

Chatham County Historical Association, Inc.

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

www.chathamhistory.org

7 July 2006

Ms. Lynn Richardson
Chatham County Planning Department
East Street
Pittsboro, NC 27312

Re: The Sanctuary (fka Williams Pond) Preliminary
Plan Application

Dear Lynn,

In November 2004 Nicolas Robinson, representing the developers, notified the historical association of structures on this property and escorted me to the site. My recommendation was to deconstruct the Snipes and an older structure, and my understanding is that the Snipes house was deconstructed and that no structures remain on the site. I was not subsequently invited to see what had been done. We were also able to assist the surveyor in identifying the family cemetery, probably connected with the Bynum family that originally settled this land, which is indicated with a buffer on the preliminary plan (sic) submittal phase I map that will be considered by the Planning Board on 11 July 2006. A second site traditionally known as the Bynum slave cemetery was not recognized.

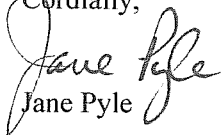
After reviewing the status of subdivision applications on your Web site, I would like to comment on materials related to the Williams Pond development, now called The Sanctuary. I noted the Brockingham report dated 18 August 2005 of an archaeological assessment of the proposed tract and comments about the report from the State Historical Preservation Office from 22 December 2005. The criticisms in Peter Sandbeck's comments are pointed and appropos.

The report named sites with Native American artifacts on nearby property, sites identified from the literature and dismissed as not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Two points here: 1) if artifacts were found in nearby areas, chances are good that more will be found on the subject property, and 2) National Register eligibility is too high a standard for judging the local historical importance of structures and was not the intent of the subdivision ordinance.

Reluctantly, I must note that the conditional use permit approved in March 2005 called for the developer to continue to work with [the historical society] in the documentation of historic structures and cemeteries on the property. We hope that the developers will be sensitive to possible burial sites, artifacts, and traces of former occupation that may add to knowledge of our cultural heritage in this distinctive part of Chatham County. We encourage them to contact us to work out an agreeable arrangement for sharing whatever information they might uncover. We believe that public perception of the developer might be enhanced by such a cooperative arrangement.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on this proposed development. Your Web site is excellent, and the Planning Department is to be commended for making available information this way.

Cordially,



Jane Pyle

copy: Fred Vatter, President, CCHA
Nicholas Robinson