

Chatham County Historical Association, Inc.

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

history@chathamhistory.org

23 August 2006

Mr. Nicolas P. Robinson
Bradshaw & Robinson, LLP
P. O. Box 607
Pittsboro, NC 27312

Re: Belmeade Subdivision Application

Dear Mr. Robinson:

Thank you for your letter of 14 August 2006 notifying us of plans for the subdivision off US 64 W known as Belmeade Farms. I notice on an old map (the 1933 soils map of Chatham County) that there was at one time a road connecting US Hwy 64 with Alston Chapel Road that appears to start close to the sketched entry to the development and follows the boundary between Belmeade Farms and the Graybeal property to the west. This map shows a couple of inhabited houses, traces of which may still be found on the land, although they do not appear on the 1968 USGS Pittsboro topographic map. It is possible that the boundary surveyors noted ruins but thought them unworthy of report. I would appreciate permission to walk the old road or trail shown on the topographic map, accompanied or not by the developer's representative, to look for these sites.

As you know, much of the cultural heritage of Chatham County falls "below the radar," as it were, of state or national historic preservation efforts and therefore is not considered as having historical significance; 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 while it still exists. Please contact me if you have questions or information to share.

Cordially,

Jane Pyle

Encl.: copy of detail from 1933 soils map of Chatham County

copy: Fred Vatter, CCHA president
Lynn Richardson, Chatham County Planning Department