



## Application

**41227 - Historical Resource Development Program (HRDP) - FY2013 - Historic Preservation**

**42618 - National Register Nomination for the Johnson County Poor Farm**

**Historical Resource Development Program (HRDP)**

Status: Editing

Submitted Date:

### Applicant Information

#### Project Officer

AnA User Id SARA.SEDLACEK@IOWAID  
 First Name\* Sara Sedlacek  
First Name Middle Name Last Name

Title:

Email: ssedlacek@co.johnson.ia.us

Address: 913 S. Dubuque St.  
 Ste. 201

City\* Iowa City Iowa 52240  
City State/Province Postal Code/Zip

Phone:\* 319-356-6000 8011  
Phone Ext.

Program Area of Interest Historical Resource Development Program (HRDP)

Fax:

#### Organization Information

Organization Name: Johnson County Board of Supervisors

Organization Type: County Government

Tax ID: 42-6004806

DUNS: 96-643-7931

Organization Website: <http://www.johnson-county.com/>

Address: 913 S. Dubuque St.

Iowa City Iowa 52240  
City State/Province Postal Code/Zip

Phone: 319-356-6000 8011  
Ext.

Fax:

### Cover Sheet-General Information

#### Authorized Official

Name Rod Sullivan

Title Chair

Organization Johnson County Board of Supervisors

Address 913 S. Dubuque St.  
 Ste. 201

City/State/Zip\* Iowa City Iowa 52240  
City State Zip

Telephone Number 319-356-6000

E-Mail rsullivan@co.johnson.ia.us

Fiscal Officer/Agent

**Name** Tom Kriz  
**Title** County Treasurer  
**Organization** Johnson County  
**Address** 913 S. Dubuque St.

**City/State/Zip\***

Iowa  
 City  
 City  
 Iowa 52244  
 State Zip

**Telephone Number** 319-356-6087  
**E-Mail** tkriz@co.johnson.ia.us  
**County(ies) Participating, Involved, or Affected by this Proposal** Johnson County  
**Congressional District(s) Involved or Affected by this Proposal** 2 - David Loebsack  
 Congressional Map  
**Iowa Senate District(s) Involved or Affected by this Proposal** 15, 39  
 District Map  
**Iowa House District(s) Involved or Affected by this Proposal** 29, 30  
 District Map

## Project Qualification Section

This is an application for the HRDP - Historic Preservation category.

Yes

If yes, please continue. If no, see instructions above.

## Applicant Section

**Name of Applicant** Johnson County Historic Preservation Commission  
 Enter legal name of applicant  
**Type of Applicant** Nonprofit corporation; unit of government, or American Indian tribe

*Provide a brief description of the applicant. For organizations, include a brief description of mission, primary discipline area, and geographic area served.*

**Applicant Profile** The Johnson County Historic Preservation Commission is appointed by the Board of Supervisors for the purpose of conducting studies for the identification and designation of historic districts and sites that meet eligibility for National Register requirements. The Commission advises the Board of Supervisors on matters of historic properties, including gifts of historic properties, educational programs and the preservation of historic properties in Johnson County.  
 500 characters or less

*Please provide accurate contact information for the person who should be contacted with questions about the grant application and project. This does not have to be the person authorized to sign the contract.*

**Contact Person Name \***

Sara Sedlacek  
 First Name Last Name

**Address 1** 913 S. Dubuque St.

**Address 2** Ste. 201

**City/State/Zip\***

Iowa IA 52240  
 City State Zip Code plus four

**E-Mail Address** ssedlacek@co.johnson.ia.us  
**Telephone** 319-356-6000  
 daytime

## Project Section

**Project Title** National Register Nomination for the Johnson County Poor Farm

*Summarize the project for which you are requesting funds. If the project is awarded a grant, this will be used for reports and press releases.*

**Project Summary** The Johnson County Historic Preservation Commission will retain the services of a consultant in order to research and nominate the Johnson County poor farm to the National Register of Historic Places.

