

Section 106 Success Story

Parkridge Homes New Construction

YPSILANTI | WASHTENAW COUNTY

This project highlights Section 106 meeting a community need while not erasing an important story. Parkridge Homes was a public housing subdivision built in 1943 as defense-worker housing for African American workers at the Willow Run Bomber Plant. Designed by prominent Washington, D. C. African American Architect Hilyard Robinson, the complex was eligible under Criteria A and C.

By the twenty-first century the complex had fallen into disrepair and was only partially occupied. Beyond rehabilitation, the complex needed to be rebuilt to revitalize the neighborhood and provide much-needed area housing. A Programmatic Agreement between Washtenaw County and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) ensured that the County did proactive community engagement and thorough reporting in the identification of historic properties and evaluation of effects.

The result was a Memorandum of Agreement that required archival recordation of the original Parkridge Homes complex as well as a community-driven interpretation plan. The plan was led by the County and Ypsilanti Housing Commission, who held public stakeholder meetings and outreach for feedback, gathering additional materials for interpretation. The result was three thorough interpretative panels installed on site in the new community. Because of Section 106, community voices were heard and important stories captured, while still allowing an important project to go forward.

LOCATION

Ypsilanti,
Washtenaw County

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6

FEDERAL AGENCY

Department of Housing and Urban Development

PROJECT DATE

2016

MICHIGAN SHPO STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE