

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY  
Post Office Box 1881  
Raleigh 27602

April 21, 1967

Mr. James McClure Clarke, Chairman  
Historic Sites Advisory Commission  
Parkway Office Building  
P. O. Box 1490  
Asheville, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Clarke:

I am happy to give you a fuller statement by letter to add to our discussion of Fort Butler this morning over the telephone. The 1965 General Assembly appropriated to this department \$6,500 to be used for research and a feasibility study. We have had the research done and the findings of both the historical and archaeological investigations have been filed in written form. We have analyzed these research reports here in the office.

The Fort Butler site possess sufficient historical importance to justify preservation and appropriate development. There is not enough information, however, for a full job of restoration or reconstruction, although one or more early buildings representative of types that must have been at Fort Butler might be moved to the site or reconstructed to enhance the project. It is our feeling that development of the site is a matter for local initiative, with this department assisting as needed in the planning. It seems too early to say whether or to what extent the State should participate in the cost.

Several months ago a group from our staff met in Murphy with a group of local leaders and discussed the overall situation. The city of Murphy is said to be interested in a city park development adjacent to the Fort Butler site. We have recommended that the local forces go ahead with consideration of this idea, broadening the plan to include Fort Butler as a historic site within a larger park project. The city has been offered the prospect of a sizable donation of property that might be used, including a part of the Fort Butler site.

As for the State taking the initiative, that would not seem to be possible at this time due to the moratorium on new projects. Moreover, it would have to be determined whether the site could qualify under the criteria of the Advisory Committee for State support.

We have offered to assist further with specific plan recommendations, and this is in process. When we have these recommendations ready and present them, I hope the local group will act.

With cordial good wishes--

Sincerely yours,

W. S. Tarlton  
Historic Sites Superintendent

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cc: Dr. Christopher Crittenden