300 characters or less

## Ownership Section

**Does the applicant own the historical resource?** Yes

*If the applicant does not own the historical resource, the following information is required.*

**Name of Owner**

First Name Last Name

**Address 1**

**Address 2**

**City/State/Zip**

City State Zip Code plus four

**E-Mail Address**

**Telephone**

daytime

## Public Access Section

**Does the public have access to the historical resource?** Yes

*If yes, how is the historical resource made accessible to the public?*

**What are your hours of operation?**

The Johnson County Poor Farm is open for tours by appointment only

Provide hours of operation each week and months per year that the resource is open to the public

**Is the historical resource available to view by appointment when there are not regular hours for public access?** Yes

**Is the historical resource visible from a public street?** Yes

*If no, please answer the following questions:*

**How do you plan to make the historical resource accessible to the public to meet our guidelines?**

**Is there a reason that the historical resource cannot be made accessible to the public?**

**If yes, please explain:**

## Great Places Section

*Please visit the Great Places website for more information about the program.*

**Is the project located in a community designated as an Iowa Great Place?** No

*If yes, is the project described in the Place's proposal/Memorandum of Understanding with the State of Iowa?*

## Contract

**Please download the attached Contract and complete and sign two copies. Please mail both copies to the State of Iowa Historical Society when you submit your application.**

Please check yes if you've downloaded your contract

Yes

## Certified Local Government

*If a city or county government does not participate in the Certified Local Government (CLG) program, or is not determined to be a CLG in good standing, then it cannot be an applicant in the Historic Preservation category.*

**Is the applicant a city or county government?** Yes

**or county government?**

If yes, attach verification that the city or county participates in the Certified Local Government (CLG) program and is determined to be in good standing by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). CLG cities, counties, and land use districts must be current in their submission of Iowa CLG Annual Report forms to be considered in good standing.

Please contact Paula Mohr (515.281.6826 or paula.mohr@iowa.gov) for verification that your CLG is current with report submissions before applying for an HRDP grant in the Historic Preservation category.

Attach verification to your application or mail it with your contract forms.

## Historic Preservation Property

**Property Name:**

Johnson County Poor Farm

**Historic Name of Property (if known):**

**Address of the Property:**

Melrose Ave., west of Old Hwy 218

**Location of Property:\***

Iowa  
City Johnson  
County County

**Name of Historic District (if applicable):**

*Does the project involve:*

**a National Historic Landmark?**

**a property that is individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places?**

Yes

**a contributing property in a Historic District listed on the National Register of Historic Places?**

**a property or district that is determined eligible by the State Historic Preservation Office for listing on the National Register of Historic Places?**

Yes

**Emergency or Nomination projects ONLY**

**a historic or prehistoric site survey?**

**It is strongly encouraged that you discuss the proposed project with the State Historic Preservation Office prior to application.**

**a building once used as a one or two room schoolhouse**

**Country School Grant program ONLY**

**Are any of the above boxes checked?**

Yes

If yes, you are eligible to apply in the Historic Preservation category. Please attach verification, if applicable. If no, you are not eligible to apply in the Historic Preservation category.

## Project Description

**Specifically identify the historical resource and state its significance.\***

The Johnson County Poor Farm and Asylum, located in Iowa City on Melrose Ave. near the Hwy 218 exchange, is one of the only remaining intact examples of the county poor farms that were established in each Iowa county in the 19th century. First opened in 1855, the Johnson County Poor Farm and Asylum serves as a window to 19th century definitions and policy dealing with perceived social problems.

The need to care for the poor or mentally ill was established in the United States in the 1820's as a duty of the state and local governments. This duty was recognized early in Johnson County history. The County chose first to contract care from local physicians, but, in 1855, the Johnson County Board of Supervisors decided to procure 160 acres on the edge of Iowa City for a "poor farm" to provide systematic care with economy.

