

Appendix D: Focus Group Questions



Focus Group Session—Facilitated Questions

1. Related to your focus area, what about the Poor Farm should be recognized? What has taken place on the site? What might current staff or supervisors be unaware of?
2. How has your focus area intersected with the other focus areas in the past? How might they intersect in the future? (Such as: Local Food, Conservation, Historic Preservation, Housing/Mental Health)
3. What are your priorities (please identify 3-5) for the site in the future?
4. What other considerations would you recommend be made during this planning process for the Poor Farm?
5. Where would you suggest interpretive signage and with what content? Please mark your preferences on the map provided.
6. What are your thoughts on changing or modifying the name of the site?

Appendix E: Focus Group Invitees



Focus Group Session Schedule

Focus Group Session Invitee List

Focus Group Sessions

Local Food	Tuesday, February 14th	Johnson County Health and Human Services Building
Conservation/Rec	Tuesday, February 14th	Johnson County Health and Human Services Building
Housing	Wednesday, February 15th	Johnson County Health and Human Services Building
Adjacent Neighborhood	Wednesday, February 15th	Weber Elementary Library
Historic Preservation	Friday, February 17th	Johnson County Health and Human Services Building

Historic Preservation Focus Group Session Invitees

Johnson County Historical Society	Alexandra Drehman
Johnson County Historic Preservation Commission	Jennifer Price
Iowa City Historic Preservation Commission	Robert Miklo
Friends of Historic Preservation	Alicia Trimble
Tallgrass Archaeology LLC	Leah Rogers
University of Iowa - College of Liberal Arts & Sciences	Glenn Storey
(Former Historic Preservation Commissioner)	Laura Hoover
(Recorder Office, Familiar with Poor Farm Records)	Kim Painter
State Historical Society of Iowa, Iowa City Location	Mary Bennet
Former Johnson County Historical Society Curator	Leigh Ann Randak
Johnson County Facilities	Eldon Slaughter
The Office of the State Archaeologist	Marlin R. Ingalls
The Office of the State Archaeologist	Richard J. Carlson
The Office of the State Archaeologist	Lara Noldner
The Office of the State Archaeologist	John Doershuk
The Office of the State Archaeologist	Jennifer Mack
Former Director of Johnson County Historical Society	Lauren Robinson Tiffany

* Note: Dr. Thomas H. Charlton (local archaeologist and University of Iowa professor) completed early work/excavation at the Poor Farm. He passed away in 2010.

Housing Focus Group Session Invitees

Housing Trust Fund of Johnson County	Tracey Achenbach
Housing Fellowship	Maryanne Dennis
Johnson County Affordable Homes	Sally Scott
Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity	Mark Patton
Iowa City Housing Authority	Steven Rackis
Developer (Affordable Homes)	Steve Gordon
City of Iowa City	John Yapp
City of Iowa City	Tracy Hightshoe
Abbe Community Mental Health Center	Stephen Trefz

Mayors Youth Empowerment Program	Megan Gerber
Reach for Your Potential	Diana Jones
Southgate Development	Jerry Waddilove

Conservation/Recreation Focus Group Session Invitees

Iowa City Parks & Rec	Juli Seydell Johnson
Johnson County Conservation Board	Larry Gullet
Johnson County Friends / Iowa River Friends	Bob Sessions
Johnson County Secondary Roads	Chris Henze
Johnson County Planning & Zoning, Johnson County SWCD	Kate Giannini
NRCS – Johnson County	Wendell Jones
Earthview Environment	Judith Joyce
Friends of Johnson County Conservation	Rick Hollis
Kirkwood Community College	Jerry Reisinger
Kirkwood Community College	Ken Carroll
University of Iowa – Raptor Project	Shawn Hawks
University of Iowa – Wildlife Camps	Meredith Caskey
University of Iowa – Outdoor Rec & Education	Dave Conrads
University of Iowa IIHR & Iowa Flood Center	Dan Ceynar
Iowa DNR – Lake McBride State Park	Ron Puettman
Iowa DNR – Wildlife Management	Tim Thompson
Iowa DNR – District 12 - Forestry	Mark Vitosh
Johnson County Farm Bureau	De Swartzendruber
Johnson County Farm Bureau	Mark Ogden
Harvest Preserve	Julie Decker
SILT Land Trust	Suzan Erem
City of Coralville, Stormwater	Amy Foster
Office of the State Archaeologist	Elizabeth Reetz
Backyard Abundance	Fred Meyer
Backyard Abundance	Jen Kardos
Friends of Hickory Hill Park	Casey Kohrt
Friends of Hickory Hill Park	Peter Kollasch
Transition Ecology	Liz Maas
Iowa Master Naturalist	Sue Travis
Pheasants Forever – North Region Director	Tom Fuller
Bur Oak Land Trust	Tammy Wright
City of Iowa City	Carol Sweeting

