



# Dutton + Associates

CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY, PLANNING, AND MANAGEMENT

April 26, 2022

Samantha Henderson  
Division of Review and Compliance  
Department of Historic Resources  
2801 Kensington Avenue  
Richmond, VA 23221

RE: Site 44HN0326 Completion of Fieldwork Comments Response  
NAO 2012-02369  
DHR 2019-0791

Dear Ms. Henderson,

Thank you for your comments regarding the completion of fieldwork memorandum for Site 44HN0326. This letter is in response to your request for more information on the two well features that were not excavated during the Phase III Data Recovery.

According to Gray and Pape's 2000 Phase II report, two wells were identified during their excavations. Well #1 was mapped as being located northeast of the tavern, just south of Ashcake Road, and Well #2 was described as being about 9.1 meters (30 feet) southwest of the main tavern building. Although the Gray and Pape report does state that Well #2 was machine excavated to a depth of 2.4 meters (eight feet), no other information about that excavation was provided, and it was unclear if the feature had been bisected or completely excavated. Likewise, no information was provided about whether or not Well #1 was excavated. Therefore, the research design for the Phase III data incorporated a plan for both of these wells to be bisected and machine excavated if appropriate.

During the current Phase III data recovery excavations, Well #2 was identified in the area of the site where it was predicted based upon the Gray and Pape report. However, after cleaning and defining the feature, it became clear that Well #2 had been completely machine excavated, and no intact stratigraphy (horizontal or vertical) remained. The former well was identified as a roughly square area of very soft loam full of brick fragments and pieces of plastic tarp, with no other artifacts.

The location of Well #1 was identified in an overgrown area with an early-twentieth century bottle dump along Ashcake Road. This feature was not excavated because it lies within the required 22.8-meter (75-foot) vegetation buffer that is to be maintained, and it will be preserved

in place. Additionally, Well #1 lies within delineated jurisdictional wetlands that were not included in the approved impacts under the Corps' permit for the project.

Following approval of the completion of fieldwork, those excavated portions of the site that lie within the vegetation buffer will be intentionally backfilled and preserved in place within the buffer. Intentional backfilling will entail covering all exposed masonry features that lie within the vegetative buffer with geotextile fabric, packing the foundation with a layer of clean sand, and backfilling to grade with clean fill dirt.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 804-897-1960 or at [Jhsmith@dutton-associates.com](mailto:Jhsmith@dutton-associates.com). We look forward to your approval of the completion of fieldwork.

Sincerely,

DUTTON + ASSOCIATES, LLC

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J Hope Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

J. Hope Smith, PhD, RPA  
Principal Investigator