

Lauren Norris-Heflin

From: Jim and Bev Wiggins <jimerly@embarqmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 13:10
To: Lauren Norris-Heflin
Cc: CCHA; Kimberly Tyson; Jason Sullivan; Sydni Law; Susan Morrison
Subject: Re: Historical Association Review Request - Savannah Ridge, Moncure, NC

Lauren--

Thank you for including the letter from the property owner and my comments as part of the EIA for the county. It is disappointing that no on-site cultural resources investigation was completed, given the indications that this area was the likely location of an early Chatham County plantation. We hope that an on-site investigation will be completed before the project proceeds.

Thank you,
Beverly Wiggins
CCHA

From: "Lauren Norris-Heflin" <Lauren.Norris-Heflin@timmons.com>
To: "CCHA" <history@chathamhistory.org>
Cc: "Kimberly Tyson" <kimberly.tyson@chathamnc.org>, "jimerly" <jimerly@embarqmail.com>, "Jason Sullivan" <jason.sullivan@chathamnc.org>, "Sydni Law" <Sydni.Law@timmons.com>, "Susan Morrison" <Susan.Morrison@timmons.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 8:36:03 AM
Subject: RE: Historical Association Review Request - Savannah Ridge, Moncure, NC

Beverly,

Please find attached the updated document with the letter added as an attachment and referenced in the report.

If graves and/or human remains are discovered during construction, work will halt and SHPO and the County medical examiner will be contacted immediately.

The site inspection completed for the site was a general site inspection for the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), no formal on-site cultural resources investigation was completed. We will provide your comments and the updated report to SHPO and include it in the Chatham County EIA.

Best,

Lauren Norris-Heflin
Senior Environmental Scientist
Office: 919.866.4943 | Cell: 919.607.1723

From: history@chathamhistory.org <history@chathamhistory.org>
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 4:22 PM
To: Lauren Norris-Heflin <Lauren.Norris-Heflin@timmons.com>
Cc: kimberly.tyson@chathamnc.org; jimerly@embarqmail.com; jason.sullivan@chathamnc.org; Sydni Law

<Sydni.Law@timmons.com>; Susan Morrison <Susan.Morrison@timmons.com>

Subject: Re: Historical Association Review Request - Savannah Ridge, Moncure, NC

Good afternoon, Lauren--

Thank you for the additional information. Would it be possible to include Ms. Harrington's letter and a statement indicating that there was a site inspection to look for evidence of graves in your report and for these to be made a part of the official documentation on the development? Details regarding the procedure and specific area examined during the site inspection would be helpful. We understand that the cemetery might not be located on the parcel being developed. However, if any evidence of graves is found during surveying or site preparation, we would request that the Chatham County Historical Association and Chatham County Planning Office be notified immediately and all work that could impact the site be discontinued until measures to protect the site can be put into place.

If the site inspection also examined the tract for evidence of structural ruins, old roads, wells, etc., please also include a statement to that effect in your report, for the record, and note any that should be brought to our attention. Again, a brief procedure statement--to indicate the extent of the investigation--would be helpful to have in the report. We look forward to following up on any resources that are identified.

Thank you,

Beverly Wiggins

Chatham County Historical Association

On 2020-08-11 14:02, Lauren Norris-Heflin wrote:

Good afternoon Beverly, thank you for your comments.

We consulted with the property owner, Brenda Harrington, who is a descendant of the Minter family. Ms. Harrington provided the attached letter verifying that she is not aware of any graves or cemeteries on the property. Additionally, during the site inspection no evidence of graves or a cemetery were observed.

Best,

Lauren Norris-Heflin

Senior Environmental Scientist

Office: 919.866.4943 | Cell: 919.607.1723

From: history@chathamhistory.org <history@chathamhistory.org>

Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 3:10 PM

To: Sydni Law <Sydni.Law@timmons.com>; Jay Sander <Jay.Sander@timmons.com>; Lauren Norris-Heflin <Lauren.Norris-Heflin@timmons.com>; Susan Morrison <Susan.Morrison@timmons.com>

Cc: kimberly.tyson@chathamnc.org; jimerly@embarqmail.com; jason.sullivan@chathamnc.org

Subject: Re: Historical Association Review Request - Savannah Ridge, Moncure, NC

I have reviewed the cultural resources report for the proposed Savannah Ridge subdivision and have several questions. We forwarded our concerns to the County Planning staff on 17 March 2020, for review at the TRC meeting, noting that location of the Minter cemetery should be an explicit part of any cultural resources inquiry. The cultural resources report does not indicate that any investigation was undertaken to determine whether the Minter cemetery is located on the property.

Local residents say that the old Minter homestead may have been located on parcel 11371. The project plan suggests that that parcel is included in the proposed project area. Is that correct? Has that parcel and surrounding area been examined for structural remains--old house sites, roads, wells? It is reasonable that the cemetery would have been in some proximity to the house site, so it would be prudent to have parcel 11371 and the area around it examined by someone with expertise before any disturbance. Old roads might also suggest areas to examine. House locations might be suggested by the 1933 soil map for the county. The report does not indicate that the 1933 map was consulted.

In short, we believe there may well be a very early cemetery on or near parcel 11371, per the will of Joseph Minter dated 25 September 1822, (Will Book B-108), which refers to "the graveyard where my father and mother's buried with others of the family, which is one eighth of an acre." [Joseph's father and mother were John O. and Elizabeth Morgan Minter.] Deed dated 4 November 1828, by John Farrar, Executor of Joseph Minter, deceased, to Charles J. Williams, gives the metes and bounds of 1,005 acres on the north side of Deep River "with the exception of the grave yard which occupies and is limited to one quarter of an acre," (Deed Book AB-401). Deed dated 31 December 1839, from Charles J. Williams to John A. Williams, gives the metes and bounds of 800 acres on the north side of Deep River "with the exception of the grave yard which occupies and is limited to one quarter of an acre," (Deed Book AE-464). I have spoken to one local resident who, as a child in the 1980s, visited the cemetery site, which he believes was on the property in question, though he cannot specify a location.

The Minters were very early settlers in that part of the county--owning vast tracts. As you know, gravesites of that age are likely to be marked only by fieldstones and be so overgrown that they are difficult to locate. The notation of the cemetery in several deeds, and reports of its existence as late as the mid 1900s suggests that a robust effort to locate it should be undertaken before any land disturbance. We would like to see the cultural resources report revised to reflect a serious effort to locate the cemetery so that it can be avoided during development activities.

In addition to the cemetery, if on-the-ground investigation identifies old house sites, wells, roads, or other evidence of human habitation older than 50 years, we request that these be mapped (or GPS coordinates recorded) and photographed. We also request an opportunity to visit such sites to evaluate and document them before they are destroyed.

Thank you,

Beverly Wiggins

Chatham County Historical Association

On 2020-08-10 11:32, Sydni Law wrote:

Good morning,

I am reaching out for a review request to satisfy the Chatham County Subdivision Ordinance requirements for First Plat submission. Please find attached the cultural resources report for the proposed Savannah Ridge subdivision located at 1021 Moncure School Road in Moncure, Chatham County, NC.

Please reach out to me at 252.414.6167 or sydni.law@timmons.com if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Thank you!

Best,

Sydni Law

Environmental Technician

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Your Vision Achieved Through Ours

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Jim and Beverly Wiggins
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