Iowa Sierra Club	Jim Trepka
Current Farm Tenant – Annual Lease w/ Johnson County	Jim Sladek
Area Farm Manager (Farmers National Company)	John Yeomans
Edible Outdoors	Rachel Vanderwerff
Iowa City Resident (Former Iowa City Forester/Former Park Superintendent)	Terry Robinson
Iowa Wildlife Federation	Joe Wilkinson

Local Food Focus Group Session Invitees

Table to Table	Ann Donahue
The Crisis Center of Johnson County	Becci Reedus
New Pioneer Food Coop	Matt Hartz
Field to Family, Johnson County Food Policy Council, ICCSD Farm to School Coordinator	Michelle Kenyon
Johnson County Planning & Zoning	Shanti Sellz
University of Iowa College of Public Health	Brandi Janssen
Geyer's Oven Bread & Pizza	Anna Geyer
Iowa Valley RC&D	Jason Grimm
Iowa Valley Global Food Project	Ayman Sharif
Iowa Valley Global Food Project	Mahmood Eltyeb
Johnson County Farm Bureau	Mark Ogden
Obermann Center for Advanced Studies	Jennifer New
Johnson County Iowa State Extension	Gene Mohling
Johnson County Hunger Free Task Force	Lynette Jacoby
Iowa City Area Development (Blue Zones)	Tom Banta
Iowa City Downtown District	Nate Kaeding
North Liberty Food Pantry	Kaila Rome
Beginning Farmer	Jake Kundert
Neighborhood Centers	Peter Flynn
Grow: Johnson County	John Boller

Appendix F: Website Input



Aggregated Comments

Comment

my brother and nephews have talked about a man that grows citrus year round in Nebraska with a fairly simple and system which takes very little energy. This might be a good idea for the farm. Here is a video about it:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/klwh9drb711ac07/Can%20the%20Midwest%20Grow%20Citrus.mp4?dl=0>

More info about citrus in the snow:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/nvdnjxt2flgf8gy/Citrus%20In%20The%20Snow%201.pdf?dl=0>

I support growing vegetables etc --healthy food to assist those that are food insecure.

I do not support raising livestock nor any slaughter on the property.

Let's raise healthy food and promote non violence.

re:

chickens and eggs: almost all, if not all, chicks come from huge hatcheries where they are treated horribly. The male chicks are thrown in trash bags and left to suffocate or thrown into a grinder. The female chicks are debeaked. Therefore, even if the chicks/chickens are treated well after you purchase them, you are supporting terrible cruelty in this industry.

My nephew is doing his residency in ER medicine and when he starts working he eventually plans to build one of these greenhouses. He lives in Kansas. He is a very smart kid, so if he thinks it's a good idea, it probably is. He already bought the plans from Russ Finch so he could study them. My other nephew is interested in it, too.

If my Dad were younger and still lived in the country, I bet he would be doing it (he is 90yo now).

Thanks for reading and considering the information.

I think this would be a great way to encourage urban agriculture, microfarms; and green space for walking, biking, community gardening. Use this to create more health - by increasing access to growing our own food locally, being more physically active.

The Johnson County Poor Farm has a rich history that has been demonstrated through work carried out there. The story of how we related to people with mental illness and financial indigence could be told through interpretive signs and occasional, scheduled tours, led by the Johnson County Historical Society. Certainly the asylum and farm buildings need to be preserved and maintained. Beyond this, community gardens could be carried out or a prairie restoration with recreational potential is possible. Development is also a feasible alternative and if development is to occur, I think annexation to Iowa City makes the most sense and amicable financial agreements with a developer certainly should be possible to ensure a return on investment for the county. Such a sale might fund a trust to maintain and preserve the buildings that would be retained as, say, a county park.

I support green space and gardens for the Poor Farm. There also is an opportunity to develop walking or mtn biking trails in the bottom lands near the creeks. The cemetery should also be made into memorial park for the poor souls who died at the Poor Farm.

