



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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Secretary of Natural Resources

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Director

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May 22, 2015

Mr. Jack VanDop
Federal Highway Administration
21400 Ridgetop Circle
Sterling, VA 20166-6511

RE: Discovery and Investigation for Feature No. 1 at Otis Mason House
Route 1 Improvements at Fort Belvoir, Fairfax County, VA
DHR File No. 2001-0007

Dear Mr. VanDop:

We have received for review information regarding the archaeological evaluation of the brick feature discovered near the Otis T. Mason House during construction of Route 1 Improvements at Fort Belvoir. The discovery, as described by the archaeological consultant, is a 14.5' x 4' rectilinear brick feature laid as stretchers five courses deep. Associated artifacts date to the late 19th through mid-20th centuries. The feature is best interpreted as some sort of planter or other landscape feature and not as a functional outbuilding. Overall integrity of the feature is good, but there is evidence of general disturbance in the vicinity of the discovery.

The Federal Highway Administration has determined that the feature has no potential to yield additional information about the site nor does it contribute to the National Register eligibility of the Otis T. Mason House (DHR ID #029-5181-0006) or the Woodlawn Cultural Landscape Historic District (DHR ID #029-5181). Based on the information provided, DHR concurs with FHWA's finding and agrees that construction activities may proceed in the area of the discovery.

Thank you for coordinating this discovery with our office. If you have any questions concerning these comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at roger.kirchen@dhr.virginia.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Roger Kirchen".

Roger W. Kirchen, Director
Review and Compliance Division

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