



Pine Hill Indian Tribe

The First People of Fort Jackson, South Carolina

February 28, 2022

Elizabeth M. Johnson
Director, Historical Services, D-SHPO
State Historic Preservation Office
SC Department of Archives & History
8301 Parklane Road
Columbia, SC 29223

Re: Cultural Resources Survey of the Westinghouse Electric Company's Columbia Fuel Fabrication Facility created by Brockington & Associates, Inc.

Dear Ms. Johnson,

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Cultural Resources Survey of the Westinghouse Electric Company's Columbia Fuel Fabrication Facility created by Brockington & Associates, Inc. (February 2022) under the direction of Principal Investigator, Eric C. Poplin, Ph.D. We intend that our response to the Brockington & Associates report sheds light on our position regarding the report, created to support the pending 40-year permit request by Westinghouse Fuel Fabrication Facility ("Westinghouse") located in Hopkins, South Carolina to the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Our review and response work falls under the purpose of

Pine Hill Indian Tribe's State Recognized tribal organization Pine Hill Indian Community Development Initiative ("PHICDI") and its affiliate organizations.

We request that it is noted that neither Westinghouse nor Brockington & Associates contacted our Tribe regarding the NRC permit request, any environmental justice issues surrounding the Westinghouse permit request, nor any cultural investigation to create opinions in any part or portion of the Cultural Resources Survey report in historical or any other context. We disagree with portions of Brockington & Associates account of historical context of the area, and we disagree entirely with Brockington & Associates determination that the area of Westinghouse is not eligible for National Registry of Historic Places.

Brockington & Associates opined in summary within the Abstract of their report, in page iii, that:

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“During the survey, five archaeological sites (38RD1512-38RD1516), three farm-related sites (a cattle facility- SHPO Site No. 8120, a Butler building - SHPO Site No. 8690, and a former tractor shed - SHPO Site No. 8691), the Denley Cemetery (SHPO Site No. 8119/38RD1518), and the CFFF facility (SHPO Site No. 8689) were recorded. Additionally, an unnamed canal and dike (SHPO Site No. 3577) was re-assessed. Brockington recommends 38RD1512-38RD1516, SHPO Site No. 8119 /38RD1518 (Denley Cemetery), and SHPO Site Nos. 3577, 8120, and 8689-8691 not eligible for the NRHP. With the exception of the Denley Cemetery (SHPO Site No. 8119 /38RD1518), these resources warrant no further management consideration.”

We respectfully disagree. We believe the area does warrant protection and further management consideration. As explained by Brockington & Associates within the report, the criteria for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) are:

- A. is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of history;
- B. is associated with the lives of persons significant in the past;
- C. embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, possesses high artistic value, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important to history or prehistory may be eligible for the NRHP.

Please accept our rebuttal to the opinion of Brockington & Associates as published in their report, based on the NRHP criterion, as follows:

A. is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of history.

Brockington & Associates paint with a very wide brush, in simple strokes, a snapshot of the establishment and growth of an infant colony into a State we know today as South Carolina. While the intent seems to be to provide a history relevant to Columbia, Richland County and/or Camden/Kershaw Districts, very little is unveiled. However, the Journals of the Commissioners of the Indian Trade, as well as Calendar of State Papers journals, portrays significant importance on this area relating to Indian trade. Without Indian trade, and Native American slavery, the South Carolina colony would not have developed the history held in colonial records that we reflect on today.

For example, the Lady of Cofitachequi is almost celebrated as a legend comparable to that of Pocahontas. Further, it is in this location where historical records indicate activity of Indian Trader, Capt. Richard Parris:

“Capt. Pearis is found in the Roster of Patriots, having set up a meeting with the six Cherokee headmen in Amelia Township, at the Congarees, with Henry William Drayton, leader of the Secret Commission, to discuss the “Quarrel with the Great King.”^{1,2,3} The meeting was on September 25, 1775.⁴

B. is associated with the lives of persons significant in the past.

Several historical figures come to mind that meet this criterion:

1. Cofitachequi is historically significant in all accounts. As Brockington & Associates explained,

“Cofitachequi is an excellent example of Mississippian social organization present throughout southeastern North America during the late PreContact era (Anderson 1985).” (Id., pg. 25)

We know Dr. Henry Woodward wrote to the Earl of Shaftesbury about Cofitachequi, to which Shaftesbury created a code to discuss discovery of gold and riches. Moreover, is it this route James Moore and his sons assumed to conduct Indian trade as well as travel for purposes such as the Tuscarora War in North Carolina.

2. It is in this location where historical records indicate activity of Indian Trader, Capt. Richard Parris:

“Capt. Pearis is found in the Roster of Patriots, having set up a meeting with the six Cherokee headmen in Amelia Township, at the Congarees, with Henry William Drayton, leader of the Secret

¹ Moss, Bobby Gilmer. *Roster of South Carolina Patriots in the American Revolution*. Baltimore, MD, USA: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1994.

² Krawczynski, Keith T. *William Henry Drayton: South Carolina Revolutionary Patriot*. Louisiana State University Press. 2001. p, 178

³ Whitmire, Beverly T. “Richard Pearis, Bold Pioneer,” *Proceedings and Papers of the Greenville County Historical Society* (1962-1964): 75-85

⁴ “Talk from the Hon. William Henry Drayton.” American Archives: Documents of the American Revolutionary Period, 1774-1776. Southern Illinois University. Retrieved from <http://amarch.lib.niu.edu/islandora/object/niu-amarch%3A98187>

Commission, to discuss the “Quarrel with the Great King.”^{5, 6, 7} The meeting was on September 25, 1775.⁸

3. Green Hill Mound. Brockington & Associates explain that

“Green Hill Mound contains burial urns, shell gorgets, a shell cup, and numerous other artifacts that have been routinely excavated and exposed for over 100 years (Steen 2018:59). The mound has been damaged by flooding and sand mining for road fill that has unearthed the burials. Researchers suggest the mound could yield further information regarding late Mississippian burial practice and ritual in the Congaree River valley (Michie 1980:59).” (Id., pg. 25)

We believe Green Hill Mound is sacred and does hold imperative information our Tribe relies on to understand our own history.

