



MEMO

Date: September 15, 2015

To: Jason Sergeant

From: Chip Brown

Re: Proposed Leonard-Leota Park South Ball Diamond Installation  
WHS Case # 14-0592/RO

We have received and reviewed your submission describing the above referenced proposed project. On its face, the installation of large new dugouts, where none had been located historically is an adverse effect to the National Register-listed park. I do recognize that over time, needs and demands change. I also am aware that there had been recently open-air dugouts enclosed by chain link fencing. With respect to the proposals offered in my review materials, the chain-link fencing option is least intrusive and maintains a condition that has already been present at the site. This option does nevertheless continue an adverse effect to the historic property. Either of the other two options – large, covered structures of masonry or wood, respectively, is more intrusive and magnifies the adverse effect.

Two options not discussed are: 1) leaving the ballfield free of dugouts or 2) providing portable structures for dugouts that may be removed and installed as needed. Neither of these options would result in an adverse effect to the Leonard-Leota Park property.

I believe that the local unit of government must determine the best course of action for its citizens. If one of the options that may constitute an adverse effect is chosen, then we anticipate that some mitigation will be implemented to address the adverse effect. I propose that a complete photodocumentation of the historic property be carried out to serve as a baseline for the current status of the park, and to provide the public with an understanding of how the park may have changed over time since it was first constructed.

Please let me know your decision on this project. With questions, please contact me by mail, by email at [chip.brown@wisconsinhistory.org](mailto:chip.brown@wisconsinhistory.org) or by telephone at (608-264-6508). I look forward to hearing from soon. Thank you very much for your continued attention to this matter.