



May 28, 2021

Jeremy Eddy
Division of Mining & Solid Waste Management
S.C. Dept. of Health & Environmental Control
eddyje@dhec.sc.gov

Re: Fairfield I-77 Development Site (Luckstone Quarry)
Fairfield County, South Carolina
SHPO Project No. 21-EJ0118 Mine Permit: P I-002329

Dear Jeremy Eddy:

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has reviewed the permit application referenced above for possible adverse effects to significant cultural and historic sites pursuant to the South Carolina Mining Act (SC Code Title 48, Chapter 20, Sections 10-310) and its implementing regulations found at Chapter 89-120(C)(4) of the SC Code of Regulations. Our Office has also reviewed the copies of public comments for the proposed Luckstone Quarry that you provided that mentioned historic and cultural resources.

Our office previously reviewed the draft *Cultural Resources Reconnaissance Survey Fairfield I-77 Development Site, Fairfield County, South Carolina*. The cultural resources reconnaissance work was carried out in anticipation of review pursuant to the SC Mining Act and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act by the US Army Corps of Engineers.

During the reconnaissance survey, five archaeological sites were recorded (38FA0666 – 38FA0659) and recommended as not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Five architectural resources (SHPO Site Nos. 0108 – 0112) were recorded and recommended as not eligible for the NRHP. One cemetery, the Old Homer Baptist Church Cemetery (0113/38FA0670) was recorded and recommended as not eligible for the NRHP. However, cemeteries are protected by state laws, regardless of NRHP status. Based on the information provided in the report, our office concurred with the recommendations that the resources do not meet the criteria for listing in the NRHP.

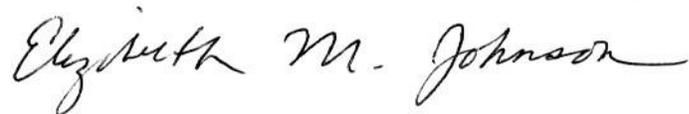
Based on the information presented in the draft report, our office previously stated that additional cultural resources/historic property identification survey of the project area, as currently proposed, was not needed. However, given the comments by the public regarding cultural resources, including the potential for additional resources that were not previously identified, we ask that additional intensive survey be conducted, and that archaeological site 38FA0667 receive

closer interval testing. For example, one commenter noted “I am aware of significant archaeological features which were not noted in the archaeological survey performed in a short span of 2 or 3 field days...I would like to request a more thorough cultural resource study and plan.” Other commenters noted the potential for remnants of a grist mill.

We also ask that the effects of the mining operations on historic structures and properties in the vicinity of the mine be evaluated. These include but are not limited to: Homer Baptist Church Cemetery (0113/38FA0670), Mount Harmah cemetery (mentioned in the public comments), and Vaughn’s Stage Coach Stop (listed in the National Register of Historic Places).

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. Please refer to SHPO Project Number 21-EJ0118 in any future correspondence regarding this project. If you have any questions, please contact me at (803) 896-6168 or at ejohnson@scdah.sc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth M. Johnson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Elizabeth M. Johnson
Director, Historical Services, D-SHPO
State Historic Preservation Office

Cc: K. Nagle, S&ME