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Hi Mr. Garrett,

I'd like to echo the remarks made by Sy Robbins of the CCHS regarding the likely occurrences of historic artifacts on the property being developed for the Ridgecrest neighborhood. I share my email to him, below.

One example is the remains of a half-timber, hand-hewn plank bridge that was part of the approach to the original plantation. Sixteen feet long, possibly of chestnut, they are of historic interest. There are several sites that would be worth examination.

Thank you for bearing in mind the long history of the property as one of the first houses in Chatham County, with attendant land features, structural remains, and use patterns that might be preserved by careful planning.

Adrienne Berg

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From: **Adrienne Berg** <adrienneleefosterberg@gmail.com>

Date: Sun, Dec 5, 2021 at 11:12 AM

Subject: Gattis-Berg homesite development

Dear Mr. Robbins,

I'm reviewing documents ahead of the 12/7 Chatham County Planning Board meeting regarding the proposed Ridgecrest development, and I thought I'd share with you that there are some features of historical significance on the property that the Historical Society might wish to be aware of.

You may have noticed from the plat maps that there is a parcel and house site in the middle of the Ridgecrest plan. This is the last five acres of the extensive and very early Belle Voir Plantation, home to the Burnette-Baldwin-Gattis family since the 1780 land grant to John Farrington. My husband's family purchased the house in the 1970s when the Gattis family sold the fifty or so acres that still remained to them. The buyer of the land did not want the house; the line you see on the plat map was drawn around it for separate sale.

The land owned by Albert Bechtoldt surrounds the house we live in, and has been available to us to explore. We have identified several interesting features, like an old road bed that was the original road in front of the house and ran to Pace's Mill, the remains of two bridges, stone foundations for several buildings, innumerable artifacts like buckles, plow blades, pottery and china shards, and more.

I write to bring this to the attention of the Historical Society, as the planned development will likely destroy these historical vestiges. I'm not aware of any burial sites or wells, but I can certainly confirm your statement that there is a "higher-than-normal probability that artifacts of historical interest...may be located on the site."

If you have any thoughts from the CCHA perspective on our corner of Chatham, I'd love to hear. We're keenly interested in the historic nature of our home and neighborhood, and are disappointed to see the proposed plat for the Ridgecrest development disregard the historic landscape.

Thanks for listening,
Adrienne Berg

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