## Exhibit 16 - State Historical Preservation Office Letter



MITCHELL J. LANDRIEU LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR State of Louisiana Office of the Lieutenant Governor Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism Office of Cultural Development Division of Archaeology DAWN ROMERO WATSON SECRETARY

PAM BREAUX ASSISTANT SECRETARY

2.0

April 4, 2008

Mr. Andrew Harrison, Jr. Harrison Law, LLC One American Place, Suite 820 Baton Rouge, LA 70825

Re: Cultural Reconnaissance Survey Louisiana Division of Archaeology Report No. 22-3041 Final Cultural Reconnaissance Survey of a 403-Acre Tract Near Slidell, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana SURA, Inc.

Dear Mr. Harrison:

We acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated March 14, 2008, and two copies of the abovereferenced report. Our review is completed and the following comments are offered.

The report meets the Louisiana Division of Archaeology's report standards for a reconnaissance level investigation. We agree with the recommendation of avoidance for the Slidell Memorial (Harrison) Cemetery and a twenty-foot buffer around the cemetery property adjacent to the project area. The National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) determination of not eligible for the Mansion site (16ST216), based on lack of site integrity, is acceptable. In regards to the Claude Family Cemetery (site 16ST217), we concur that the best course of action would be avoidance. Proper respect of the deceased and their descendents should be of the highest priority for any future action at the cemeteries or if burials are encountered outside of the delineated cemetery boundaries. If avoidance is not feasible, requiring the removal of unmarked burials, the Louisiana Division of Archaeology will need to be consulted concerning the need for a permit.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this report. If you should have any questions or concerns regarding cultural resources within the project area, please do not hesitate to contact Duke Rivet <u>drivet@crt.state.la.us</u> or Stacie Palmer <u>spalmer@crt.state.la.us</u> at the Louisiana Division of Archaeology.

P.O. BOX 44247 • BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70804-4247 • PHONE (225) 342-8170 • FAX (225) 342-4480 • WWW.CRT.STATE.LA.US AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER Mr. Andrew Harrison, Jr. April 4, 2008 Page 2

Sincerely,

laux am Pam Breaux

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State Historic Preservation Officer

PB:SP:s

cc: Dr. Kenneth Ashworth Department of the Army New Orleans District, Corps of Engineers Eastern Evaluation Division P.O. Box 60267 New Orleans, LA 70106-0267

Dr. Malcolm K. Shuman SURA, Inc. P.O. Box 14414 Baton Rouge, LA 70898-4414