This land would be a great opportunity to install another disc golf course in our area. For more information about disc golf: http://www.pdga.com/files/BenefitsOfDiscGolf-Siniscalchi_1.pdf Iowa is a leader of number of disc golf courses per capita: <https://imgur.com/a/hX38u#SjAkNMC>

Iowa is also one of the highest states in terms of straight numbers of disc golf courses. Per same link as posted above

We are lucky in our Iowa City area to have a group of core players who enjoy helping with course design, initial building/construction, and general course maintenance.

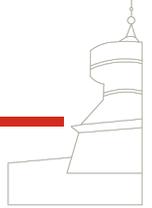
Thank you for considering this as an option for the land.

I've heard that some counties may be able to use their "county home" facilities to stimulate local food economies. Is that a possibility with the Johnson County facilities? If so, I'd very much be in favor of that, but I do understand if the facilities are too out-of-date to feasibly serve that purpose, and/or if they're too valuable to historic preservation to convert to that purpose.

An excellent choice of low-impact land use for some of the Poor Farm land would be as a disc golf course. Disc golf is a year-round family-friendly activity (I take my own kids out for an occasional round), and good for all ages. The number of disc golfers in the area is rapidly growing, and the parks serving this need are few and far between; the need has also increased because of the recent closure of the Turkey Creek disc golf course (Army Corps of Engineers). The Poor Farm land area currently identified as untillable (trees and creeks) would likely be suitable terrain for a disc golf course, in combination with some of the land at the margins of tillable areas. Disc golf has a low environmental impact on the land, while also helping to keep a modest level of traffic in undeveloped areas. This helps prevent vandalism and other illegal activities that could be detrimental to the nearby neighborhoods. hours to help with design, installation, and maintenance of disc golf courses. Here is a resource with a number of documents about development of disc golf courses, including studies of their impact on the community:<http://www.pdga.com/course-development> Thank you for considering this option for a portion of the Poor Farm land.

Hello. I believe I heard that one consideration for the Poor Farm was to have farm animals living there. If this will be done as a sanctuary--and not for using animals as meat, dairy, and egg products--I am all for this. However, no matter what the intent for the animals is, I am concerned about the cost for properly caring for the animals. From personal experience caring full-time for farm animals, I know this involves dedicated staff, much water and food, proper sheltering, veterinary care, and so forth. I have never been under the impression that the County has funds in excess on a reliable, ongoing basis. So, my recommendation is to leave animals out of the equation. What the public needs most, from a farm-related public health perspective, is access to dark leafy greens--many of which can be grown and harvested throughout the winter, provided to not only outfits like the Crisis Center (through the food bank) but other agencies, as well. Make this a priority at the Poor Farm if it is to have a farm theme--and leave the matter of animal care to the Iowa Farm Sanctuary: <https://www.iowafarmsanctuary.org/>

Appendix G: Architectural Treatment Alternatives & Selection



Treatment Approaches

West Barn

Dairy Barn

The Asylum

Standards for Rehabilitation

WEST BARN - DAIRY BARN – THE ASYLUM

JOHNSON COUNTY POOR FARM

ARCHITECTURAL TREATMENT ALTERNATIVES & SELECTION

AVAILABLE TREATMENT APPROACHES

Each property has distinct character-defining features which must be properly treated to protect the historic integrity and durability of the historic resource. Architectural treatment, whether classified as interim stabilization¹ or one of the four treatments described below must be appropriate to the individual property to accomplish this. *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties (Standards)* set forth appropriate treatments for historic properties. As a general guideline for treatment, the *Standards* limit treatment in order to retain original historic fabric, character-defining features, and integrity.

"The *Standards*" are neither technical nor prescriptive, but are intended to promote responsible preservation practices that help protect our Nation's irreplaceable cultural resources. For example, they cannot, in and of themselves, be used to make essential decisions about which features of the historic building should be saved and which can be changed. But once a treatment is selected, the *Standards* provide philosophical consistency to the work.

The four treatment approaches are **Preservation**, **Rehabilitation**, **Restoration**, and **Reconstruction**. Each level of treatment has its unique set of *Standards*. The levels of treatment are outlined below in hierarchical order:

Preservation: places a high premium on the retention of all historic fabric through conservation, maintenance and repair. It reflects a building's continuum over time, through successive occupancies, and the respectful changes and alterations that are made.