4. The first Fort Congaree was near the area. To the best of our knowledge, the exact location of the original Fort Congaree remains unknown but colonial records within the Journals of the Commissioners for Indian Trade explain that Fort Congaree resulted from an independent agreement between our tribal leadership and James Moore assumed by the Commissioners. Capt. Charles Russell was sent to manage Fort Congaree, marrying Mary Sterling. Mary is daughter of George Sterling, original owner of the locally popular “Sterling Land Grant”. The Sterling property remains a well-known Indian trading location from which even today Native American artifacts are unearthed on a regular basis by whom we are informed and believe to be current property owners/guardians. Col. Russell died leaving his widow with several children. Mary’s effort to secure ownership of the land around her for her children led to her legacy in the area. Her children would go on to be recognized today by areas such as McCord’s Ferry for which McCord’s Ferry Road is named.
5. South Carolina Governor Wade Hampton had a successful plantation in the area.
6. It is significant that the Denley Estate, on which Westinghouse is located, endured over twenty (20) years of probate litigation spurring several civil lawsuits, an Executor appointed by the Probate Court, fueled family feuds, and that the ultimate and obvious intent for the entirety of the Denley Estate to be left to William Denley, Sr.’s granddaughter for her life and then, distributed at her discretion, to her children

⁵ Moss, Boby Gilmer. *Roster of South Carolina Patriots in the American Revolution*. Baltimore, MD, USA: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1994.

⁶ Krawczynski, Keith T. *William Henry Drayton: South Carolina Revolutionary Patriot*. Louisiana State University Press. 2001. p, 178

⁷ Whitmire, Beverly T. “Richard Pearis, Bold Pioneer,” *Proceedings and Papers of the Greenville County Historical Society* (1962-1964): 75-85

⁸ “Talk from the Hon. William Henry Drayton.” American Archives: Documents of the American Revolutionary Period, 1774-1776. Southern Illinois University. Retrieved from <http://amarch.lib.niu.edu/islandora/object/niu-amarch%3A98187>

ultimately failed. The report discusses a train depot in Hopkins but made no mention of the impact of the nearby Kingsville train depot. Moreover, governmental exercise of eminent domain to take property for Camp Jackson, now known as Fort Jackson, surely impacted the area significantly from both environmental and economic aspects.

7. Denley Cemetery. Chicora Foundation determined that the cemetery is eligible for NRHP. Further, there is absolutely no evidence to support that the cemetery is solely an African American cemetery. It is very likely that Native Americans are buried there as well, among the over 130 unmarked graves. Descendants of individuals buried in the cemetery whom I have talked to are aware of their Native American ancestry from that specific local. To discount that Native Americans may be buried in Denley Cemetery discounts the ancestry of several Denley Cemetery descendants. Additionally, Denley Cemetery is proof of assimilation into Christianity and transition from traditional burial as evidenced by Green Hill Mound to Christian burial practices.

C. embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, possesses high artistic value, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.

We reiterate all the above responses to previous criterion in response to this criterion. Landmarks such as Cofitachequi, Green Hill Mound, Fort Congaree, and Denley Cemetery are too significant to dismiss as lost to economic development. These locations are simply not lost.

D. has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important to history or prehistory may be eligible for the NRHP.

Again, we all the above responses to previous NHRP criterion.

While Westinghouse may support the economy of Hopkins, South Carolina, it is well documented that Westinghouse has actively polluted the area for decades and has many documented violations, creating environmental determinates leading to community wide health disparities. Hopkins will survive if Westinghouse is denied any permit and is decommissioned. However, dismissing the cultural significance of the area further denies the continued and documented Native American existence beyond the Yemassee War of 1715 and strips the Hopkins area of historical impact in South Carolina history. Further, dismissing the cultural significance of the area endangers and potentially denies protection of Green Hill Mound and Denley Cemetery. Catawba Indian Nation requested that the Westinghouse area of impact include both Green Hill Mound and Denley Cemetery. We join in their request to protect these sacred places.

Our Tribe, removed forcibly by governmental exercise, depends on the true history of our original lands as they are recorded in historical records and as they are unearthed, reported, studied, published, and held or otherwise displayed. We rely heavily on the accuracy of

archaeological and anthropological studies of our original lands and our history, with good faith expectation that these studies are professionally unbiased and unaffected by politics of any sort. We endeavor to reconstruct our history in an ongoing manner, on our own, as our history was taken away from us along with our land.

Following our Ancestors, it is in good faith that this rebuttal response is provided. However, history shows us the result of our Ancestors' good faith acts ended in being conquered. Pen and paper published by non-Indigenous individuals has successfully held power over our People to determine our tribal existence, assumed our assimilation into other tribes, and our ultimate extinction. Yet, South Carolina reintroduced the Native American population through legislation within the last twenty (20) years, and I am placing this letter as evidence of the continued existence of myself and my People, the Pine Hill Indian Tribe, who are Indigenous to the area of the Wateree-Congaree River Basin and surrounding areas including Fort Jackson and the current location of Westinghouse.

Respectfully,

Chief Michelle Mitchum

Chief Michelle Mitchum
Pine Hill Indian Tribe
Executive Director, Pine Hill Indian Community Development Initiative
Director, Pine Hill Health Network
Ambassador, Community Health Workers Institute, Center of Community Health Alignment,
UofSC Arnold School of Public Health

CC:
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission