

February 28, 2024

Ms. Kim Humphrey
Facilities Manager / Public Works
City of North Port
1100 N. Chamberlain Blvd
North Port, FL 34286

Re: **Warm Mineral Springs (WMS) Building Complex
Post-Storm Assessment and Options Report**

Dear Kim:

The following report summarizes our findings for the WMS post-storm building assessment and possible options for renovation and development. The WMS building complex is located at Warm Mineral Springs Park, 12200 San Servando Avenue, North Port, FL 34287. The buildings and park are owned and operated by the City of North Port (“CNP”).

Background

The WMS Building Complex consists of three buildings (see Exhibit A):

- Building A – Entry Building (3,370 SF)
- Building B – Spa Building (6,055 SF)
- Building C – Cyclorama (4,350 SF)
- 13,775 SF total existing building area

Buildings A and B were originally connected by a roofed breezeway. The complex was built in 1959 to house exhibits for Florida’s Quadricentennial celebration. Shortly thereafter, the buildings were converted for use to support tourism and visitors to the springs and continued in that role until being closed to the public. The Cyclorama was closed to the public in 2000. The Spa Building (B) was closed to the public in 2021 for safety reasons. Entry Building (A) has been closed since Hurricane Ian in September 2022. The building complex was in fair to poor condition prior to Hurricane Ian. All three buildings suffered flooding and wind-related damage during Hurricane Ian which further deteriorated their condition (see Structural section for a more detailed description of damage).

The WMS buildings are believed to have been designed by notable Sarasota School architect Jack West. CNP nominated and received Historic Designation on the National Register of Historic Places for the WMS building complex through the Florida Department of State in 2019. Significant architectural features include:

- Unique “hourglass” plan for Buildings A and B that mimics the hourglass shape of the springs.
- Exterior and interior structural walls constructed with ceramic-faced structural clay tile. The hourglass shape is depicted as a decorative motif on the exterior of the building using ceramic-faced clay tile. The clay tile is a unique construction material for this region and is no longer a readily available material.
- Unique gable and reverse gable roofs
- Large amounts of glazing and clerestory windows

- The Cyclorama is one of the few remaining examples of this building type in the country.

The 2019 Historic Designation is a testament to the importance of the WMS buildings. Additionally, the designation enables exemptions under the Florida Building Code that make renovations of these structures more feasible.

CNP should be commended for their efforts to date to preserve the WMS building complex. In addition to pursuing Historic Designation, CNP engaged Kimley-Horn and our firm to complete construction documents for an historically appropriate rehabilitation and renovation of the WMS building complex in 2018-2019. The scope of this renovation was essentially a gut renovation to the “historic bones” of the structure, with significant structural repair, and full replacement of windows, roof and MEP systems with the addition of a fire sprinkler system. Unfortunately, when the construction documents were competitively bid, the costs exceeded the CNP’s budget. An historically appropriate renovation of this nature can be a challenging project, and there may be a limited number of tradespeople with the experience and skill take on this project type.

As further evidence of CNP’s diligence related to the WMS building preservation, CNP then pursued potential public/private partnerships that would enable funding to complete the historic renovations as originally proposed. These efforts were unsuccessful and ended in 2024. In total, CNP has dedicated at least the past six years of concerted efforts and resources towards the preservation of the WMS buildings; many years of preliminary planning preceded these efforts.

Future Considerations

Despite damage from Hurricane Ian, the historic renovations as proposed in 2018-2019 are still feasible. However, the following items should be accounted for:

- The 2018-2019 renovation scope proposed significant structural repairs to the buildings. However, wind and flooding damage during Hurricane Ian has further exacerbated structural damage, and will likely increase the scope and cost of structural remediations (see photos attached as Exhibit B).
 - Post-storm assessments revealed additional damage and cracking to the historic structural clay tile. Replacing damaged structural clay tile in an historically appropriate manner may be costly as it will likely require custom molds and fabrication from a specialty clay tile masonry company.
 - Structural roof damage is more extensive now than it was in 2018-2019.
 - Standing flood waters appear to have further deteriorated exposed structural steel columns. Many of these columns were assumed to be maintained in the original renovation project. Based on current conditions, more of these steel columns may require replacement. In some cases, the steel columns are partially concealed within the structural clay tile, which may require further removal of clay tile to replace the steel.
- During the 2018-2019 renovation design, the building and site were not considered to be in a FEMA high-risk flood zone. Flooding was not a primary concern during this renovation design. As of March 2024, portions of the site will move into a FEMA AE 9’ high-risk flood zone (see attached Civil narrative for more information). The measured Hurricane Ian flood-water line is 14”-16” above finished floor. It is reasonable to assume a similar level of flooding could occur

again. While the Historic Designation provides an exemption to meet the FEMA floor elevation requirements, if the existing buildings are to be renovated it would be prudent to make additional upgrades to the buildings that weren't included in the 2018-2019 renovation scope. Such upgrades would be expected to increase the cost of renovation, and could include:

