



**North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
State Historic Preservation Office**

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Governor Roy Cooper

Secretary D. Reid Wilson

July 1, 2021

Stewart Gray
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission
2100 Randolph Rd.
Charlotte, NC 28207-1522

RE: Proposed Designation of Stafford-Holcombe Farm, Plaza Road Extension, Charlotte, Mecklenburg County.

Dear Mr. Gray:

Thank you for submitting the report for **Stafford-Holcombe Farm, Plaza Road Extension, Charlotte, Mecklenburg County**. We have reviewed the information in the report and offer the following comments in accordance with North Carolina General Statute 160D-946 (formerly 160A-400.6).

According to the report, the Stafford-Holcombe Farm possesses the special significance required for local designation because of its agricultural functions and its retention of the farmhouse and a number of outbuildings.

While no archaeological sites have been recorded at this location, given the documented enslaved quarters and tenant house remains noted in the Local Designation report, it is apparent that archaeological features are present. Furthermore, considering the history of the property, other archaeological remain may be present. We concur with the included statement of archaeological potential and urge caution during any future ground disturbing activities. We recommend that the landowners register the site with the Office of State Archaeology, using the voluntary Citizen Science Reporting form, which can be found here: <https://archaeology.ncdcr.gov/get-involved/citizen-archaeologist-form-v2/download?attachment>. More information about registering a site can be found here: <https://archaeology.ncdcr.gov/get-involved/citizen-arch-guidance>.

The report was thorough and complete. It makes a good argument that the house retains the historic features necessary to communicate its significance, in spite of the application of brick veneer. The report also successfully argues that the remaining outbuildings, particularly the two log outbuildings, are significant as good examples of their type and use in Mecklenburg County that retain architectural integrity. We do not have recommendations for additional strengthening for the report, and we believe the

report provides the information that the commission and the local governing body will need to make an informed judgement regarding the farm's worthiness for local designation.

Local landmark designation means the community recognizes the property is worthy of preservation because of its special significance to the local community. Any substantial changes in design, materials, and appearance of the property would be subject to the design review procedures of the preservation commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the report. Please note, our comments are advisory only and therefore, non-binding. Once the governing board has received a recommendation from the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission, it should proceed in the same manner as would otherwise be required for an amendment to the zoning ordinance. Once the decision has been made, please return a completed copy of the enclosed designation form to our office.

This letter serves as our comments on the proposed designation of the Stafford-Holcombe Farm, Plaza Road Extension, Charlotte, Mecklenburg County.

Please contact me at or Kristi.brantley@ncdcr.gov (preferred) or 919-814-6576 should you have any questions about our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristi Brantley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Kristi Brantley
Local Preservation Commissions/CLG Coordinator

CC: Commission Chair

Enclosure