



September 28, 2018

MVAC SR 2018-45

Steve Carlyon, Director
La Crosse Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department
City of La Crosse
400 La Crosse St.
La Crosse, WI 54601

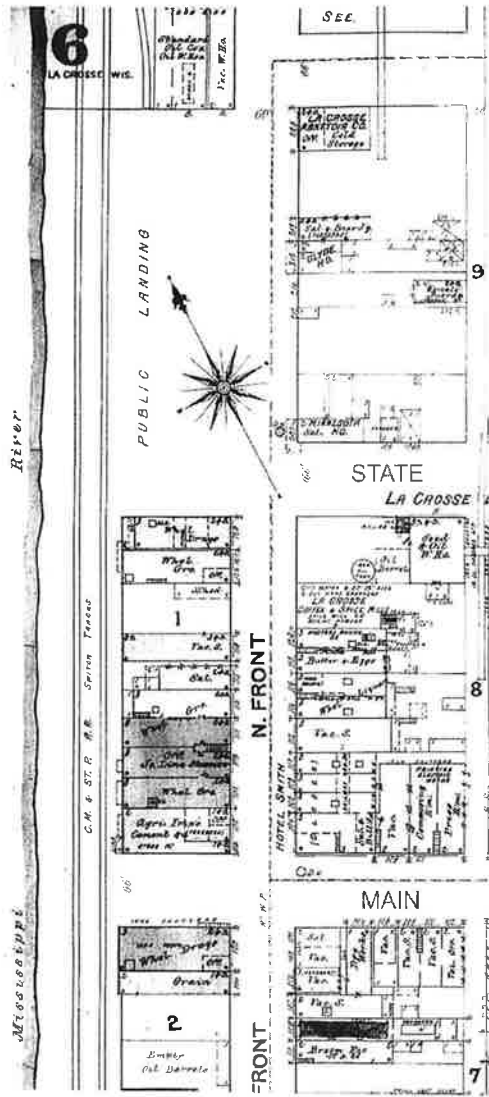
RE: Archaeological potential of the City of La Crosse Riverside Park in regards to proposed improvements to the Wendell Anderson Bandshell.

Dear Mr. Carlyon,

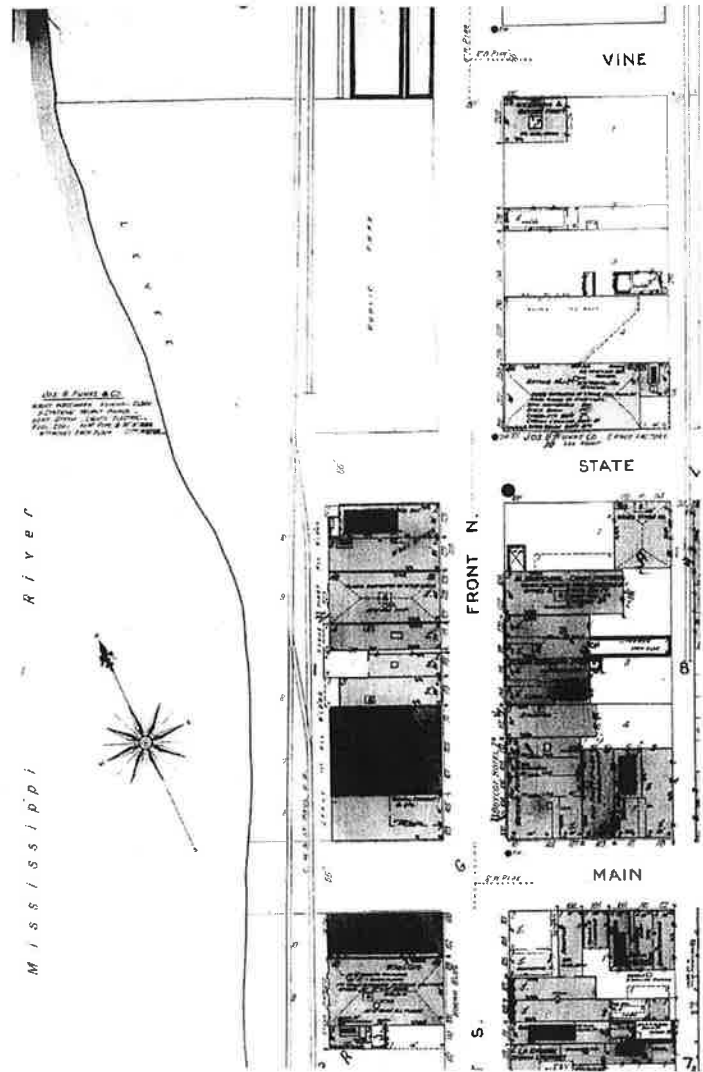
I am writing to inform you that the Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center (MVAC) has no archaeological concerns pertaining to the proposed updates to the Wendell Anderson Bandshell at Riverside Park. Based on our research in 1908 Dr. Wendell Anderson, the mayor of La Crosse, conceived the idea for Riverside Park. Land west of Front Street would be acquired and dredge fill used to construct the park. In 1910 the land was acquired from the Milwaukee Railroad and private owners. Levee Park was dedicated in 1911. The memorial band stand was built in honor of Dr. Wendell Anderson in 1930. The Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps from 1884, 1887, and 1891 show the area west of Front Street near its intersection with State and Vine Streets as having a few properties abutting Front Street on the west side and a few tracks than the area west becomes swamp or the main channel of the Mississippi River (Figure 1). By 1906 it appears that some dredge had been added to this area and it is labeled as "levee". A small public park is shown on the west side of Front Street between State and Vine Streets (See Figure 1). By the 1936 Sanborn map the area shown as levee on the 1906 Sanborn has been expanded to the west and the area is labeled as Riverside Park (Figure 2). The location of the bandshell is built on dredge and as such there are no archaeological concerns. If you have any questions please call or email.

Sincerely,

Wendy K. Holtz-Leith
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Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center
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1891 Sanborn Map



1906 Sanborn Map

Figure 1: 1891 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map on the left, note how close the Mississippi River is to Front Street. 1906 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map on the right, levee is already constructed from dredge west of Front Street. More dredge added to this area to create Levee Park (now Riverside).



Figure 2: 1936 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, page 11, Walter Anderson Bandshell would be somewhere between State and Pine Streets on or close to the left edge of the map.