

January 9, 2020

Mary Hope Green U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ATTN: Regulatory Division 69A Hagood Avenue Charleston, SC 29403-5107

> Re: Misty Meadows Residential Development (SAC-2016-01087-REVISED) Berkeley County, South Carolina SHPO Project No. 19-KL0446

## Dear Mary Hope Green:

Thank you for the public notice of December 13, 2019 regarding the above-referenced proposed undertaking. The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is providing comments to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR 800. Consultation with the SHPO is not a substitution for consultation with Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, other Native American tribes, local governments, or the public.

The proposed undertaking is defined as the placement of fill material and excavation of 8.71 acres of freshwater wetlands and waters of the U.S. for construction of a residential development, associated infrastructures, utilities, and stormwater management features.

As noted in the public notice, our office knows of no documented historic properties that are eligible for listing or listed in the National Register of Historic Places within the proposed project area. The project area was previously surveyed for historic properties during the *Berkeley County Historical and Architectural Inventory* (D. Schneider and S. Fick 1989). The project area has not been previously surveyed for cultural resources.

The Corps has initially determined that no historic properties are present; therefore, there will be no effect on historic properties.

Our office needs the following documentation as described in 36 CFR 800.11(d) before providing our comments on this undertaking: (1) A description of the undertaking, specifying the Federal involvement, and its area of potential effects, including photographs, maps, drawings, as necessary;

(2) A description of the steps taken to identify historic properties, *including*, as appropriate, efforts to seek information pursuant to § 800.4(b); and (3) The basis for determining that no historic properties are present or affected.

Our office recommends that a cultural resources survey be conducted of the project area. We recommend the survey because the project area is in proximity to a National Historic Landmark (Mulberry Plantation House, SHPO Site No. 44), known archaeological sites and the historic location of the 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> c. Exeter Plantation. The project area also contains moderate to high probability areas in which there is a reasonable likelihood for the occurrence of prehistoric and/or historic cultural resources.

The purpose of the survey is to identify and evaluate historic properties, particularly archaeological sites, for eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The results of these investigations will be used to assess whether historic properties will be adversely affected by the proposed undertaking.

All fieldwork, analyses, and report writing shall be performed by, or under the supervision of, individuals who meet the Secretary of Interior's Professional Qualification Standards. Our office will accept a letter report of findings if the survey identifies no sites.

Information about Section 106 Review, Project Review Guidance, South Carolina and Federal standards and guidelines, and a list of qualified consultants can be found on our website from:

SHPO Review & Compliance -- <a href="https://scdah.sc.gov/historic-preservation/programs/review-compliance">https://scdah.sc.gov/historic-preservation/programs/review-compliance</a>
Project Professionals Lists -- <a href="https://scdah.sc.gov/historic-preservation/technical-assistance/publications/project-professionals-lists">https://scdah.sc.gov/historic-preservation/technical-assistance/publications/project-professionals-lists</a>

Please refer to SHPO Project Number 19-KL0446 in any future correspondence regarding this project. If you have any questions, please contact me at (803) 896-6181 or <a href="mailto:KSchroer@scdah.sc.gov">KSchroer@scdah.sc.gov</a>.

Sincerely,

Keely Lewis-Schroer Keely Lewis-Schroer

Archaeologist

State Historic Preservation Office