



South Carolina
Department of Transportation

March 28, 2019

Mr. Joseph E. Wilkinson
Review Coordinator for Transportation Projects
State Historic Preservation Office
SC Department of Archives & History
8301 Parklane Road
Columbia, SC 29223

RE: Phase I Cultural Resources Survey for S-61 (Old Post Road)/S-81(Hyatt Street) and S-61 (Old Post Road)/SC 11 (Chesnee Highway) Intersection Improvements, Cherokee County, South Carolina.

Dear Mr. Wilkinson:

Please find attached a copy of the above-referenced report that describes cultural resources investigations conducted for improvements to the intersections of S-61 (Old Post Road) and S-81 (Hyatt Street) and S-61 (Old Post Road) and SC 11 (Chesnee Highway) in **Cherokee County**, South Carolina.

The proposed improvements to the S-61 (Old Post Road) and S-81 (Hyatt Street) intersection include signalization of the intersection, reconfiguration of the intersection to allow for through movement of traffic traveling to and from I-85 along S-81, construction of a right turn lane on eastbound S-61, and construction of a left turn lane on northbound S-81. The proposed improvements to the S-61 (Old Post Road) and SC 11 (Chesnee Highway) intersection include signalization of the intersection, access management modifications, construction of a right turn lane on eastbound SC 11, and construction of left turn lanes on all four legs of the intersection. New right of way will be required to complete these improvements.

Two separate study areas were investigated for the cultural resources investigation. The study area for the S-61/S-81 intersection runs approximately 270 meters along S-81 and 330 meters along S-61. Approximately 460 meters of new right-of-way (ROW) is proposed to be acquired for rerouting S-61 and S-81 at this intersection. The study area for the S-61/SC 11 intersection runs approximately 520 meters along S-61 and 520 meters along SC 11. The area of potential effect (APE) for archaeological resources for both intersections consists of land that will be acquired as new right-of-way (ROW) as well as those areas within the existing ROW that might be affected by the undertaking. The APE for architectural resources consists of a 300 foot buffer around the archaeological APE.

The archaeological survey resulted in the discovery of two new sites, 38CK202 and 38CK203. Both of these resources are badly disturbed twentieth century domestic sites that include scatters of architectural debris, cement lined wells, and remnant ornamental vegetation. Site 38CK202 was assessed as **not eligible** for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Site 38CK203 is located just outside of the limits of the project area and should not be impacted by the current undertaking.



Two new aboveground resources were identified during the cultural resources survey, sites 0273 and 0274. Site 0273 is a circa 1880 house. Site 0274 is a heavily altered circa 1960 commercial structure. Both of these resources were assessed as **not eligible** for inclusion in the NRHP.

Based on the results of the background research and field investigations, the Department has determined that **no historic properties will be affected** by the proposed undertaking.

Per the terms of the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement executed on October 6, 2017, the Department is providing this information on behalf of the Federal Highway Administration. It is requested that you review the enclosed material, and, if appropriate, indicate your concurrence in the Department's findings. Please respond within 30 days if you have any objections or if you have need of additional information.

Sincerely,


Tracy Martin
Archaeologist

TAM:tam

I ~~(do not)~~ concur in the above determination.

Signed: Joseph E. W. Alkinson Date: 4/3/19

ec: Shane Belcher, FHWA
Russell Townsend, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Stephen J. Yerka, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Elizabeth Toombs, Cherokee Nation
LeeAnne Wendt, Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Erin Thompson, United Keetoowah
Charlotte Wolfe, United Keetoowah

cc: Wenonah G. Haire, Catawba Nation
Keith Derting, SCIAA

File: ENV/TAM