

August 15, 2023

Dear Mayor Haila and Ames City Council Members,

We are an ad hoc committee representing the Chautauqua Park and Ridgewood Addition neighborhoods. As a follow-up to the Intensive Level Survey that was done last year and the neighborhood meeting that was held by the City on October 6, 2022, we formed as an ad hoc committee specifically to ascertain interest from our neighborhood about pursuing a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) nomination. It is also our understanding from City staff that a determination was made by the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), in February of this year based upon the Intensive Level Survey work that was done, that this area is likely eligible for listing in the NRHP.

The neighborhood covers the area between 6th and 13th Streets, and between Brookridge Park and the Railroad tracks - specifically Brookridge Avenue, Ridgewood Avenue, Lee Street, Park Way, Orchard Drive, and Blackwood Circle. The area consists of 150 properties.

In July, we wrote to you about our plans to contact residents to determine their level of interest in a historic district recognition in the NRHP. Between July 10 and August 15, 2023, we received 86 responses from the 150 properties, either in-person or in writing. The responses are overwhelmingly in favor of pursuing a nomination:

- 74 – Favor proceeding with a nomination to the NRHP
- 10 – No opinion - not opposed, nor in favor
- 02 – Oppose proceeding with a nomination to the NRHP

A nomination to the NRHP would need to be completed by an experienced architectural historian consultant. Cash funding from a grant supplemented with a cash match from the city plus staff administration would then be needed to fund this work. Volunteer hours would also contribute to the in-kind match.

Based upon an understanding of the SHPO Grant parameters and expenses of a consultant, we anticipate the following Budget:

Consultant Fee	\$16,000
Grant (cash) -	\$10,000
City (cash) -	\$ 6,000
City (grant administration services) -	\$ 3,800
In-Kind Services -	\$ 200
	[donated labor is calculated at State's min. wage rate of \$7.25 per hour x 25 hours]
Total Project Cost -	\$20,000

Because of the level of neighborhood interest and the previous work undertaken in the Intensive Level Survey, we respectfully request your support and assistance in pursuing a nomination to the NRHP by being placed on the City Council September 12th Agenda to proceed with a grant application.

Respectfully,

Dévon Lewis
Dennis and Carol Barrick
Helen Jensen
Robert Ewald
Stacey Brown