The early care of the poor and mentally ill was crude by modern standards, reflecting the prevailing attitude that fresh air and work would be good for these "poor unfortunates". From the earliest days, "inmates" were expected to do farm chores to the extent of their abilities. The farm was to be self-supporting and the labor of the inmates would help compensate the County for their care. Crop farming and dairy production were the primary functions of the farm until the 1960's.

Today, the early 20th century milking barn, a late 19th century hay/horse barn, five smaller buildings, the "insane" wing, and the cemetery survive. The 1859 "First Johnson County Asylum" wing is restored and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Though unused for many years, the buildings and acreage have received basic maintenance and many of the original features are intact, including a brick cistern outside the horse barn. A unique stock watering system is still in place inside the smaller buildings and the milking barn still has its equipment, stanchions, feed boxes, separating room, cooler and silo.

In addition to the buildings, the land surrounding the farm has historical significance. The land was farmed by residents of the poor farm. The residents paid \$1.50 per week to live at the farm and this rent was paid by doing farm chores. The use of the land was a good investment and in 1863 the farm made a surplus of \$500. The role of the land requires that it be included in the historic district.

The Johnson County Poor Farm site is important to Iowa's history, telling the story of the county's care for its citizens from the earliest days. Each county in Iowa had a poor farm and the tradition is well represented by the Johnson county farm, which may well be the only remaining intact example.

3500 characters or less

**Provide an overview of the activities you will complete.\***

This proposed project will nominate the Johnson County Poor Farm District to the National Register of Historic Places.

Research has been conducted in the past and that research will be updated. The 2003 study resulted in a determination that a National Register-eligible Historic District does exist on the former Johnson County Poor Farm and Asylum property that encompasses the cluster of extant buildings and archaeological remains associated with the poor farm and asylum dating from the period of significance from 1855 to 1952, much of the surrounding farm ground and the suspected cemetery site. At the time, it was recommended that the historic district be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places and that it be preserved and protected for future generations.

This district provides an unusual educational and interpretive potential for the residents of Johnson County to learn more about their county's past and the history of indigent and mental health care in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. An update of this research will assist in the development of the narrative description and statement of significance for the National Register of Historic Places nomination. The nomination will be developed and prepared by a professional historian/architectural historian consultant. The consultant will serve as the project director for all activities related to the preparation and submittal of the NRHP nomination. The consultant will train volunteers and commission members to conduct the field survey and research on individual buildings; conduct research on the history of the property and the individual buildings; and prepare the nomination including all supporting materials in accordance with the requirements of the National Park Service and the State Historic Preservation Office. All work will conform to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Registration.

3000 characters or less

**How will the proposed actions assist the historical resource?\***

Nomination of the Johnson County Poor Farm District to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) will have a significant impact on the property and the community. The Johnson County Historic Preservation Commission and the Board of Supervisors have begun to plan for the future of the property, wishing to make it an educational resource for the community. However, financing is often an issue for the rehabilitation of some of the buildings. Listing the poor farm on the NRHP will qualify Johnson County for the 20% federal rehabilitation tax incentive program and the 25% state rehabilitation tax credit incentive program. It will also make the property eligible for additional grant funding.

In addition to funding, the property will be recognized as a historical district by the community and future Boards. This will ensure it is preserved even after the current Supervisors are no longer serving the County. With this recognition, plans to make the property and educational resource for the community will be more likely to move forward.

The short-term effects of the nomination will be recognition by the community that Johnson County possesses such a wonderful historical resource and the buildings can be rehabilitated. The long-term effects will be that plans to develop the site as a historical display will move forward and the site will be preserved and will be open and available for future generations.

