

To: Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)
From: Sean Vasington PLA, ASLA
Director of Site Planning, University Landscape Architect
Office of University Planning, Design and Construction
University of Connecticut
Date: October 3, 2023
Subject: Memorandum of Findings and Determination
Whitney House Demolition

Built between 1802 and 1807, Whitney House is one of the oldest structures on campus and has been a part of the University of Connecticut Historic District since 1989. Damaged by fire, smoke, and water earlier this year, the building is unsafe for occupancy and beyond reasonable repair. This project will plan, design, and decommission the building for demolition, and will eliminate present hazards and liabilities associated with the existing structure and site.

On July 3, 2023 UConn published a Notice of Scoping in the Environmental Monitor to solicit comments for the subject project and to advertise a public scoping meeting. A virtual public scoping meeting was held on July 25, 2023, and the scoping period concluded on August 4, 2023. During this time, in addition to receiving comments from the general public, UConn received comments from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CTDEEP), Willington Historical Society, the Town of Mansfield Planning and Zoning Commission, the Town of Mansfield Town Council, and the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development State Historic Preservation Office.

Based on the comments received and the analysis documented in the Environmental Assessment Checklist, UConn does not recommend the preparation of an Environmental Impact Evaluation under the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act. Comments and recommendations received were reviewed in conjunction with the preparation of the Environmental Assessment Checklist and addressed within the checklist, as appropriate.