

December 15, 2023

Katie Millard, Director of Development and Advocacy
Sussex County Habitat for Humanity
P.O. Box 759
Georgetown, DE 19947

**RE: HUD/Sussex County Habitat for Humanity (SCHFH)- Phase I Archaeological Investigation
Habitat for Humanity Project in Laurel and Seaford, Sussex County, Delaware
SHPO Project Review #2023.08.22.03**

Dear Ms. Millard,

This Office is in receipt of the draft report Phase I Archaeological Investigation Habitat for Humanity Project in Laurel and Seaford, Sussex County, Delaware (December 2023), received on December 5th. The report provides a review of the fieldwork undertaken at 635 Center Street Lot A, Laurel, Sussex County, DE. The proposed work includes the construction of family homes within these parcels. As federal funds are being proposed for this undertaking, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is responsible for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1960 (as amended).

Field work consisted of the excavation of standard shovel test pits every 15m in a grid fashion. In total, six (6) STPs were placed throughout the APE. Soils ranged from a partially intact A and B horizon overlying a buried Ap and B horizon in some areas of the APE, and a fill layer overlying an Ap and subsurface across the majority of the APE. While artifacts were recovered from the upper fill layers, the report concludes that these artifacts are late 20th century refuse, and therefore not representative of an archaeological site. No artifacts were uncovered from the buried Ap and B horizon. The archaeological investigation did not encounter any archaeological features.

As a result of the fieldwork undertaken, the consultant and applicant have determined that the project will have no effect on cultural resources, and that further archaeological study will not be required. The DE SHPO concurs that the proposed project will have No Effect to Historic Properties, as described.

If you have any questions concerning our request for additional information, please feel free to contact me at (302)-736-7437 or at luke.pickrahn@delaware.gov.

Sincerely,



Luke Pickrahn, Archaeologist

Cultural Preservation Specialist

ec: Gwen Davis, SHPO
Carlton Hall, SHPO
Kim Morton, SCHFH