3000 characters or less

**How will the project have an impact on the local community?\***

The nomination of the poor farm to the NRHP will allow the Johnson County Historical Preservation Commission and the Board of Supervisors to begin rehabilitating the property. Once the property is rehabilitated, the property will be used as an educational resource for the community. The County and Historic Preservation Commission have envisioned a plan to rehabilitate the poor farm buildings and open the property to the public. The plan would include tours of the poor farm property and agricultural displays on the land. The poor farm was exactly that: a farm. The County and Historic Preservation Commission would like to use the land as it had been used during the time of its operation and grow some of the same things on it that were grown there in the past. This will give visitors a true sense of what the poor farm was like when it was in operation.

3000 characters or less

## Scope of Work

Project Element	Provide a brief description of action steps for this project element.	Timeline for this action step
The Johnson County Historic Preservation Commission will receive a consultation with an historic preservation professional	The project will follow the typical procedure for research and nomination of a historic district to the National Register of Historic Places. The scope of work will be further defined through consultation with a qualified historic preservation professional, Leah Rogers. Rogers is a qualified architectural historian and she will serve as the project director for all activities related to the preparation and submittal of the NRHP nomination. She will train volunteers and commission members to conduct the field survey and research on individual buildings; conduct research on the history of the poor farm and the individual buildings; and prepare the nomination including all supporting materials in accordance with the requirements of the National Park Service and the State Historic Preservation Office. The consultant will develop the narrative description and statement of significance for the nomination, as well as associated table of buildings, mapping, and photographs.	06/01/2012-07/01/2012
Research will be done on the individual buildings within the poor farm district	Members of the Johnson County Historic Preservation Commission and other local volunteers will assist in the project activities by completing the research on the individual buildings. The 2003 study resulted in a determination that a National Register-eligible Historic District does exist on the former Johnson County Poor Farm and Asylum property. At the time, it was recommended that the historic district be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places and that it be preserved and protected. This district provides an unusual educational and interpretive potential	07/01/2012-01/01/2012

for the residents of Johnson County to learn more about their county's past and the history of indigent and mental health care in the 19th and 20th centuries. An update of this research will further document the history and significance of the properties, and it will permit final determinations of the status of the individual buildings with the historic district to be completed by the consultant.

First draft of National Register nomination submitted	The first draft of the nomination of the Johnson County Poor Farm District to the National Register of Historic Places will be submitted to State staff for review.	01/01/2013-01/01/2013
Submittal of final draft to State staff	Following all reviews requested by State staff, a final draft of the nomination will be submitted for review by the SNRC.	04/01/2013-04/01/2013
SNRC Review Meeting	The target date for the SNRC review meeting.	06/14/2013-06/14/2013
Post SNRC review	Following the SNRC meeting and distribution of review comments and receipt of final nomination, at the State's discretion.	06/14/2013-06/30/2013
Submittal of application to National Register of Historic Places	Submittal to the National Register of Historic Places follows final post-SNRC review and submittal of final nomination for forwarding to the NRHP. It is anticipated that it would be submitted to the NRHP in late June or July 2013.	06/30/2013-07/31/2013
A ground-penetrating radar survey will be performed	The purpose of the Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) Survey will be to confirm the location of the cemetery and the boundaries of the burials locations within the currently identified but unconfirmed site. Ground-penetrating radar survey is a noninvasive and rapid geophysical method for subsurface testing purposes and is particularly conducive to the location of intrusive features, such as inhumation burials. The GPR survey and evaluation/reporting of results will be conducted by Jason Thompson and/or Dr. Glenn Storey of the University of Iowa, who will also provide the necessary GPR equipment. Volunteers will assist with the GPR field survey, which requires the establishment of a survey grid and the moving of tapes during the survey.	07/01/2012-07/01/2012

