

From: Richard Cloues
To: Grindstaff, Mark
Date: 3/9/04 12:54PM
Subject: Fort Attaway historical report

In reponse to your e-mail of March 5, 2004, our comments follow:

We have reviewed the narrative historical report entitled "Contested Terrain: Conflicting Interpretations of the Significance and Material Integrity of Fort Attaway" prepared by Mark Grindstaff for the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) in fulfillment of Stipulation 4 of the ratified MOA for this project. We also have reviewed written comments on the report submitted by Fort Attaway Preservation Society, Dan Latham, Daniel Roper, and John Butler, and we have reviewed GDOT's response to those comments.

Following our review of these documents, we requested a consultation with GDOT to discuss whether or not the submitted report satisfies the stipulation of the MOA. At that meeting, we noted concerns about the aggressive interpretive "tone" of the report and apparent differences of opinion regarding the history, location, and significance of Fort Attaway, and we suggested that GDOT consider retaining an outside historian to prepare a historical narrative.

We have now reviewed GDOT's response to our consultation meeting, submitted via e-mail on March 5, 2004, from Mark Grindstaff.

It is our opinion that GDOT's historical report along with the written comments received in response to the report and GDOT's rejoinder to those comments, taken together, satisfy Stipulation 4 of the MOA. It is our understanding that the report, comments, and rejoinder constitute GDOT's historical report called for in the MOA and that these materials will be kept together as the documentation fulfilling the MOA stipulation.

We would also like to reiterate our opinion that Fort Attaway should be considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance for its remaining physical features associated with Civil War activities in and around Rome.

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