



SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY

May 17, 2021

Mr. Rich Stein  
Community and Intergovernmental  
Affairs Coordinator  
Landmarks Preservation Commission  
David N. Dinkins Municipal Building  
1 Centre Street, 9th Floor North  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mr. Stein,

The Society for American Archaeology (SAA) writes to express its strong support for the proposal to designate the Conference House Archaeological Site as a New York City Landmark.

The SAA is an international organization that, since its founding in 1934, has been dedicated to research about and interpretation and protection of the archaeological heritage of the Americas. With nearly 7,000 members, SAA represents professional and avocational archaeologists, archaeology students in colleges and universities, and archaeologists working at Tribal agencies, museums, government agencies, and the private sector. We represent over 190 members who live in New York State.

The Conference House Park Archaeological Site is a historically and culturally significant site which would benefit from the protection that landmark status provides. This effort would help preserve the heritage of the ancestors of the Native American peoples who call the lands that are now New York City and its environs home. The materials within the site, which includes 20 acres of highly archaeologically sensitive land, document thousands of years of Native American life. Designation by the Landmarks Preservation Commission would permanently protect the land and its below-ground archaeological resources. If the Conference House Park Archaeological Site is designated, it would be the City's first Landmark to recognize its thousands of years of Native American habitation.

Designation of the Conference House Park Archaeological Site would be an appropriate and effective step in recognizing the City's Native American heritage and the natural landscape they lived in. The SAA joins with the New York Archaeological Council and other supporters of Conference House site in the proposal for its designation as a Landmark.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Deborah Nichols', is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Deborah Nichols, Ph.D., RPA  
President