



To: Kim Humphrey, Project Manager Public Works

From: Lorrie Muldowney, Immediate Past President, Sarasota Alliance for Historic Preservation and  
Erin DiFazio, Program Director Sarasota Alliance for Historic Preservation.

Thank you for welcoming Erin DiFazio and I to participate in your Warm Mineral Springs Project Charette on July 25, 2024. It was a pleasure to problem solve with this multi-disciplinary team of professionals. As referenced in the meeting minutes we at the Sarasota Alliance for Historic Preservation provided our perspective on floodproofing, insurance and adaptive use ideas that would be sympathetic to the character of the historic structures at Warm Mineral Springs.

We support the idea of wet floodproofing the buildings as the best method to protect their historic character while protecting them from the threat of water intrusion. At the meeting we shared information on insurance programs supported by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and have followed up with staff on this topic.

Also, we support the idea that building B be modified to serve as a simple shade structure and that the Cyclorama be “mothballed” for the immediate future so that time can be taken to more carefully analyze how best to preserve the period artwork and how best to use and preserve this unique structure. Further detail is provided below on these two alternatives.

#### Building B

As described in the meeting minutes an idea was developed to remove the previous building program and instead use building B as a shade structure. This could be accomplished by removing the interior walls and exterior glazing. As discussed during the meeting it is our opinion that this option would be consistent with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Historical Rehabilitation if the perimeter walls and roof are retained.

#### Cyclorama

Preservationists recognize that historic preservation projects frequently present unique challenges requiring thoughtful analysis. To ensure adequate time to develop solutions to these challenges it is our recommendation that the Cyclorama be “mothballed” for period to allow for careful consideration of the best way to preserve and interpret the artwork that it contains, preserve the building itself and develop a viable new use for the structure.

Attached is a comprehensive bulletin prepared by the National Park Service on this topic. To summarize **mothballing a historic building is a method of protecting the building while planning the property’s future, or raising money for a preservation, rehabilitation or restoration project.** The attached bulletin describes the necessary steps that need to be taken to deactivate a building for an extended period. Mothballing should not be done without careful planning to ensure that needed physical repairs are made prior to securing the building and requires limited monitoring and maintenance.