



HPO Project # 14-3822-1
HPO-H2014-076

State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

NATURAL & HISTORIC RESOURCES

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Theresa A. Albanese
Professional Wetland Scientist
Gannett Fleming
2189 Silas Deane Highway, Suite 17
Rocky Hill, CT 06067

August 6, 2014

Dear Ms. Albanese,

As Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer for New Jersey, in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800: Protection of Historic Properties, as published in the *Federal Register* on December 12, 2000 (65 FR 77725-77739) and amended on July 6, 2004 (69 FR 40544-40555), I am providing continuing Consultation Comments for the following proposed undertaking:

**Ocean County, South Toms River Borough
Borough of South Toms River
Route 166 between Admiral Avenue and Herflicker Boulevard
Neighborhood Community Revitalization Grant (NCR39437)
New Jersey Department of Community Affairs
United States Department of Housing and Urban Development**

800.4 Identification of Historic Properties

Thank you for your submission to the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office (HPO) regarding the streetscape improvement project located on Route 166 between Admiral Avenue and Herflicker Road in South Toms River Borough, Ocean County, New Jersey. The application states that streetscape improvements shall include the installation of curb, sidewalk, aprons, decorative lighting, and street trees. The final plans submitted with the application only describe improvements at Mathis Park to the east of Route 166. However, the NCR application identifies the Area of Potential Effects (APE) as a half mile stretch along Route 166. Additionally, the Concept Plan for South Toms River Street Scape states that a portion of the APE will involve grading, but the maps do not indicate what areas will be graded and where staging areas will be. Therefore, it is unclear from the application what areas will be impacted as a result of this project beyond improvements to Mathis Park.

Preliminary research completed by HPO staff identified 28-Oct-18, a large Native American archaeological site, less than 100' to the west of the APE. There are also three additional Native American archaeological sites within 1000' of the APE. The APE as well as these archaeological sites are within 500' of Toms River and located in a historic upland setting adjacent to freshwater wetlands. Well-drained terraced areas adjacent to waterways and/or wetland complexes are consistent with current archaeological models for locations containing Native American archaeological deposits. Current models

for archaeological site sensitivity in New Jersey are available at our webpage at: http://www.nj.gov/dep/hpo/1identify/arkeo_res.htm. Additionally, there are two historic archaeological sites within 400' of the APE. The application identified Toms River Train Station, which is located directly north of the APE. The application states that the station would not be impacted by project construction. The second archaeological site was identified during a survey approximately 350' north of the APE that may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

In consequence, despite urban development within the APE, there is still moderate to high potential for intact archaeological deposits to be adversely effected by the streetscape improvement project. Therefore, the APE and parcels immediately surrounding the APE contain high potential for identifying Native American and historic period archaeological resources.

800.5 Assessment of Adverse Effects

The application states that project activities will involve a minimum amount of ground disturbance within the APE, however, detailed plans and a defined APE are not yet available for review. Although there are no previously identified historic properties located within the undertaking's APE, the APE possesses a high potential for Native American and historic-period archaeological historic properties. *Therefore, the HPO concurs with finding of No Historic Properties Affected (NE) provided that all ground disturbing activities stay within impervious surfaces, including the use of heavy equipment and staging areas. Consequently, no further consultation is required unless additional resources are discovered during project implementation, pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.13.*

Additional Comments

Thank you for providing this opportunity to review and comment on this proposed project. If additional consultation with the HPO is needed for this undertaking, please reference the HPO project number 14-3822 in any future calls, emails, submissions or written correspondence to help expedite your review and response. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Kristin Swanton of my staff with questions regarding archaeology at (609-292-0061).

Sincerely,



Daniel D. Saunders
Deputy State Historic
Preservation Officer

Cc. Donna Mahon, NJ DEP
Stephen Grady, NJ DCA

DS/KM/ks

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