



Department of Economic and  
Community Development

State Historic Preservation Office

November 18, 2021

Mr. David R. George  
Heritage Consultants  
PO Box 310249  
Newington, CT 06131

Subject: Phase IA and Phase IB Cultural Resource Reconnaissance Survey  
Avery Park Revitalization, Phase II  
55 Woodland Springs Drive  
Stafford, Connecticut  
ENV-22-0373

Dear Mr. George:

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has reviewed the cultural resource reconnaissance surveys prepared by Heritage Consultants, LLC (Heritage), dated June 2021. The proposed activities are anticipated to receive funding from the Connecticut Department of Housing (DOH) and therefore subject to review by this office pursuant to the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA). The proposed undertaking includes the construction of 79 senior housing units, which is to occupy an approximately 7 acre project area within a larger parcel, located at 55 Woodland Springs Drive. The submitted report is well-written, comprehensive, and meet the standards set forth in the *Environmental Review Primer for Connecticut's Archaeological Resources*.

Six previously recorded archaeological sites are located within 1 mile of the project area; however, none will be impacted by the proposed project. No properties listed or formally determined eligible for listing on either the State or National Register are located within one mile of the project area. Following a pedestrian survey, it was determined that the majority of the project area was characterized as having low slopes, well-drained soils, and proximity to a fresh water source, Middle River, and therefore, retained a moderate to high potential to contain intact archaeological deposits. A Phase IB reconnaissance survey was recommended and completed.

Phase IB of the reconnaissance survey consisted of subsurface testing of areas deemed to have moderate to high archaeological sensitivity during Phase IA, and that would be subject to ground disturbing impacts as part of the proposed undertaking. A total of 160 of 167 planned shovel

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tests were excavated successfully throughout the proposed work area; seven unexcavated shovel tests fell within areas of steep slopes/boulders along the eastern edge of the project area. The reconnaissance survey did not identify any buried prehistoric or historic period artifacts or cultural features. Three areas indicative of late 19<sup>th</sup> early 20<sup>th</sup> century quarrying were observed, including a moderate-size quarrying pit, located in the eastern portion of the project area; however, all three locations are limited in size, cannot be assigned to a particular time period, person, or company, and are therefore not eligible for listing on either the State or National Register.

As a result of the information submitted, SHPO concurs with the findings of the report that additional archeological investigations of the project areas are not warranted and that no historic properties will be affected by the proposed activities. However, please be advised that if construction plans change to include previously uninvestigated/undisturbed areas, this office should be contacted for additional consultation.

This office appreciates the opportunity to review and comment upon this project. For additional information, please contact Marena Wisniewski, Environmental Reviewer, at (860) 500-2357 or [marena.wisniewski@ct.gov](mailto:marena.wisniewski@ct.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jonathan Kinney".

Jonathan Kinney  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

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