

Chatham County Historical Association, Inc.

P. O. Box 93 / Pittsboro, NC 27312 / (919) 542-3603

www.chathamhistory.org

10 July 2006

Richard Fox
PO Box 563
Siler City NC 27344

Dear Mr. Fox:

We have noted the recent application for approval of the sketch design for Hickory Downs subdivision. The role of the Chatham County Historical Association (CCHA) in the subdivision approval process is to assess historical structures and to recommend to the Planning Board and County Commissioners ways they can best be preserved when the property they are on is going to be developed. If, at any time prior to final plat approval, you find structures of any type, 50 years old or older, on your property, the Chatham County subdivision ordinance requires that you contact the CCHA to arrange a site visit by a representative. Although it appears that there are no structures on your property that would require you to contact us, I offer our assistance should you find evidence of structures on your property as your project moves forward.

The CCHA has long been involved in surveying active and abandoned cemeteries and gravesites in Chatham County. While North Carolina State law protects all gravesites and cemeteries from destruction, CCHA's interest in these sites on land to be subdivided is to ensure that they have been adequately inventoried and described to preserve the historical, genealogical, and cultural data they contain. Our ongoing cemetery inventory may be of use to you as you seek to identify cemeteries and gravesites on your property, and we urge you to notify us if you find any undocumented gravesites so that we may add them to our inventory.

Much of the cultural heritage of Chatham County falls "below the radar," as it were, of state or national historic preservation efforts; nevertheless, traces on the land of former use and occupancy are of intense local interest. Developers are in a unique position to identify this evidence of Chatham County's past and we welcome your cooperation and collaboration in our efforts to document it before it is destroyed. Please contact me if you have questions or information to share.

Cordially,



Jane Pyle

Cc: Fred Vatter, CCHA President
Chatham County Planning Department