- Provisions for removable flood barriers at all doors (including storage requirements when barriers are not in use), subject to structural analysis
- Elevating outdoor mechanical equipment 24" minimum above existing grade
- Keep all electrical outlets and equipment 24" above existing floor
- No permeable materials (drywall, wood, batt insulation) within 24" of finished floor

In general, we understand CNP's overall desire to have functioning buildings to support the visitor experience and honor the historic importance of the WMS springs and site. The following describes a few potential options for moving forward.

Option 1 – Historic Renovation

This option would involve proceeding with the historic renovation as generally proposed in 2018-2019, but with the additional scope for structural repairs and flood mitigation described above. This option could have an expected construction cost range of \$800/SF - \$950/SF

- Option 1 - "Pros"
 - Preserves the historic WMS buildings
- Option 1 – "Cons"
 - Likely highest cost option
 - Buildings likely to experience future effects from flooding
- Potential Building Construction Cost Range for 13,775 SF of Total Building Area
 - \$11,020,000 to \$13,086,250
 - Excludes site construction costs and design fees

Option 2 – Partial Historic Renovation / Partial New Construction

This option could involve keeping one or more of the existing WMS buildings. For example, the Cyclorama could be restored but Buildings A and B could be replaced with a new building(s) to support visitors at the springs.

- Option 2 – "Pros"
 - Preservation of a portion of the historic buildings (keep Building A or C, for example)
 - New construction will meet current building codes and can be built above anticipated flood levels
 - Opportunity to re-imagine the program and layout of any new building(s)
 - In aggregate, project construction cost might be lower in Option 1 than Option 2.
 - Historic Renovation cost range: \$800/SF - \$950/SF
 - New Construction cost range: \$650/SF - \$800/SF
- Option 2 – "Cons"
 - Loss of historic buildings
 - Existing building to remain likely to experience future effects from flooding
 - Additional research is required to determine whether demolition of a portion of the WMS buildings would jeopardize the historic designation of the remaining buildings, which would in turn impact the historic building code exemptions.

- Potential Building Construction Cost Range assuming 4,350 SF Historic Renovation (Building C) and an undetermined SF of New Construction
 - Historic Renovation of Building C - \$3,480,000 to \$4,132,500
 - New Construction cost range: \$650/SF - \$800/SF
 - Excludes site construction costs and design fees

Option 3 – Full New Construction

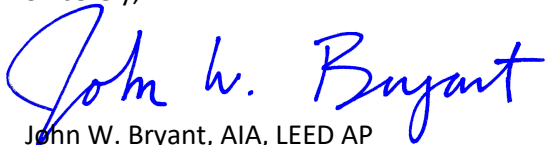
This option would involve the full demolition of the existing buildings to be replaced with newly constructed facilities to serve the springs.

- Option 3 – “Pros”
 - New construction will meet current building codes and can be built above anticipated flood levels
 - Opportunity to re-imagine the program and layout of any new building(s)
 - Project construction cost might be lower in Option 3 than options 1 and 2, considering that costs for new construction, on a SF basis, may be less than costs for an historically-appropriate renovation.
- Option 3 – “Cons”
 - Loss of all historic buildings
- Potential Building Construction Cost Range for an undetermined SF of New Construction
 - New Construction cost range: \$650/SF - \$800/SF
 - Excludes site construction costs and design fees

The intent of this report is not to make a recommendation on the options above, but rather to describe key architectural and building-related considerations that may affect CNP’s decisions moving forward. However, as Sarasota architects interested in preserving the legacy of buildings that tell the story of our region’s history, we do hope there is a way to preserve some or all of these buildings.

Thank you for the opportunity to prepare this report, and please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,



John W. Bryant, AIA, LEED AP
Principal / Vice President

Sweet Sparkman Architects, Inc.