Rehabilitation: emphasizes the retention and repair of historic materials, but more latitude is provided for replacement because it is assumed the property is more deteriorated prior to work. (Both Preservation and Rehabilitation standards focus attention on the preservation of those materials, features, finishes, spaces, and spatial relationships that, together, give a property its historic character.)

¹ Stabilization: Control deterioration in order to retain historic configurations and materials. Stabilization may involve using temporary, intrusive, non-historic means that are reversible.

Restoration: focuses on the retention of materials from the most significant time in a property's history, while permitting the removal of materials from other periods.

Reconstruction: establishes limited opportunities to re-create a non-surviving site, landscape, building, structure, or object in all new materials.

Choosing the most appropriate treatment from the *Standards* requires careful decision-making about a building's historical significance, as well as taking into account a number of other considerations:

Relative importance in history: Is the building a nationally significant resource--a rare survivor or the work of a master architect or craftsman? Did an important event take place in it? National Historic Landmarks, designated for their "exceptional significance in American history," or many buildings individually listed in the National Register often warrant Preservation or Restoration. Buildings that contribute to the significance of a historic district but are not individually listed in the National Register more frequently undergo Rehabilitation for a compatible new use.

Physical condition: What is the existing condition--or degree of material integrity--of the building prior to work? Has the original form survived largely intact or has it been altered over time? Are the alterations an important part of the building's history? Preservation may be appropriate if distinctive materials, features, and spaces are essentially intact and convey the building's historical significance. If the building requires more extensive repair and replacement, or if alterations or additions are necessary for a new use, then Rehabilitation is probably the most appropriate treatment. These key questions play major roles in determining what treatment is selected.

Proposed use: An essential, practical question to ask is: Will the building be used as it was historically or will it be given a new use? Many historic buildings can be adapted for new uses without seriously damaging their historic character; special-use properties such as grain silos, forts, ice houses, or windmills may be extremely difficult to adapt to new uses without major intervention and a resulting loss of historic character and even integrity.

Mandated code requirements: Regardless of the treatment, code requirements will need to be taken into consideration. But if hastily or poorly designed, a series of code-required actions may jeopardize a building's materials as well as its historic character. Thus, if a building needs to be seismically upgraded, modifications to the historic appearance should be minimal. Abatement of lead paint and asbestos within historic buildings requires particular care if important historic finishes are not to be adversely affected. Finally, alterations and new construction needed to meet accessibility requirements under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 should be designed to minimize material loss and visual change to a historic building.”²

² Excerpt from the National Park Service's Introduction and Historical Overview of "The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties".

TREATMENT SELECTION AND GENERAL PROJECT GUIDANCE

The “Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties” provides pertinent direction to the overall approach to the project. Features of a building display unique historical characteristics such as being prominently positioned or having a higher degree of integrity or visibility than other features making it possible to assign differing treatment strategies to features of the building based on an assessment of those characteristics. This level of analysis establishes appropriate treatments for individual materials and details found within the building while still adhering to the guidance found in the “Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties”.

Selection of the appropriate level of treatment is based on the treatment descriptions provided above and observations of existing conditions.

WEST BARN

(Monitor-Roof Stock Barn - Iowa Site Inventory Form No. 52-04416)

With the exception of the existing metal roofing, virtually all components and materials at the West Barn, including exterior walls, interior partitions, windows, doors, miscellaneous hardware, and other constructs within the building (cattle stalls, hay mow etc.) are original to the building, have acquired historic significance through time, or represent what appear to be historically appropriate stabilization, repair, or replacement. As a proposed change of use for the West Barn (if any) has yet to be determined, the most appropriate level of architectural treatment cannot be assigned. Considering the West Barn’s importance in history, its physical condition, and its contribution to the existing Historic District, the suggested level of architectural treatment per the “Secretary of the Interior’s Standards” is that of **Rehabilitation**. When the planned use of the building is defined, the level of treatment most appropriate to the West Barn should be finally determined, and all additions, modifications, alterations, repairs, or other change to the building and its immediate grounds should be planned and executed in a manner consistent with that set of *Standards* specific to the relevant level of treatment.

