

City of Westland

Section 106 Historic Review and Recordation Norwayne Subdivision

Section 106 Historic Review

The City of Westland was required to conduct a Section 106 historic review of the Norwayne Subdivision as part of their use of federal funds for demolition of properties in the Norwayne Subdivision. AKT Peerless was hired to complete the Section 106 historic review and recordation work for the project.

History of the Norwayne Subdivision

The year 1942 saw the construction of the Norwayne Housing Project, developed by the Federal Housing Authority under the Federal Works Project at a cost of \$12 million. The project was built as permanent housing for the workers in the war factories at the Willow Run Bomber Plant and the factories in what was then known as Nankin Township - now known as the City of Westland. The project included 1,189 structures that held a total of 1,900 units of housing, two schools, a large warehouse, a shopping complex consisting of ten stores, a fire station and an administration building. At its peak, in 1945, the Norwayne Housing Project housed 5,000 families totaling almost 20,000 individuals.

Designed by the Detroit architectural firm of Lyndon and Smith, the Norwayne Housing Project was unique to the metropolitan Detroit area. While other public housing projects were built at that time, none had the scale and density of the Norwayne project.

Review Process

The historic review was researched and written by AKT Peerless and submitted to the City of Westland staff for review, the City Council, as well as the State Historic Preservation office. After all approvals were met, the final draft was submitted to the Federal Review Board of the National Park Service. The review met with approvals, and the City of Westland has been able to proceed with its federally-funded demolition of the deteriorated sections of the housing project.

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