Enclosures

- Exhibit A – Site Location Map
- Exhibit B – Post-storm photos
- Civil Engineering Narrative (Kimley-Horn)
- MEPF Engineering Narrative (Crawford Williams)
- Structural Engineering Narrative (Snell Engineering)



Building A - Entry Building
Building B - Spa Building
Building C - Cyclorama

Exhibit A - Site Location Map

Roof, soffit and fascia damage from Hurricane Ian



Photo 1



Photo 2

Roof, soffit and fascia damage from Hurricane Ian



Photo 3



Photo 4



Photo 5

Clay tile damage that appears exacerbated by Hurricane Ian



Photo 6



Photo 7

Condition of steel column embedded in clay tile wall



Photo 8

Civil Engineering Assessment

NARRATIVE

Project: Warm Mineral Springs Park
Date: February 2024
Subject: Warm Mineral Springs site summary post Ian

The Warm Mineral Springs property was flooded during the Hurricane Ian event. Based on water stain line visible in the buildings the flood levels were at least 14" to 16" above the floor elevations. The existing finished floors in the main buildings are at elevation 9.00' +/- and the cyclorama is at elevation 8.99' +/- based on the survey by Hyatt Surveying Services, Inc. dated June 2020. The vertical datum is based on NAVD 1988. Based on observations, that equates to an actual average flood elevation of 10.25' +/- NAVD during the hurricane Ian event.

The current FEMA FIRM map has the building and surrounding areas in a Flood Zone X. The definition of Zone X is "areas of 0.2% annual flood chance; areas of 1% chance flood with average depths of less than 1 foot or with drainage areas less than 1 square mile; and areas of protected by levees from 1% annual chance flood".

There is a FIRM map update with an effective date of March 27, 2024. The updated map has a portion of the property in a flood zone AE with a base flood elevation (BFE) of 9.0' NAVD 1988. With an AE designation any new construction would be required to have a finished floor elevation at 1 foot above the BFE. In this case a new building would need to be built with a minimum finished floor elevation at 10.00' NAVD or higher. However, based on the observed flooding associated with hurricane Ian, a finished floor elevation of 11.0 NAVD would be prudent.

Relative to the Warm Mineral Springs site there are certain considerations with renovation of existing buildings versus construction of new structures. With renovation the past flooding history needs to be factored in. Nobody can say for sure that the flood levels of hurricane Ian will ever be repeated. However, it would not make sense to ignore it. The new FIRM map indicates that this area may see flood levels to elevation 9.0 NAVD in a 100 year storm event. That is even with the main building floor and slightly above the Cyclorama finished floor. Renovation should include some type of flood proofing to prevent the type of flood damage witnessed during hurricane Ian.

With any new construction it is recommended to elevate finished floors to 11.0' or higher. There are items that need to be considered when replacing older structures with new and elevating them. Mainly there are the issues of accessibility and compatibility with adjacent structures and facilities. In this case the change in floor elevation is 2' +/- . Access to the buildings will need to meet the Florida Building Code. This may mean raising grades around the building to provide conforming access via sidewalks or ramps. When raising

NARRATIVE

Project: Warm Mineral Springs Park
Date: February 2024
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grades around new buildings drainage impacts to adjacent existing structures, paved areas, and existing trees need to be considered. These things can be addressed with use of retaining walls, correct drainage patterns, and building siting. In this case the change in elevation is 2'. The site is not a tightly congested area so there is room to place buildings where the fill impacts can be minimized. In the case of tree preservation it is important not to fill over areas that are currently pervious areas around the tree. This can be accomplished with retaining walls and proper building siting. The current proposed plan included reconstruction of vehicular and pedestrian accesses to the current buildings. That would allow for adjustment to accommodate accessibility requirements with a raised building. In general the constraints associated with raising finished floors can be managed with good site planning.

Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing Systems Assessment



Crawford Williams Engineering, Inc.

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February 27, 2024

John Bryant
Sweet Sparkman Architects
2168 Main Street
Sarasota, Florida 34237

Re: Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing Systems Post Hurricane Assessment for Warm Mineral Springs

Dear John,

Based on our site visit, the following is an assessment of the mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems in Warm Mineral Springs.

GENERAL

There are three original historic buildings onsite that were constructed in 1959. The entry/admission building, spa building and the Cyclorama building. It was determined by the water lines left on the walls in the entry/admission building that about 14" of flood waters were in the building after hurricane Ian.

