



South Carolina
Department of Transportation

August 16, 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: Historic Property Identification Survey for the Gilkey Creek Tract, Cherokee County, South Carolina.

Dear Mr. Wilkinson:

Please find attached the above-referenced report that details the results of a Historic Property Identification Survey conducted on a portion of the Gilkey Tract, in **Cherokee County**, South Carolina. The survey was conducted at the request of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History (SHPO) in consultation with the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT), in support of SCDOT's purchase of conservation easements and funding of stream rehabilitation work on the Gilkey Tract. These measures are designed to satisfy compensatory mitigation requirements associated with the widening of I-85 from mile marker 98 to mile marker 106 in Cherokee County, S.C. The Historic Property Identification survey was conducted to identify and evaluate the eligibility, or potential eligibility, of historic properties for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

The survey resulted in the documentation of a historic cemetery (site # 0270), two historic structures (sites # 0271 and 0278), and a capped well feature (archaeological site # 38CK204).

The historic cemetery (site # 0270) is associated with the historically prominent Jefferies family, many of whose members are buried there. The cemetery also likely includes the interments of slaves or servants affiliated with this family. Both marked and unmarked graves are present. The cemetery is recommended **eligible** for the NRHP under Criteria A, C, and D.

The first of the two historic structures, site # 0271, is an abandoned wood frame dwelling believed to date to the second half of the nineteenth century. Due to condition issues and alterations the building is recommended **not eligible** for the NRHP.

The second of the two historic structures, site # 0272, is also an abandoned wood frame dwelling. The age of the structure is unclear due to possible rebuilding episodes but it appears to date to nineteenth or early twentieth century. Due to condition issues and alterations the building is recommended **not eligible** for the NRHP.

Archaeological site 38CK204 consists of an approximately 18 inch diameter terra cotta pipe protruding from the ground, covered with an iron lid. The feature is interpreted as a capped well. Based on historical aerial photos the feature appears to have been associated with a no-longer-extant structure. Testing to define the boundaries of and identify subsurface components of



site 38CK204 was not conducted. Therefore the NRHP eligibility of the site is considered **unevaluated**.

The Historic Property Survey did not include an archaeological assessment; however, as the tract has the potential for archaeological resources, in lieu of an archaeological survey language was included in the easement covering the land on which the identified resources are located stipulating that SHPO must be consulted prior to any ground disturbing activities that may occur on these lands in the future.

Based on current plans, no direct or indirect effect to the resources documented in the Historic Property Identification Survey is anticipated. Therefore, the Department has determined that **no currently identified historic properties will be adversely 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,



Bill Jurgelski
Archaeologist

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

Signed: Joseph E. Wilkinson Date: 8/16/19

cc: 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
Karen Pritchett, United Keetoowah
Charlotte Wolfe, United Keetoowah

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