



## Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

**ANDREW M. CUOMO**  
Governor

**ERIK KULLESEID**  
Commissioner

February 14, 2020

Meghan Ferrelli  
Empire State Development  
433 River Street/Headley Place  
Troy, NY 12180  
*(via email only)*

Re: ESD  
Kingstonian Redevelopment Project  
Fair Street at North Front Street, Kingston, Ulster County  
19PR00786

Dear Ms. Ferrelli:

As you may be aware, on February 10th our office met with the development team, city officials and ESD staff to discuss this undertaking. The meeting focused specifically on potential impacts associated with this redevelopment project on historic resources as outlined in Section 14.09 of New York State Parks, recreation and Historic Preservation Law (14.09).

In our previous correspondence, we noted that the scale, parking entry, hotel reconstruction, and the loss of Fair Street Extension could have adverse impacts on the National Register listed Kingston Stockade Historic District. At our meeting we spent significant time reviewing the evolution of the design plan based upon local input and guidance from this office.

After considering the material presented at our meeting and the subsequently submitted information, we have found that the evolution of the proposal has addressed many of the open preservation issues raised by this office. We note that the introduction of brick, a variety of siding materials and colors has helped to break up the original monolith look of the complex. We also note that the now more open plaza area and intact location of Fair Street Extension, now used for parking garage entry, retains this opening in the district's streetscape. The building façade along Front Street has been redesigned to more appropriately approximate the height and form of the buildings that once occupied that block. Furthermore, the parking garage opening has been redesigned to deemphasize it in the streetscape and as viewed from Wall Street (looking north). The removal of the former Kingstonian Hotel, which is not identified as contributing to the Kingston Stockade Historic District, is being replaced with a structure based largely upon the form of the existing building and historic images of the structure before it was extensively remodeled with the removal of its architectural details. The reestablishment of this vibrant architectural component at this corner of the district will aid in minimizing the views of the large housing complex that will extend further north along the upper section of the former North Front Street Extension.

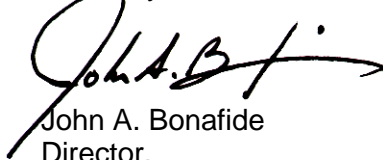
Based on the redesign material submitted, it is the opinion of the Division for Historic Preservation that the project, as now proposed, has minimized its direct and indirect impacts on the listed Kingston Stockade Historic District. As such, it is now our opinion that the project will have No Adverse Impact on the district.

Our determination considers that the archaeological monitoring program, which was previously established, will be followed with ongoing consultation with this office as needed.

We also understand that the development team has committed to introduce a series of interpretive panels/kiosks/materials relating to the history of the district and larger community. Additional informational material will be developed in conjunction with the city's cultural/historical associations and institutions. We would appreciate an opportunity to be apprised on the development of these materials and their ultimate placement locations.

If I can be of any further assistance, I can be reached at [john.bonafide@parks.ny.gov](mailto:john.bonafide@parks.ny.gov) or (518) 268-2166.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Bonafide". The signature is stylized with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

John A. Bonafide  
Director,  
Technical Preservation Services Bureau  
Agency Historic Preservation Officer

cc: Hon. Steve Noble (via email)  
Suzanne Cahill (via email)  
Bradley W. Jordan (via email)  
Meghan Taylor, ESD  
R. Daniel Mackay, OPRHP (via email)