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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C 20240

H26-WCC-NC

APR 13 1967

Hon. Roy A. Taylor
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Taylor:

Thank you for your inquiry in behalf of Mrs. John H. Bayless, who is interested in the reconstruction of Fort Butler in Cherokee County, North Carolina.

Members of the staff of the Division of History have, as you requested, reviewed the report of the archaeological examinations that were made at the site of Fort Butler by Mr. George G. Denny, Archaeologist, with the North Carolina Department of Archives and History. Mr. Denny has made a very thorough review of the entire background of Fort Butler, documentary, as well as archaeological.

When the staff reviewed the history of Fort Butler in 1965, its recommendation was that the fort did not merit recognition as a nationally significant site on the basis of information then known. The historical resumé provided by Mr. Denny does not add material which would lead us to change this evaluation. Mr. Denny's research does strengthen the belief that it would be extremely difficult to locate documents that would support a reconstruction of Fort Butler. He concludes that no accurate descriptions of the fort proper have been found in the research conducted to date.

The archaeological explorations that Mr. Denny conducted provide a valuable new factor for our consideration. The results of these are also discouraging. Mr. Denny concludes that "if the development of the site of Fort Butler includes the erection of representative structures, it will be based on the scarcest of evidence."

After reviewing Mr. Denny's report, we feel, as we did earlier, that Fort Lauder does not merit recognition as a nationally significant site on the basis of information now known. Perhaps additional historical and archeological evidence will be uncovered as the local group continues its work with the assistance of the State Department of Archives and History.

Sincerely yours,

Acting Director

Enclosure