

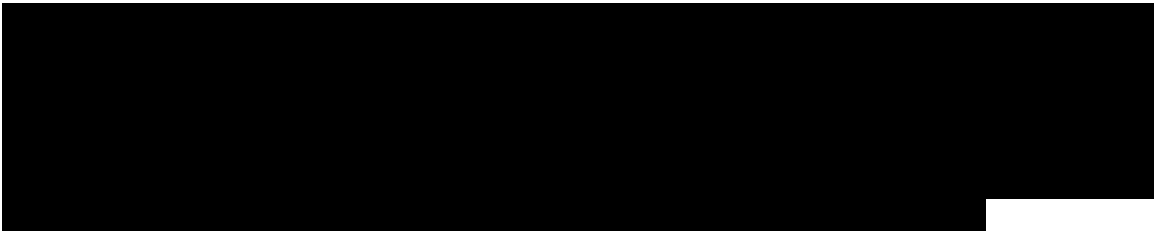
Eldridge Johnson Park – Cooper Library – Walt Whitman Arts Center (Block 64, Lot 48)

City of Camden, Camden County

Timeline and Funding Summary:

- In 1897, the City acquired Block 64, Lot 48 (DB221, PG180). Eldridge Johnson Park, including the Cooper Library, was constructed in several stages between 1916-1930. The Walt Whitman Cultural Arts Center was added to the Library in 1975.
- The City received GA funding as early as 1961, however the entire property (including the WWAC) wasn't listed on City's ROSI until 1983 (Project No. 0408-04-285).
- Located in Cooper Grant Historic District, the Library was listed on the State and National Historic Registers in 1979 and 1980, respectively.
- In 1986, the City transferred Block 64, Lot 48 to Rutgers (DB4143 PG707). While not stated in the deed, a 2010 newspaper article indicated that a 1985 ordinance authorizing the transfer had a condition that the building remain the WWCA center.
- In 2006, Green Acres assisted the County of Camden (Project No. 0400-05-086 for \$500,000 grant from GSPT funds) and Cooper's Ferry Development Association (Project No. 04-05-23 for \$400,000 grant from GSPT funds) with the rehabilitation of Johnson Park. The project included the restoration of water features, concrete walkways and a plaza as well as seating, lighting, plantings and improved ADA access to the Walt Whitman Cultural Arts Center (removing the ramp and creating a basement level terrace and elevator).
- There is no use agreement, lease or non-profit easement found in the files. A draft Temporary Construction and Access Easement between Rutgers and Cooper Ferry was found which allows for construction of the rehabilitation project. The Agreement states that Rutgers will maintain improvements for a minimum of 25 years. It does not appear that this agreement was executed.

Compliance Issues:

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- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

Next Steps:

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]