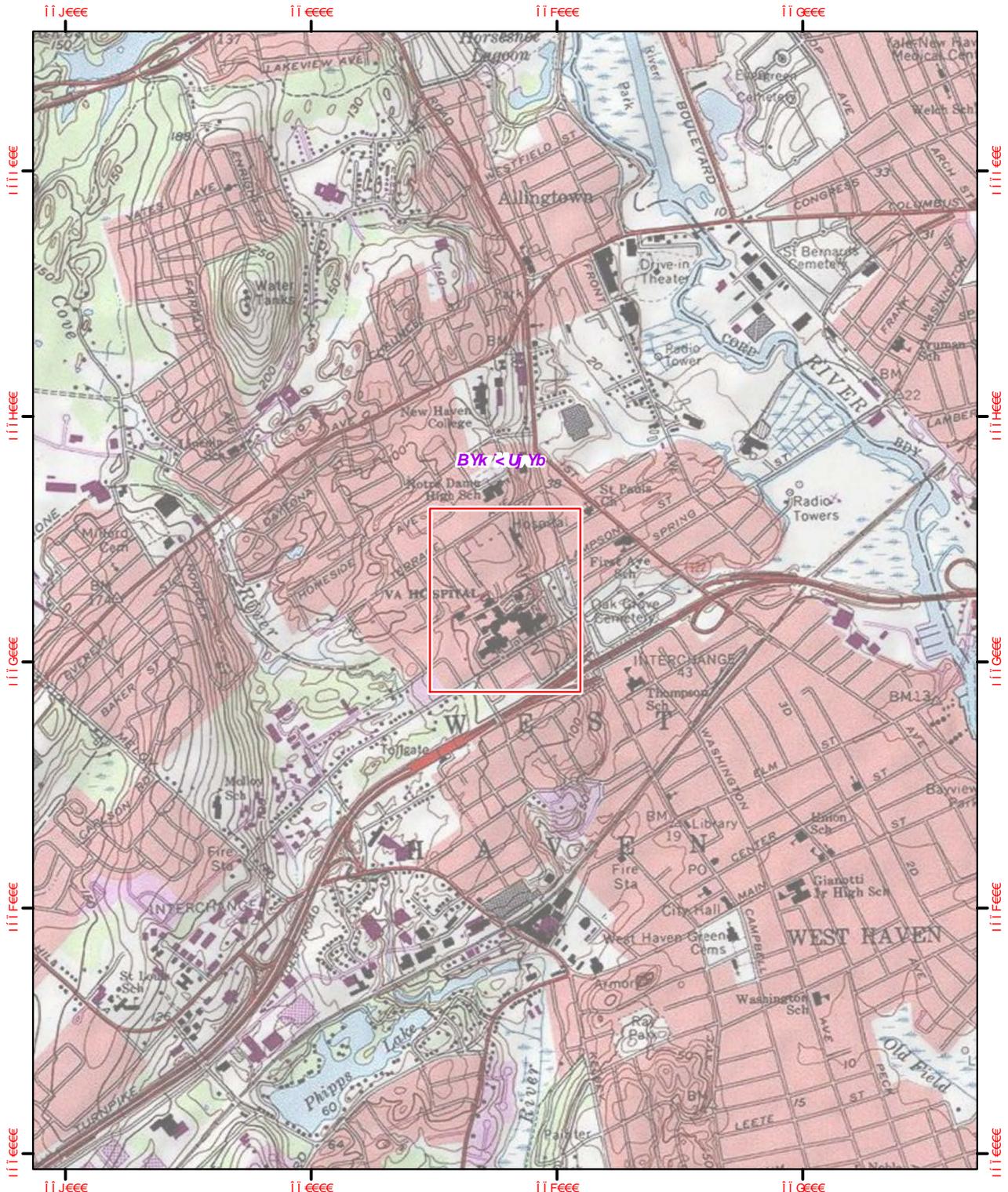
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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
VA Connecticut Healthcare System
950 Campbell Avenue
West Haven, CT 06516

In Reply Refer To:

689/00

Kevin P. Brown
Mohegan Indian Tribe
Tribal Council
13 Crow Hill Road
Uncasville, CT 06382

December 1, 2015

RE: Invitation to Consult on the Construction of a Fisher House at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in West Haven, Connecticut.

