

**EARLY NOTICE OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY
IN A 100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN**

**OLD FORT JOHNSON PROJECT
2 MERGNER ROAD, FORT JOHNSON, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, NEW YORK
May 24, 2019**

To: All interested Agencies, Groups, and Individuals

This is to give notice that the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR), an office of the New York State Housing Trust Fund Corporation (HTFC), has received an application from the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY) to fund the Old Fort Johnson hardening project (hereinafter, the "Proposed Activity") and is conducting an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11988 and Executive Order 11990 in accordance with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Renewal (HUD) regulations (24 CFR Part 55). There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, to provide the public an opportunity to express their concerns and share information about the Proposed Activity. Second, adequate public notice is an important public education tool. The dissemination of information about floodplains facilitates and enhances governmental efforts to reduce the risks associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplains, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk. Funding for the Proposed Activity will be provided by the HUD Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program for storm recovery activities in New York State.

DASNY, acting in close partnership with the Town of Amsterdam and the Montgomery County Historical Society, is proposing to harden Old Fort Johnson against the impacts of future flood events. Old Fort Johnson is located one mile west of the city of Amsterdam on the north bank of the Mohawk River near its confluence with Kayadossers Creek. Constructed in 1749 as the house, office and trading center of Sir William Johnson, the British Superintendent of Indian Affairs for North America, the site was fortified during the French and Indian Wars. Originally the house was the center of a complex of outbuildings. Only two of these survive today – a privy and a barn, now used as a visitor center and staff housing. Fort Johnson is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and was designated a National Historic Landmark, in 1972.

The site is within the 100-year floodplain. During Hurricane Irene the Creek and River merged and covered the entire site; in the course of a few hours over eight feet of water poured across the grounds and through the buildings. In the 1749 historic house, the basement was completely filled with water and mud. On the raised first floor, five-and-a half feet of water covered the tops of the fireplace mantels and left mud and debris on the original wood paneling, windows, shutters and floors. The Visitor Center building had 2 feet of water on the first floor. The historic 18th century privy tipped over and floated into the footbridge, saving it from disappearing downstream. The Garage was also flooded with several feet of water, with over 30" in the public bathroom on the Creek side.

The proposed project includes the demolition of the concrete walls along the banks of the Kayadossers Creek through the site; regrading the banks; regrading of the site and adding a berm on the western of Kayadossers Creek with new sidewalks; regrading of the area around the catch basin in the southwestern corner of the site; and the construction of a new parking area. Approximately 0.65 acres will be disturbed.

The Proposed Activity will result in permanent impacts to approximately 0.65 acres of 100-Year Floodplain. These impacts will consist of new sidewalks.

Floodplain maps based on the FEMA Base Flood Elevation Maps and wetlands maps based on the National Wetland Inventory and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) data have been prepared and are available for review with additional information at <http://www.stormrecovery.ny.gov/environmental-docs>.

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the Proposed Activity or request further information by contacting Lori A. Shirley, Certifying Officer, Governor's Office of Storm Recovery, 99 Washington Avenue, Suite 1224, Albany, NY 12260; email: NYSCDBG_DR_ER@nyshcr.org. Standard office hours are 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday through Friday. For more information call 518-474-0755. All comments received by June 10, 2019 will be considered.