

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Victoria Volent, Housing Program Manager

FROM: Deb Andrews, Historic Preservation Program Manager

DATE: April 23, 2018

SUBJECT: 0 Westbrook Street, historic preservation considerations

I understand that the Housing Committee will soon be considering the potential of developing housing at 0 Westbrook Street in the Stroudwater neighborhood. As a portion of the historic Cumberland and Oxford Canal crossed this parcel, you have asked whether there are any historic preservation implications that the Housing Committee should be aware of in exploring the feasibility of development on this site.

The Cumberland and Oxford Canal was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1974. As such, any project involving federal funding or licensing would be subject to review under the National Historic Preservation Act's Section 106 process. Under the Section 106 process, the Maine Historic Preservation Commission is required to make a determination as to whether the proposed development would have an adverse impact on any historic resource listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register.

The Cumberland and Oxford Canal was opened in 1832 to connect the largest lakes of southern Maine with the seaport of Portland. The canal followed the Presumpscot River from Sebago Lake through the towns of Standish, Windham, Gorham and Westbrook. In Westbrook, the canal diverged from the river, and ran through a portion of the Stroudwater neighborhood of Portland to reach the navigable Fore River Estuary and Portland harbor.