Dear Mr. Brown:

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is planning for the construction of a new Fisher House at the VA Health Care System (VACT HCS), 950 Campbell Avenue, West Haven, CT 06516. We would like to consult with you about any concerns the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation may have about the impacts this project may have on the human environment.

Fisher Houses are constructed and donated by the Fisher House Foundation to VA to provide temporary lodging for families visiting hospitalized Veterans and Service members. Fisher Houses are designed to be homes away from home, providing a comfortable environment where families can come together to provide support to one another while their loved ones are hospitalized. The 2-story, 16-bedroom West Haven VA Fisher House will be constructed on the VACT HCS West Haven campus, shown on the attached map, which is being considered eligible for the National Registry of Historic Places, based on about 19 contributing elements..

We are sensitive to the possibility that this project could disturb sites occupied and used by the Mohegan Indian Tribe ancestors, and that we have responsibilities under federal laws like the National Historic Preservation Act and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. The VA CT HCS West Haven campus was built starting in 1916 and opened its doors for operations in 1918. Since 1916, 40 buildings have been constructed on our current 44 acre campus. An archeological survey was conducted in 2015 for an unrelated project at the VACT HCS West Haven campus, there were no archeological discoveries identified in relation to Native American sites.

We are consulting with the State Historic Preservation Office, Agency Council on Historical Preservation, City of West Haven, the Fisher Foundation and the West Haven Historical Society to resolve adverse effects the Fisher House project will have on the developed and landscaped setting of Building 14, which is a potential contributing historical element. As established in 36 CFR 800.3(f), VA kindly requests your participation in consultation so that we may ensure appropriate consideration for any concerns.

We would very much appreciate receiving a response from you within 30 days, so we can continue to move forward with this important project of service for our veterans. As VA CT HCS Director, I am responsible for coordinating VA efforts. Please contact me (Gerald.Culliton@va.gov) or (203) 932-5711 x2800 if you have any questions or need additional information regarding this Undertaking.

Sincerely,



Gerald F. Culliton
Director
VA Connecticut Health Care System

cc: Thomas Hemenway
GEMS Coordinator
VA CT Healthare System
(203) 932-5711 x2767

(Attachments)

☰ 950 Campbell Avenue, West Haven, CT
950 Campbell Ave
Street View - Search nearby



Red outline equals
approximate area of
proposed Fisher
House

VA Building 14



Google



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
VA Connecticut Healthcare System
950 Campbell Avenue
West Haven, CT 06516

In Reply Refer To: 689/00

Rodney A. Butler
Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation
Legislative Affairs
2 Matts Path
P.O. Box 3060
Mashantucket, CT 06338-3060

November 27, 2015

RE: Invitation to Consult on the Construction of a Fisher House at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in West Haven, Connecticut.

Dear Mr. Butler:

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is planning for the construction of a new Fisher House at the VA Health Care System (VACT HCS), 950 Campbell Avenue, West Haven, CT 06516. We would like to consult with you about any concerns the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation may have about the impacts this project may have on the human environment.

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We are sensitive to the possibility that this project could disturb sites occupied and used by the Mashantucket Pequot ancestors, and that we have responsibilities under federal laws like the National Historic Preservation Act and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. The VA CT HCS West Haven campus was built starting in 1916 and opened its doors for operations in 1918. Since 1916, 40 buildings have been constructed on our current 44 acre campus. An archeological survey was conducted in 2015 for an unrelated project at the VACT HCS West Haven campus, there were no archeological discoveries identified in relation to Native American sites.

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Sincerely,



Gerald F. Culliton
Director
VA Connecticut Health Care System

cc: Thomas Hemenway
GEMS Coordinator
VA CT Healthare System
(203) 932-5711 x2767

(Attachments)