



23 November 2021

Dear Scott,

Thank you for your letter of Nov. 20 on behalf of the Topaz Museum Board of Directors. We thank the Board for its gracious invitation to two members of the WMC to have dinner on Nov. 29. We accept and look forward to this opportunity to meet and get to know one another better.

The Wakasa Memorial Committee also is pleased to invite the Topaz Museum Board, National Park Service officials and other Utah State stakeholders to attend the committee's ceremonies on Nov. 30 and Dec. 1.

The WMC has been discussing which of our two members should represent the committee and will decide shortly and let you know. In the meantime, other members of the committee and community have expressed a wish to attend the NPS evaluation and the ceremony as observers and participants. We hope you will understand our reluctance to tell survivors and descendants that they cannot attend this profound moment in their personal and community histories. We expect that in total, about 12 people will come to Topaz, including a woodwind musician. We thank you in advance for your kind understanding.

With many parties arriving from different states, the occasion for all of us to sit together and introduce ourselves in a relaxed setting is a rare opportunity. We would like to invite the Museum Board, the NPS representatives and the SHPO officials to dinner on the closing night, Weds., Dec. 1, or, if it is more convenient, on Tues., Nov. 30.

We look forward to traveling to Utah and viewing the site and the artifacts. We have been fielding queries from the press and assume that this may also be the case for you. Thank you for your efforts to expand the community's understanding of these important archaeological artifacts and the memorial site. Survivors, descendants and community members understand the assessment as a historic milestone and the ceremonies as a necessary step in the process of grieving and consecrating a sacred space.

Sincerely,

Nancy Ukai  
Wakasa Memorial Committee

cc:

Mike Reynolds, Regional Director, Interior Regions 6,7,8, National Park Service  
Lisa P. Davidson, Acting Program Manager, National Historic Landmarks Program, National Park Service  
Justin Henderson, Heritage Partnerships Program, Intermountain Region, NPS  
Robert Nieweg, National Trust for Historic Preservation  
Jennifer Ortiz, Director, Utah Division of State History  
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Carol Kawase, District Governor NCWNP, JACL  
David Inoue, Executive Director, JACL  
Jani Iwamoto, Utah State Senator, 4th District