MECHANICAL

The entry/admission building is served by a 7 ½ ton central air conditioning system with the air handler installed over the central corridor and the condensing unit on grade. The Trane condensing unit was manufactured in November of 2021 but was partially submerged after hurricane Ian. The Rheem air handler and metal duct are installed in the attic space and were not subjected to floodwaters (see photo below). The furnace which is disconnected from the duct system is floor mounted and was subjected to flood waters (see photo below).



The Trane 7 ½ ton condensing in the entry/admission building has been replaced recently but due to floodwaters should not be reused. If the condensing unit must be replaced, the air handler must be replaced also to provide a matched set which is AHRI rated. The duct and furnace appear to be original and have outlived their useful life.

The spa building central air conditioning system has been replaced with several window units and a small split system. The window units are installed high in the exterior walls and but the split system condensing unit was installed on grade and was subjected to floodwaters (see photos below).



The condensing unit was recently replaced but due to floodwaters should not be reused. The window units are old and inefficient and should not be reused. Our previous renovation scope assumed complete MEP infrastructure replacement, with the exception of keeping the recently installed condensing units. However, due to Hurricane Ian damage, these units can no longer be reused.

The men and women bathrooms in the spa building are unconditioned and ventilated with sidewall exhaust fans. The fans are in poor condition and should be replaced.

The Cyclorama building is conditioned with a single split system in the main building and small unit in the entry addition. The condensing unit has been removed but the air handler remains and is installed in the center of the building. Both the air handler and window unit are installed above the floodwater elevation but are in poor condition and should not be reused.

ELECTRICAL

The existing overhead electrical service for all three buildings is a 600A, 208V, 3 phase. A MDP located in the entry/admission building feeds sub-panels in each building. The MDP appears to be original (see photo below) and has exceeded its useful life.



The interior subpanels appear to be original equipment but the exterior subpanel serving the site near the Cyclorama appears to have been replaced over time. The outlets and wiring in all of the buildings were subjected to floodwater and should be replaced.

After hurricane Ian, the power was restored but was shut down immediately due to arcing. The power has been off since the hurricane.

When the temporary buildings were brought into the site, a new electrical service was installed on a temporary pole (see photo below).



PLUMBING

According to a memorandum from the City of Northport, on December 12, 2018, Warm Mineral Springs experienced a complete wastewater line plumbing failure rendering the toilets, sinks and showers unusable. The buildings were temporarily closed until portable restroom facilities could be brought in. According to the City of Northport, the following work was done.

- Removal of the existing sewer; running (2) 4" PVC lines parallel to the exterior of the two buildings with another 4" line underneath the trellises connecting the two and then continuing to the lift station.
- Trenches will be dug at each location that the sewer is to enter the building.
- Inside floors will be saw cut to receive the new piping; old sewer pipes will be removed as often as possible; existing pipes will be capped and or filled with concrete.
- New water lines will be installed to service both buildings.
- Saw cut areas will be prepped for new replacement concrete and the exterior trenches will be filled and sod replaced as needed.
- Fixtures will be reinstalled, and the entire facility will be cleaned from front to back.

The entry/admission building has two bathrooms and a small water heater. The bathrooms are not ADA compliant and must be reconfigured. The water heater is floor mounted (see photos below) and was subjected to flood waters and should not be reused.



The spa building has a café with a gas water heater that was floor mounted (see photo below) and was subjected to floodwaters and should not be reused.



The plumbing fixtures and showers in the spa appear to be original and have exceeded the useful life.

FIRE SPRINKLER

Presently the buildings are not covered by a fire sprinkler system.

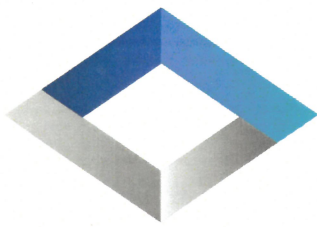
Summary

Our previous renovation scope assumed complete MEP infrastructure replacement, with the exception of keeping the recently installed condensing units. However, due to Hurricane Ian damage, these units can no longer be reused. In my opinion, the only thing that can be salvaged is the water and sewer piping that was replaced in 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Wm. Scott Crawford P.E.

Structural Engineering Assessment



SNELL
ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS

February 27, 2024

John W. Bryant, AIA, LEED AP
Sweet Sparkman Architects
2168 Main Street
Sarasota, Florida 34237

RE: Warm Mineral Springs Existing Facilities Observation Report

Dear Mr. Bryant,

Based on our agreement of services, a site visit was conducted to visually review the current conditions of the original buildings on the campus at 12200 San Servando Ave, North Port, FL. Our understanding of the purpose for our site visit and subsequent report was to provide an opinion on the overall structural condition of the existing primary structures and to provide a general narrative to the potential for restoration of the existing structures. The observations and opinions contained herein are provided based on visual observation only. Material testing or selective demolition to more thoroughly understand the condition of existing structural members was beyond the scope of services requested.