## Consultants

Consultant Expenses	HRDP Grant Request	Cash Match	In-Kind Match	State Total	Match Total
73 hours at \$68/hour	\$4,964.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	<b>\$4,964.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
Supplies/Shipping	\$36.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	<b>\$36.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
Consultant miles 148 miles at 39 cents/mile	\$0.00	\$58.00	\$0.00	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$58.00</b>
Additional Consultant Hours 19 hours at \$68/hour	\$0.00	\$1,292.00	\$0.00	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$1,292.00</b>
	<b>\$5,000.00</b>	<b>\$1,350.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$5,000.00</b>	<b>\$1,350.00</b>

## Contractors

Contractor Expenses	HRDP Grant Request	Cash Match	In-Kind Match	State Total	Match Total
GPR Survey Subconsultant	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	<b>\$2,500.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
	<b>\$2,500.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$2,500.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

**Personnel**

Personnel Expenses	HRDP Grant Request	Cash Match	In-Kind Match	State Total	Match Total
Volunteers 110 hours at \$7.50/hour	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$825.00	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$825.00</b>
Volunteer miles 128 miles at 39 cents/mile	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>
Project director - 40 hours at \$23.21/hour	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$928.40	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$928.40</b>
	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$1,803.40</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$1,803.40</b>

**Materials/Supplies**

Materials/Supplies Expenses	HRDP Grant Request	Cash Match	In-Kind Match	State Total	Match Total
Photograph Supplies	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$0.00	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$300.00</b>
Archival CD and paper	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>
Additional Supplies	\$0.00	\$175.00	\$0.00	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$175.00</b>
Copies (draft and final)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>
	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$525.00</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$625.00</b>

**Equipment**

Equipment Expenses	HRDP Grant Request	Cash Match	In-Kind Match	State Total	Match Total
	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

**Other**

Other Expenses	HRDP Grant Request	Cash Match	In-Kind Match	State Total	Match Total
	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

**Totals**

<b>State Grant Total</b>	\$7,500.00
<b>Cash Match Total</b>	\$1,875.00
<b>In-Kind Match Total</b>	\$1,903.40
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	\$11,278.40

**Budget Explanation****Budget Explanation**

This project will involve the nomination of the Johnson County Poor Farm to the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district. The district has been the subject of a previous archaeological and architectural history survey and evaluation and contains both archaeological and standing architectural resources that contribute to the significance of this district. One of the standing buildings, the original asylum building is already individually listed in the National Register.

The Consultant is Tallgrass Historians L.C. led by Principal Investigator, Leah D. Rogers. Ms. Rogers holds an



M.A. in Anthropology and is also qualified according to the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications as both an archaeologist and an architectural historian. Her full qualifications are attached. Tallgrass Historians L.C. would be responsible for the conduct of all fieldwork, training of volunteers, and compilation of the National Register nominations drafts and final versions and all project end products.

It is further proposed that the National Register nomination study will include a ground-penetrating radar (GPR) survey of the suspected Poor Farm cemetery. GPR survey is an extremely noninvasive and quite rapid geophysical method for subsurface testing purposes. This method is particularly conducive to the location of intrusive features, for example, inhumation burials. Premised upon the dimensions of the survey area proposed (length 105 m, width range from 20 m to 34 m width), a ground-penetrating radar survey at this location would include at least two data collection phases: one with an x,y grid spaced at 1 m intervals, the other with an x,y grid spaced at 0.5 m intervals. Preliminary data processing and imaging will reveal whether survey at higher resolutions would be either necessary or productive. Survey could conceivably take as little as 3 to 4 hours, depending upon weather and soil moisture conditions. If the soil is either extremely dry or saturated at time of survey, it will be prudent to allow at least one partial day to resample (for example, if the soil is saturated at initial survey, a subsequent data collection phase will be prudent to determine how relative moisture affects the final radar imagery at this particular location). Moisture variation can have dramatic effects on radar survey results. If higher-resolution sampling is suggested, a plan will be developed to complete it.

The GPR study will be conducted by Jason Thompson and/or Dr. Glenn Storey of the University of Iowa. Dr. Storey's qualifications: tenured Professor of the Classics and Anthropology, numerous ground-penetrating radar surveys in Iowa. Jason Thompson's qualifications are attached.

