

October 30, 2024

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

From: Joe Barger
NEPA Coordinator

Subject: Categorical Exclusion
Record of Environmental Consideration

Project Title: Cheek Hall Renovation

Location: Missouri State University
National Avenue
Springfield, Missouri

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and associated implementing regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508) require that all major actions by federal agencies be reviewed with respect to the environmental consequences on the human environment. The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) is providing a congressionally directed funding grant for the Cheek Hall Renovation at Missouri State University (MSU). Consequently, NEPA and the associated implementing regulations apply to this project.

This memorandum serves as a Record of Environmental Consideration and summarizes the determination that the Cheek Hall Renovation at Missouri State University has been found to be categorically excluded from further environmental review under NEPA.

This memorandum was originally signed on July 22, 2024. It has been revised to account for changes to the project scope; however, the changes in scope have not affected the conclusions of this review.

Description of the Action

Cheek Hall was built in 1955 and served as MSU's library until the Meyer Library opened in 1981. In the 1980s, Cheek Hall was renovated to provide space for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) programs. This project includes the partial

(approximately 50%) renovation of this 88,500 square foot building. The renovation includes the following:

- Providing state-of-the-art teaching and research laboratories
- Providing support space, offices, student study areas, collaboration areas, additional restrooms, and departmental offices
- Improving the building envelope-glazing
- Installing new accessible elevators
- Installing new accessible restrooms
- Replacing the HVAC Systems
- Upgrading electrical service
- Upgrading electrical distribution
- Upgrading electrical lighting

MSU's enrollment in STEM fields has doubled in the last fifty years. MSU proposes to renovate Cheek Hall in conjunction with establishing the Center for Transformational Education for Life, Physical, and Health Sciences. Approximately 600 students each year major in computer science and mathematics, and these academic departments are housed in Cheek Hall. More than 3,500 students take math and other general education classes in Cheek Hall each year. The existing facility cannot meet the current needs of MSU.

This project will be accomplished in accordance with all applicable state and federal environmental and safety regulations. All applicable regulatory permitting will be obtained.

Specific Considerations of this Action and any Extraordinary Circumstances

- Existing Site

Cheek Hall is located on the MSU Campus. The renovations will be confined to the building. Surrounding grounds will not be disturbed.

- Building Staffing/Utilities

Staffing and student population are not expected to increase significantly due to the renovation of Cheek Hall.

The City of Springfield provides water and wastewater services to Cheek Hall. No significant increases in water consumption or wastewater production are expected.

Electricity use and natural gas use for Cheek Hall are expected to decrease as more efficient systems are installed.

- **Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

Energy efficiency measures will reduce greenhouse gas emissions that result from the heating and cooling of the building. The project intends to reduce Cheek Hall's carbon footprint. New, energy efficient HVAC systems and LED retrofits of fixtures will reduce energy consumption.

- **Wetlands, Flooding Potential and Resilience**

According to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory Map, there are no known wetlands on or adjacent to the proposed site. The site is not located in a coastal zone and is not located within a the 100- or 500-year flood zone (FEMA 2010).

- **Hazardous Materials**

Due to the age of the building, hazardous material such as asbestos, lead based paint and PCBs may be encountered in the renovation. Any hazardous materials found at the project site will be handled and disposed in accordance with state and federal regulations.

Hazardous materials used and hazardous waste generated at the renovated facility will be handled in accordance with state and federal regulations

- **Historic/Cultural Significance**

The Missouri State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) has concurred with the determination that no historic properties will be affected by this project. The SHPO will be contacted if the scope of the project changes or if cultural materials are encountered during construction (Attachment A).

The City of Springfield has designated Carrington Hall (located 550 feet southwest of Cheek Hall) as a Local Landmark. No impact to Carrington Hall is expected.

- **Environmental Justice**

This renovation project is not expected to have disproportional adverse human health or environmental impacts to overburdened and underserved communities, including minority, Tribal, or low-income populations.

Effects of the Action

No significant adverse impacts to the environment are expected from this action.

Categorical Exclusion

The activities associated with this project fall within the criteria of the following Department of Commerce Categorical Exclusion (CATEX):

A-1 Minor renovations and additions to buildings, roads, airfields, grounds, equipment, and other facilities that do not result in a change in the functional use of the real property (*e.g.* realigning interior spaces of an existing building, adding a small storage shed to an existing building, retrofitting for energy conservation, or installing a small antenna on an already existing antenna tower that does not cause the total height to exceed 200 feet and where the FCC would not require an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement for the installation). This CE does not apply in instances where the project must be submitted to the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) for review and NCPC determines that it does not have an applicable Categorical Exclusion.

This project is considered a minor renovation of a building that does not change functional use of the real property. The project does not require review by the NCPC.

The proposed project: Cheek Hall Renovation at Missouri State University is categorically excluded from the need for further environmental review under NEPA. Any changes to the above project will require additional NEPA review.

Joe Barger
NIST NEPA Coordinator

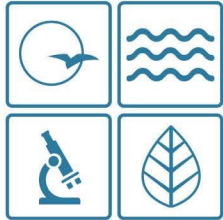
10/30/2024

Date

Robert C. Vaughn
NIST Chief Facilities Management Officer

Date

Attachment A
Missouri SHPO Letter



MISSOURI
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

Michael L. Parson
Governor

Dru Buntin
Director

April 22, 2024

Adam Shuler
Missouri State University
901 S. National Avenue
Springfield, MO 65897

Re: SHPO Project Number: 038-GR-24 — 60NANB23D144 Construction at Cheek Hall Science and Mathematics Facilities – 825 S. National Avenue, Springfield, Greene County, Missouri (DOC)

Dear Adam Shuler:

Thank you for submitting information to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) regarding the above-referenced project for review pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, P.L. 89-665, as amended (NHPA), and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's regulation 36 CFR Part 800, which require identification and evaluation of historic properties.

We have reviewed the information regarding the above-referenced project and have included our comments on the following page(s). Please retain this documentation as evidence of consultation with the Missouri SHPO under Section 106 of the NHPA. SHPO concurrence does not complete the Section 106 process as federal agencies will need to conduct consultation with all interested parties. **Please be advised that, if the current project area or scope of work changes, such as a borrow area being added, or cultural materials are encountered during construction, appropriate information must be provided to this office for further review and comment.**

If you have questions please contact the SHPO at (573)751-7858 or call/email Charles Horton (573) 526-4591, charles.horton@dnr.mo.gov. If additional information is required please submit the information via email to MOSection106@dnr.mo.gov.

Sincerely,

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

Brian Stith
Deputy Director Division of State Parks
Deputy Missouri State Historic Preservation Officer

c: Emily McGee, Missouri State University
Brad Bodenhausen, Missouri State University
Stacey Wehe, Christner Architects



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COMMENTS:

Adequate documentation has been provided as outlined in 36 CFR Section 800.11. After review of the initial submission, the project area has no known historic properties present and a low potential for the occurrence of cultural resources. SHPO concurs with your determination of **no historic properties affected**.