DAIRY BARN

(Gambrel-Roof Dairy Barn - Iowa Site Inventory Form No. 52-04417)

The corrugated metal roofing is not original to the building. The other components and materials at the Dairy Barn, including its exterior walls, interior partitions, windows, doors, and the equipment and apparatus within the building (see the milking stanchions in attached images) are either original to the building, have acquired historic significance through time, or represent what appear to be historically appropriate stabilization, repair, or replacement. If the use of the Dairy Barn is to change, final determination of the most appropriate level of architectural treatment should be made at that time. Recognizing the building’s importance in history, its physical condition, and its contribution to the Poor Farm Historic District, at this time, the suggested level of architectural treatment per the “Secretary of the Interior’s Standards” is **Rehabilitation**. Any expansion, alteration, repair or change to the building and its immediate grounds must adhere to the *Standards*.

West Barn – Dairy Barn - The Asylum
Johnson County Poor Farm
Johnson County, Iowa

Architectural Treatment
Alternatives & Selection
March 2017

THE ASYLUM
(Asylum Building - Iowa Site Inventory Form No. 52-00135)

In 1978, the Asylum Building at the Johnson County Poor Farm was placed individually in the National Register of Historic Places. While the footings and foundations, floors, windows, existing asphalt-fiberglass shingles, gutter system, and repair siding and sheathing are not original to the building, these elements appear to be appropriately ‘differentiated from the old’, avoid creating a ‘false sense of historical development’ and seem to be in compliance with the *Standards*. The concrete entry ramp and rail are in place to provide access to the Asylum, and are as simple and understated as practical. The building is currently in use as a cold air museum intended to illustrate the living conditions afforded to Johnson County’s mentally ill during the latter part of the 19th Century. It is successful in this mission.

A proposed use has not been determined for the Asylum Building. If its current use should change, final determination of the most appropriate level of architectural treatment should be made at that time. At this time the suggested level of architectural treatment is **Rehabilitation** reflecting extensive repairs previously made to reverse alterations made to accommodate intervening uses. It is difficult to imagine an addition or expansion to the building that would comply with the Secretary’s *Standards*. It is equally difficult to imagine a method of climate control that would not detrimentally alter the historic character and fabric of this building. When the level of architectural treatment is determined the *Standards* specific to that level of treatment should inform and guide any repair or change to the Asylum and its immediate grounds.

Based on the above discussion, the guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings found within the Standards are suggested as a basis for future work at the buildings referenced in this Report. Guidelines for Rehabilitation: the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties follow:

Guidelines for Rehabilitation: the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties³

Rehabilitation: emphasizes the retention and repair of historic materials, but more latitude is provided for replacement because it is assumed the property is more deteriorated prior to work. (Both Preservation and Rehabilitation standards focus attention on the preservation of those materials, features, finishes, spaces, and spatial relationships that, together, give a property its historic character.)

³ “Standards for Rehabilitation”, National Park Service website, Accessed March 29, 2017, <https://www.nps.gov/tps/standards/four-treatments/treatment-rehabilitation.htm>

1. A property will be used as it was historically or be given a new use that requires minimal change to its distinctive materials, features, spaces, and spatial relationships.
2. The historic character of a property will be retained and preserved. The removal of distinctive materials or alteration of features, spaces, and spatial relationships that characterize a property will be avoided.
3. Each property will be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or elements from other historic properties, will not be undertaken.
4. Changes to a property that have acquired historic significance in their own right will be retained and preserved.
5. Distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property will be preserved.
6. Deteriorated historic features will be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature will match the old in design, color, texture, and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features will be substantiated by documentary and physical evidence.
7. Chemical or physical treatments, if appropriate, will be undertaken using the gentlest means possible. Treatments that cause damage to historic materials will not be used.
8. Archeological resources will be protected and preserved in place. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures will be undertaken.
9. New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction will not destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing to protect the integrity of the property and its environment.
10. New additions and adjacent or related new construction will be undertaken in such a manner that, if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.

ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE

The National Park Service publishes a series of Preservation Briefs that provide detailed discussion of appropriate treatments for historic buildings and materials. Recommendations of the Preservation Briefs are used as a basis for formulating strategies and approaches to implementing remedial work. Additional guidance may also be found in “*Interpreting the Standards Bulletins*” (<http://www.nps.gov/tps/standards/applying-rehabilitation/standards-bulletins.htm>) which are case-specific references to decisions made by the National Park Service in its administration of the federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives program. In spite of the unique facts and circumstances that surround these examples they still provide insight into best practices for rehabilitation projects.