

December 29, 2011

Ms. Susan Connelly
Colorado Chautauqua Association
900 Baseline Road
Boulder, CO 80302

Dear Ms. Connelly:

The State Historical Fund has been following with interest the continuing discussions regarding how to address the parking and facility needs within Chautauqua Park. Although SHF recognizes that 1) we have willingly reduced the boundary of the covenant that gives us purview over alterations within the Park, and 2) the proposed changes are not located within the new covenant boundary, I wish to go on record to address two concerns that SHF has in relation to the proposed changes within the Park.

Foremost, it is important to note that the 2004 Cultural Landscape Assessment (CLA) that was partially funded by SHF was completed nearly two years before the Park was designated a National Historic Landmark (NHL) in 2006. While SHF is certainly pleased that such designation was placed on Chautauqua in recognition of its historic significance and integrity, had the NHL designation been in place at the time the CLA was being developed, we would have certainly taken this into account in our review. Recommendations found in the CLA, such as the construction of new buildings, would have been considered with even greater scrutiny had the NHL designation been in place at that time. We feel it is important that the Colorado Chautauqua Association and the City of Boulder understand this distinction of timeline before relying too heavily on what the CLA recommends, given its development prior to the distinction of NHL listing.

Secondly, we have become aware of the National Park Service's letter stamped April 8, 2011, alerting the Colorado Chautauqua Association and the City of Boulder to the fact that 1) the picnic shelter is considered as being within the NHL's period of significance, and that 2) the moving of historic buildings and the construction of new buildings have the possibility of negatively affecting the historic integrity of Chautauqua Park. We hope these concerns are given every serious consideration, since negative impacts on the Park's integrity may also affect the NHL designation, which would in turn affect the covenant-controlled portion of the Park as well.

Thank you for your attention in this matter. If you have questions or concerns regarding SHF's position on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Steve W. Turner, AIA
Vice President for Preservation
Director, State Historical Fund

Cc: James Hewat, Historic Preservation Planner, Community Planning & Sustainability, City of Boulder,
1777 Broadway, Boulder, Colorado 80302