



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

87 Deacon Road
Fredericksburg, Virginia 22405

Stephen C. Brich, P.E.
COMMISSIONER

September 17, 2020

Ms. Julie V. Langan, Director
ATTN: Mr. Marc Holma, Office of Review and Compliance
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
2801 Kensington Avenue
Richmond, Virginia 23221

VDOT Project: US Route 15/29 Improvements at Vint Hill Road and Broad Run Church Road

Project Number: 0029-030-829, C501, P101, R201 (UPC: 111728)

VDHR File: 2020-0363

County/City: Fauquier Co.

Federal Funding

Action Required: Effect Determination

Dear Mr. Holma:

As you are aware, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), on behalf of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is coordinating the above referenced, federally funded project with the Department of Historic Resources (DHR) and other interested/consulting parties in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended, and its implementing regulations, 36CFR800. The VDOT has previously coordinated the identification of historic properties with your office and consulting parties. This letter constitutes a request for concurrence with our determination of project effect for the undertaking.

Project Description and Area of Potential Effects

The proposed undertaking consists of improvements at two locations along Rte. 29, at the intersection with Vint Hill Rd (Rte. 215) and at the intersection with Broad Run Church Rd (Rte. 600), both in Fauquier County. At the Rte. 29 intersection with Vint Hill Road, the proposed improvement includes dual left turn lanes from southbound Rte. 29 onto Vint Hill Rd, as well as a merge lane on eastbound Vint Hill Rd. Signal poles on Rte. 29 will also be replaced as a part of this upgrade. The improvement here is anticipated to require minimal acquisition of new right-of-way (ROW) and easements.

The improvement at the intersection of Rte 29 with Broad Run Church Rd consists of providing dual left turn lanes onto southbound Rte. 29. The signal pole at this intersection is anticipated to be moved a short distance in order to accommodate the improvement. As with the improvement at Vint Hill Rd, the improvement at Broad Run Church Rd is anticipated to require minimal acquisition of new ROW and easements.

These projects are part of comprehensive safety improvement concept for this section of Rte 29 which also included a recent project to improve the sight distance along the northbound lanes of the corridor, south of Vint Hill Road. The VDOT has worked to maintain a minimized scope and scale of these improvements, and to reach out to the local community and potential stakeholders.

The APE is defined as the "geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause alterations in the character or use of historic properties, if any such properties exist" (36 CFR 800.16(d)). The Area of Potential Effects (APE) for archaeological resources (direct effects) is the area of new ROW acquisition and limits of grading within existing VDOT ROW, and the APE for architectural properties (indirect effects) are properties within 150-ft of the improvements at these respective intersections. These are depicted in Figure 3 of the July 2020 Dovetail report (Vint Hill Rd/Rte 29) and Figure 2 of the previously submitted May 2020 Dovetail report (Broad Run Church Rd/Rte 29). Consequently no impacts are anticipated for the property adjacent to the Rte 29/Vint Hill Road intersection containing the Stagecoach at Buckland tract (**DHR 030-5152-0005_ep**) which is subject to a DHR preservation easement.

Identification of Historic Properties

The VDOT has completed efforts and consulted with the Virginia DHR and consulting parties to identify historic properties. The DHR concurred that two individually eligible historic properties and one property eligible as a contributing resource to an eligible historic district are located within the APE (see DHR concurrence dated, August 25, 2020 and DHR comment letter dated, June 16, 2020). The New Baltimore Historic District (**DHR# 030-5166**) is listed in the NRHP and Virginia Landmarks register. The Buckland Mills Battlefield (**VA042; DHR# 030-5152**) has been previously determined eligible for the NRHP and the undertaking is partly situated within the core area and the potentially national register eligible (PotNR) portion of the battlefield as determined by the American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) in 2014. Lastly, the Fauquier Farm property (**DHR# 030-0276**) has been determined not eligible individually for the NRHP; however it reflects a number of elements that make the overlapping New Baltimore Historic District eligible for the NRHP. The Fauquier Farm property (030-0276) is NRHP eligible as a contributing resource to the New Baltimore Historic District.

Consulting Parties

In accordance with 36 CFR 800.2(a)(4) and 800.2(c), the FWA and the VDOT have involved the following interested/consulting parties in the findings and determinations made for this project: Fauquier County Preservation Planner, Broad Run Baptist Church, Buckland Preservation Society, Citizens for Fauquier County, and the Piedmont Environmental Council. The VDOT has received comments from several of these entities, and they are also copied on this letter.

