

ITEM #:	37
DATE:	09-23-25
DEPT:	P&H

## COUNCIL ACTION FORM

**SUBJECT:** NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES ELIGIBILITY FOR PROPOSED CHAUTAUQUA PARK AND RIDGEWOOD HISTORIC DISTRICT

**BACKGROUND:**

In 2024, the City of Ames received a grant to partially fund preparation of a National Register of Historic Places Nomination for the proposed Chautauqua Park and Ridgewood Historic District. The City's consultant, NHPA Consultants LLC, has completed the requisite requirements for submitting a nomination to the state for approval.

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has accepted the nomination for consideration of approval at an upcoming meeting in October. **Prior to state approval, the City Council must consider the nomination and determine if Council supports the nomination as being eligible for the National Register.**

The proposed Chautauqua Park and Ridgewood Historic District is generally located between 13th Street on the north and 6th Street on the south, and between Brookside Park as the west boundary and the Union Pacific railroad right-of-way as the east boundary (see Attachment A – Location Map). **A Summary of the proposed district is included in Attachment B – Summary Paragraph.**

A copy of the National Register Nomination is available for review at the Ames Public Library, the City of Ames Planning & Housing Department at City Hall (515 Clark Avenue), and [here on the City of Ames website](#).

As a Certified Local Government (CLG), the Historic Preservation Commission and the City Council have a responsibility to review National Register nominations of any property that lies within the boundaries of the City. **After allowing for public comment, the Commission and the City Council are to decide if the proposed historic district meets the National Register Criteria that have been selected by the preparer of the National Register Nomination and make a recommendation to the State Nominations Review Committee (SNRC) as to whether the proposed historic district should be listed in the National Register of Historic Places.**

There are four Criteria for evaluating the eligibility of properties for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (see Attachment D – Excerpts of National Register Bulletin No. 15). **The Consultant preparing the nomination has selected “Criterion C,” which are those properties that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.**

**Benefits of listing include formal recognition of the significance of a property in American history; access to federal, state and nonprofit grants and preservation**

**incentives; and assistance with preservation from federal and state agencies. Listing does not place any restrictions on what an owner may do with their property up to and including demolition.**

The completed nomination includes a "Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph" and a "Narrative Statement of Significance" of the proposed Chautauqua Park and Ridgewood Historic District (see Attachment C – Statement of Significance).

All owners of property within the proposed Historic District were notified of and invited to the Historic Preservation Commission meeting, on September 8, to provide comments and ask questions concerning the nomination.

The City's Historic Preservation Commission met on September 8, 2025, to review the nomination and receive public comment. The Consultant that prepared the nomination was available by phone to answer questions during the discussion at the meeting. There were twelve members of the public present at the meeting. The twelve people present are owners of eight properties in the proposed Historic District. Questions from the public were asked concerning what restrictions would apply to their properties if the Historic District is listed on the National Register. The Consultant responded to their questions.

**The Historic Preservation Commission voted 5-0 to find that Chautauqua Park and Ridgewood Historic District meets "Criterion C" and recommended National Register eligibility to the State Nominations Review Committee.**

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve a motion directing the Mayor to sign the Certified Local Government National Register Nomination Evaluation Form finding that the nomination of the Chautauqua Park and Ridgewood Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places meets National Register Significance "Criterion C" and recommends National Register eligibility to the State Nominations Review Committee.
2. Approve a motion directing the Mayor to sign the Certified Local Government National Register Nomination Evaluation Form finding that the nomination of the Chautauqua Park and Ridgewood Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places does not meet National Register Significance "Criterion C" and recommends National Register ineligibility to the State Nominations Review Committee.
3. Defer Action on this request and refer it back to City staff for additional information.

**CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

**Information provided in the application provides the basis for a determination of significance according to "Criterion C" for its embodiment of distinctive characteristics of early to mid-20th century residential architecture in Ames.**

**Listing of the Historic District on the National Register does not establish local historic district status or require conformance to the local Design Standards, or Design Guidelines.**

**The State Nominations Review Committee (SNRC) will consider the nomination and the recommendations of the Historic Preservation Commission and the City Council at their meeting on October 10, 2025.** Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative 1.

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

[Attachment A-Location Map.pdf](#)

[Attachment B-Summary Paragraph.pdf](#)

[Attachment C-Statement of Significance-Page 1.pdf](#)

[Attachment C-Statement of Significance-Page 2.pdf](#)

[Attachment C-Statement of Significance-Page 3.pdf](#)

[Attachment D-Excerpt of National Register Bulletin No. 15-Pg 1.pdf](#)

[Attachment D-Excerpt of National Register Bulletin No. 15-Pg 2.pdf](#)

[Attachment D-Excerpt of National Register Bulletin No. 15-Pg 3.pdf](#)

[Attachment D-Excerpt of National Register Bulletin No. 15-Pg 4.pdf](#)

[Attachment D-Excerpt of National Register Bulletin No. 15-Pg 5.pdf](#)