

December 22, 2023

Mr. David George
Heritage Consultants, LLC
830 Berlin Turnpike
Berlin, CT 06037
(sent only via email to dgeorge@heritage-consultants.com)

Subject: Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey
496 New London Road
Salem, Connecticut

Dear Mr. George:

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has reviewed the technical report titled *Phase IA Cultural Resources Assessment & Phase IB Cultural Resources Reconnaissance Survey of the Proposed Salem Landing Development Project at 496 New London Road in Salem, Connecticut* prepared by Heritage Consultants, LLC (Heritage), dated December 2023. The submitted technical report appears to meet the standards set forth in the *Environmental Review Primer for Connecticut's Archaeological Resources*. The fieldwork was completed at the request of this office in a letter dated September 19, 2023. Because the project will require a Stormwater Discharge permit issued by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection through the authority of the Environmental Protection Agency, it is subject to review by this office.

A cultural resources assessment survey completed by Heritage in October of 2023 failed to identify any National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in proximity to the project parcel. However, 12 previously reported archaeological sites within a mile of the project area. The report concluded that none of the previously identified cultural resources will be impacted by the proposed project. The cultural resources assessment survey included a pedestrian survey of the project parcel which identified three areas that retained moderate/high archaeological sensitivity totaling approximately 8.93 acres. The survey also noted the presence of a stone pile, 12 stonewall segments, a carriageway loop, and agricultural cart path. The report concluded that the historic landscape features were likely associated with the Elijah Ransom House, located on the opposite side of New London Road. Heritage determined that the carriageway loop feature is likely associated with the use of the Ransom House in the nineteenth century as a rest stop along New London Road while the remaining features relate to the agricultural history of the property. Heritage recommended the completion of an archaeological reconnaissance survey of the three identified sensitivity areas prior to construction.

During the subsequent reconnaissance survey, 131 of 150 planned shovel tests were excavated at 20-meter intervals along transects placed 15 meters apart throughout each sensitivity area. portions of the project area determined to retain archaeological sensitivity. The planned but

unexcavated shovel tests fell within areas containing steep slopes or previous disturbances. The effort resulted in the recovery of seven Precontact Period artifacts recovered from plowzone and B-Horizon contexts within six shovel tests. Recovered Precontact Period cultural material consisted of three pieces of calcined bone and four quartz flakes. In addition, the survey identified 36 Post-Contact Period artifacts recovered from the plowzone within 17 shovel tests. Heritage determined that the identified deposits lacked research potential and were not eligible for listing on the NRHP. As a result, no further archaeological investigation was recommended prior to construction. SHPO concurs with the results of the investigation and recommends the retention of historic stone wall segments to the greatest extent possible. Based on the information submitted to this office, it is the opinion of SHPO that no historic properties will be affected by the proposed development and no additional archaeological investigation is warranted.

This office appreciates the opportunity to review and comment upon this project. Comments are provided in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act. Do not hesitate to contact Cory Atkinson, Staff Archaeologist and Environmental Reviewer, for additional information at (860) 500-2458 or cory.atkinson@ct.gov.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Kinney
State Historic Preservation Officer

CC (via email): Stone, DEEP