In addition, these proposed improvements have been presented at previous meetings of the VDOT's Route 29/New Baltimore advisory panel, comprised of Fauquier County and Prince William County officials, and representatives of the business community and the neighborhoods in the New Baltimore and Vint Hill areas. Feedback from advisory panel meetings has been supportive of the planned improvements.

Effects on Historic Properties

In accordance with 36 CFR 800.5(a), the VDOT has applied the criteria of adverse effect to historic properties within the project's APE. The regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act define an effect as an "alteration to the characteristics of a historic property qualifying it for inclusion in or eligible for the National Register" [36CFR800.16(i)]. The effect is adverse when the alteration of a qualifying characteristic occurs in a "manner that would diminish the integrity of the property's location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, or association" [36CFR800.5(a)].

New Baltimore Historic District (NBHD) (DHR# 030-5166) is listed in the NRHP and Virginia Landmarks register. The district is locally significant under Criterion A (Transportation, Education, & Commerce) and Criterion C (Architecture) and represents an example of a rural crossroads community. The district, comprised of approximately 88-acres (and 56 contributing buildings), was listed in the NRHP on February 11, 2004 and the Virginia Landmarks Register on December 3, 2003. The district has a period of significance from 1822-1953. Direct impact to the district includes proposed construction of a stormwater management basin, on new ROW, adjacent to the north side of the existing southbound lanes of Rte 29 (anticipated to require 0.47-ac), as well as minor lane reconfiguration including a lengthened acceleration lane from Rte 600 onto westbound Rte 29 and a reconfigured median crossover, both within the existing VDOT ROW. Although the proposed stormwater facility represents a minimal alteration along the fringe of the district property, this area is directly alongside the 4-lane divided Rte 29 highway which exhibits previously diminished integrity of historic setting and feeling because of highway construction and subsequent twentieth century development along the highway corridor. Areas within the ROW of Rte 29 also exhibit diminished historic integrity. Furthermore, the proposed improvement lies over 1,000-ft east of the core of the NBHD which is along Old Alexandria Pike (Rte 674). VDOT finds that there will be no diminishment of the qualities that qualify this district for the NRHP. The undertaking will have **No Adverse Effect** on this property.

Fauquier Farm property (DHR# 030-0276) was determined to not be eligible individually for the NRHP. However, the property contributes to the NBHD by reflecting a number of elements that qualify the overlapping NBHD eligible for the NRHP. The Fauquier Farm property is composed of a single-family dwelling, as well as a number of ancillary structures. The early 19th century well house, spring house, kitchen, and meat house (now garage) were built within the period of significance for the NBHD and contribute to the district. None of these contributing features, located several hundred feet to the north of the proposed undertaking, on the Fauquier Farm property will be impacted by the project. The project proposes to place a new 0.47-ac stormwater pond along the southern margin of the property, adjacent to the southbound lanes of

Rte 29 (same SWMP referenced for the NBHD above). This area is situated alongside the 4-lane divided Rte 29 highway corridor which exhibits diminished integrity of historic setting and feeling due to twentieth century road construction, subsequent widening, and modern development. The property will still function to reflect the same characteristics of the NBHD that it was previously recognized for. The undertaking will have **No Adverse Effect** on this property.

Buckland Mills Battlefield (VA042; DHR# 030-5152) has been determined eligible for the NRHP in relation to Criterion A and has a period of significance of 1861-1865. The Rte 29/Vint Hill Rd portion of the project is located within the 2014 ABPP determined potential National Register eligible (PotNR) and core areas of this battlefield; while the portion of the project at the Rte 29/Rte 600 intersection is partially within the PotNR portion of the battlefield. Fundamentally, the project APE is significant for its role in the battle of Buckland Mills in which the final repulse of the pursuing Confederate cavalry occurred. The APE has experienced prior roadway and utility expansion, and some commercial and residential development. The result of this development has fragmented battlefield segments within the APE and only small portions of intact fields and woodlands remain. Although areas within the APE could still contribute to the battlefield, the VDOT finds that the undertaking represents a small alteration to the larger battlefield (mostly adjacent to and within the existing state-owned ROW where setting and feeling have been previously diminished), the alteration represented by the undertaking will not further diminish aspects of historic integrity, nor character-defining features of the battlefield. Additionally, no archeological evidence of Civil War military occupation or engagement was identified during the current Phase I investigation. Moreover, the VDOT believes that the undertaking's minimal scope will have **No Adverse Effect** on this battlefield property provided the VDOT consults with the VDHR and the Buckland Preservation Society to determine specific locations where anticipated borrow/spoil disposal activity during project construction should be avoided within the limits of the Buckland Mills Battlefield.