Volunteers will assist with field photography, the GPR survey (people will be needed to hold and move the grid tapes), historic research, and compilation of the final end products including making the required copies and assisting with the required photographs.

## Photographs



Picture of the interior of the 1859 asylum.





Picture of the 1859 asylum and the 1916 horse and hay barn.



Picture of the 1859 asylum and the 1930 dairy barn.





Picture of the 1916 horse and hay barn.



Picture of the 1916 horse and hay barn.

## HP Professional Involvement

*Every project in the historic preservation category must involve a trained professional in a discipline appropriate to the project scope.*

*Provide the name and contact information for the professional involved in the project.*

***This part of the application also requires two attachments:***

*\*Letter of commitment from a trained professional*

*\*Professional credentials*

*If you are not able to attach these documents here, please mail them with your contracts.*

**Name of Professional Involved in the Project:** Leah Rogers, Tallgrass Historians L.C.  
**Street Address:** 2460 Riverside Dr.

**Location:\***

Iowa  
 City      Iowa 52246  
 City      State      Zip  
    Code

**E-mail Address:** ldrog215@aol.com

**Telephone (daytime):** 319-354-6722

## Professional Involvement Letter of Commitment

File Name	Description	File Size
LetterofCommitment.doc (44 KB)	Letter of Commitment from consultant Leah Rogers with Tallgrass Historians L.C.	44 KB

## Professional Involvement Credentials

File Name	Description	File Size
cv.doc (99 KB)	Jason Thompson's CV	99 KB
L Rogers Vita 2012.doc (67 KB)	CV for Leah Rogers, consultant with Tallgrass Historians L.C.	67 KB

## Other Attachments

File Name	Description	File Size
Johnson County CLG in good standing 2012.pdf (75 KB)	Letter from the Iowa Dept. of Cultural Affairs declaring that Johnson County is in good standing as a Certified Local Government.	75 KB
LDRJohnsonctypoofarm.doc (76 KB)	Explanation of GPR survey from Jason Thompson	76 KB
MapforHRDPgrantapp.doc (2.3 MB)	Map of Johnson County Poor Farm property to be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.	2.3 MB

## Minority Impact Statement

### Question # 1

1. The proposed grant programs or policies could have a disproportionate or unique **POSITIVE IMPACT** on minority persons.

Not Applicable

If YES, describe the positive impact expected from this project

Indicate the group(s) positively impacted.

### Question # 2

2. The proposed grant project programs or policies could have a disproportionate or unique **NEGATIVE IMPACT** on minority persons. Not Applicable

If YES, describe the negative impact expected from this project.

If YES, present the rationale for the existence of the proposed program or policy.

If YES, provide evidence of consultation with representatives of the minority groups impacted.

Indicate the group(s) negatively impacted.

### Question # 3

3. The proposed grant project programs or policies are **NOT EXPECTED TO HAVE A DISPROPORTIONATE OR UNIQUE IMPACT** on minority persons. Not Applicable

If YES, present the rationale for determining no impact.

### Certification

I hereby certify that the information on this form is complete and accurate, to the best of my knowledge. Yes

Name of Person Submitting Certification. Sara Sedlacek

Title of Person Submitting Certification Grant Specialist

## W9 TIN Certification

Name (as shown on your income tax return) County of Johnson

Business name, if different from above

### Check appropriate box:

Individual/Sole proprietor

Corporation

Partnership

Limited liability company

Other Yes

**Exempt payee**

Enter the tax classification (D=disregarded entity, C=corporation, P=partnership)

**Address**  
**(number, street, and apt. or suite no.)**  
**City**

Johnson County Board of Supervisors  
913 S. Dubuque St., Ste. 201

Iowa  
City Iowa 52240  
State Zip

**List account number(s) here (optional)**  
**Requester's name and address (optional)**