The Warm Mineral Springs campus is composed of three separate buildings that were originally built to support guests of an adjoining natural spring. The two main buildings house restrooms, offices, and miscellaneous guest services. These buildings are identical in their construction materials and framing methods and were once connected by an exterior awning structure. Although the roof of the awning structure has been removed, the original supporting structural beams and columns remains. These two buildings are constructed with a breezeway separating the functional air-conditioned spaces at either side of the building. The breezeway follows the entire length of both buildings. The third building, known as the Cyclorama, is a circular structure which was built as an assembly space for patrons of the springs.

Two Main Buildings

The exterior of the buildings is separated into two distinct wall building materials. The first, and most prominent, is the exposed ceramic finished hollow block that is present from grade elevation to the first six feet above grade around much of the perimeter of the build. The second material is that of a band of fenestration which circles the entire perimeter of both buildings. The roof system is composed of dimensional lumber which forms multiple valleys and ridges throughout the roof surface providing for a unique fascia edge which appears in a sawtooth configuration at the roof edge. It appears that several inches of built-up insulation product have been used to coat the roof and a thermo-polymer membrane has been applied as the final roofing product.

The overall supporting structural system of the buildings is comprised of widely spaced small structural steel W-shaped columns and beams that provide the primary vertical and lateral support

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of the building. Additional minor steel elements (flat plates and angles) are framed between columns that provide separation / support between the block and fenestration wall construction. Based upon the size, spacing, and connections of the structural steel elements it is our opinion that the original structural design is inadequate not providing required global and localized lateral resistance. It is our further opinion that the lack of building rigidity provided by original structural design directly contributed to the water intrusion. It is thought that the minor steel elements that were intended to provide lateral restraint for the block and fenestration construction laterally, but have deflected during wind events to the degree that it broke seals at the infill construction and allowed moisture to enter the building.

The overall structural condition of the buildings is poor. The building presented widespread water intrusion through all exterior materials, roof, walls and windows. Multiple structural failures and or severe deterioration of materials were encountered in the roof framing elements, windows / window assemblies, and in the block construction.

It could be possible to restore the existing buildings to their original condition with minor alteration. This opinion is based upon the assumed variance to require Code conformance due to the buildings' historical designation and as presented by Florida Building Code Chapter 12 Historic Buildings. Alterations would include the replacement of antiquated fixed and operable window systems and repairs to existing block construction that would not match the existing. The restoration would not address the buildings' propensity to sustain continual damage due to flooding and ongoing water intrusion and in our opinion would cost as much if not more than a complete replacement. The restored construction would also be subjected to continued long term maintenance to address the inherent structural design flaws.

Cyclorama Building

This building construction consists of a roof system with steel bar joists and infill conventional wood framing supporting a plywood sheathing. The conventional wood framing forms multiple valleys and ridges throughout the roof surface providing for a unique fascia edge which appears in a sawtooth configuration at the roof edge and generally matches the two main buildings. The steel roof joists are supported at each end by small steel W-shaped columns. The steel columns at the exterior perimeter are located within the exterior wall envelop width. The primary exterior wall consists of 8" masonry construction with stack bond construction to create a circular shaped exterior wall. It is assumed that the masonry construction is un-grouted and un-reinforced other than the upper most course.

The building's entry lobby consists of a flat conventionally framed wood roof, running bond 8" masonry load bearing exterior walls, some with a band of fenestration between the masonry and wall construction.

The overall condition of this building is poor to fair. The building presented multiple roof framing element failures, widespread water intrusion, settlement and thermal cracking in the exterior walls, and failure of the antiquated window and storefront systems.

The restoration of this building is quite possible with the replacement of the entire roof framing and roofing materials, replacement of all the windows, and stabilizing the bearing soil. Should future

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building use require it to meet current Code structurally it is our belief that this could be achieved as well with the reinforcement of the wall construction, strengthening of the steel joist framing, and dry waterproofing of the building.

We trust the information contained in this is clear, however, should you have any questions or require further assistance at this time please contact us at your convenience.

Sincerely,

SNELL ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Van Nostrand', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Cordell S. Van Nostrand, P. E., S.E.
Director of Engineering
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End of Report