The VDOT invites you to review the enclosed information and concur with our findings by signing the signature block below and returning the original signature to my attention within 30 days. Upon your concurrence with our no adverse effect recommendation, the FHWA intends to make a *de minimus* determination pursuant to Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act for the historic properties described above. If you or any of the consulting parties copied on this letter have any questions, please contact me via email at Raymond.Ezell@vdot.virginia.gov.

Sincerely,

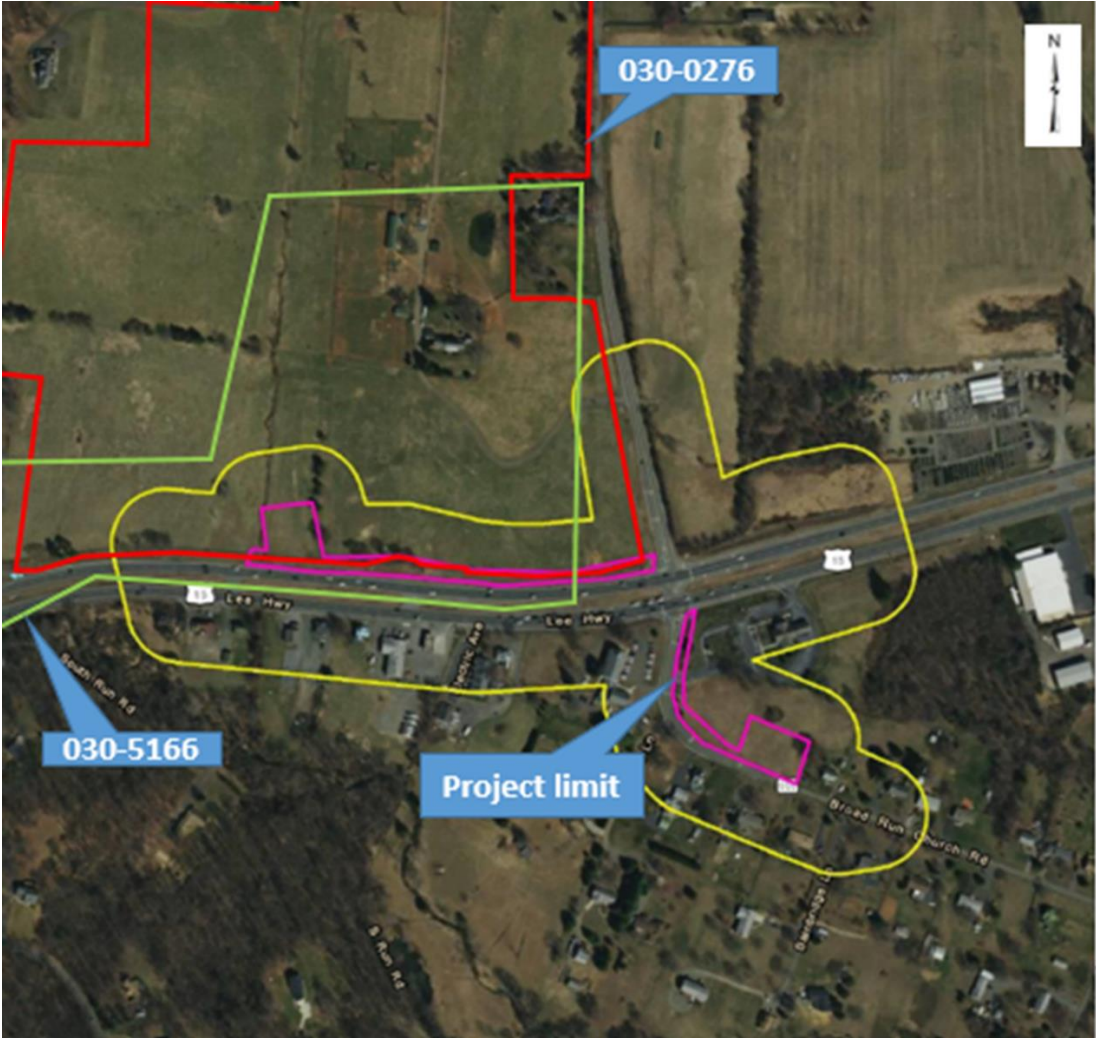


Raymond Ezell, RPA
District Archaeologist

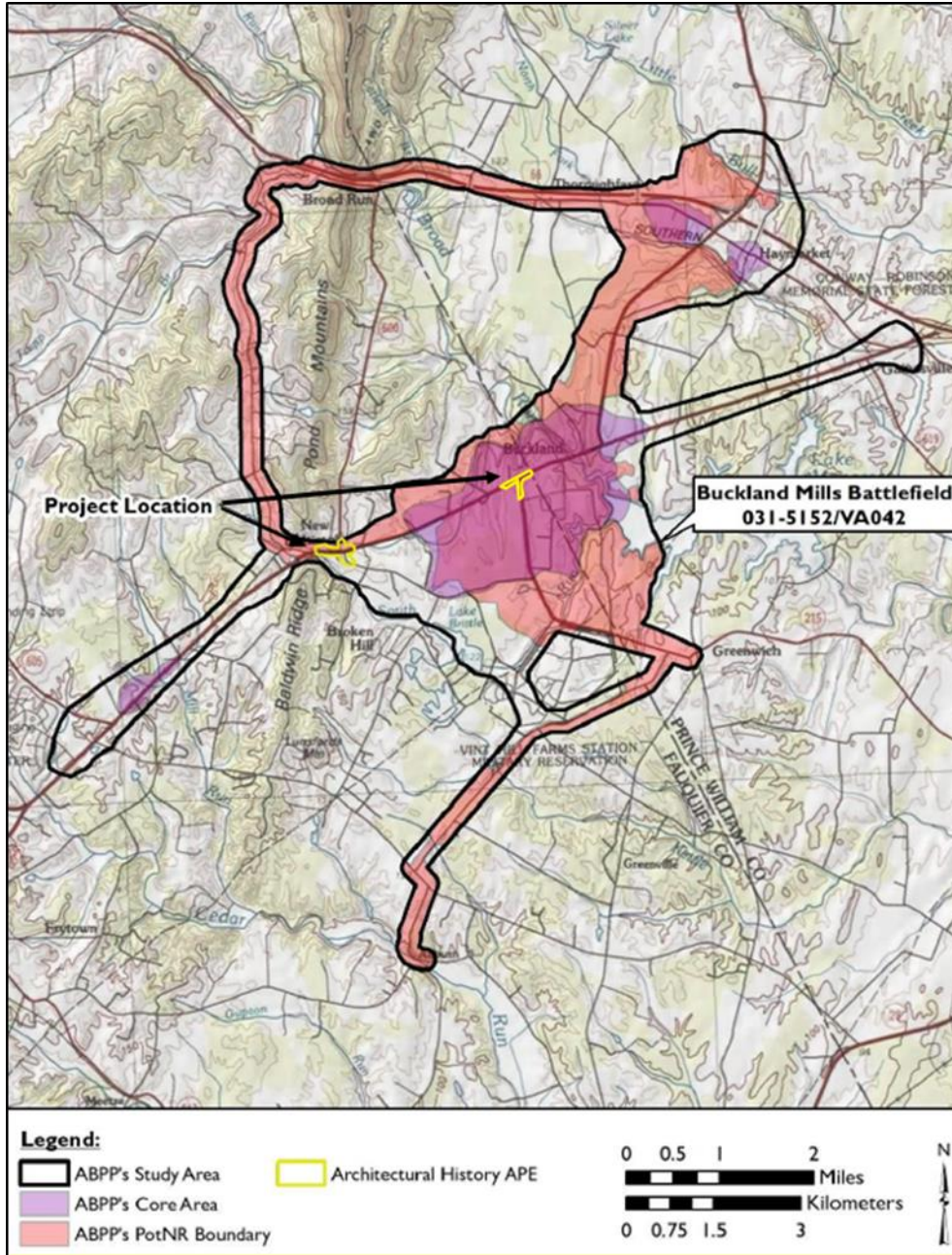
Attachment

cc: Wendy Wheatcraft, Fauquier County Preservation Planner
Rev. Al Henderson, Broad Run Baptist Church
Linda Wright, Buckland Preservation Society

Attachment 1.



Rte 29 and Rte 600 Intersection Area.



Location of the Undertaking in the Buckland Mills Battlefield

David Mailler, Citizens for Fauquier County
Julie Bolthouse, Piedmont Environmental Council

file: 111728

CONCURRENCE

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The Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR) concurs with the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT's) recommendation that the undertaking will have **No Adverse Effect** to historic properties provided that the VDOT consults with the VDHR and Buckland Preservation Society to determine areas where borrow/spoil disposal activity during project construction should be avoided within the limits of the Buckland Mills Battlefield.



Ms. Julie V. Langan
Director, Virginia Department of Historic Resources
Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer

9 Oct 2020

Date

2020-0363