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LETTER REGARDING POTENTIAL HISTORICAL SHIPWRECK IN TH PISCATAQUA RIVER
NSY PORTSMOUTH ME
3/26/1997
MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION



MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

55 Capitol Street
65 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr.
Director

Telephone:
207-287-2132

March 26, 1997

Jim Dolph, Code 100H, Cultural Resources Coordinator
Portsmouth Naval Shipyard
Portsmouth, New Hampshire 03801-5000

Dear Jim:

This letter is in response to your conversation today with the Commission's Assistant Director, Dr. Robert Bradley.

It is our understanding that the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard will be involved with the Superfund clean-up of a landfill on its property. As you and Bob discussed, our shipwrecks inventory has an entry (ME 226-042) for the "Nam Shong," which sank November 17, 1871, in the Piscataqua River somewhere in the vicinity of Clark Island. This information, generated by Kittery Historical and Naval Museum research conducted nearly twenty years ago, is all that we currently have on file for the vessel. The wreck may in fact not exist, depending on the nature of its sinking and whether subsequent salvage was undertaken soon after its loss.

The Commission appreciates the fact that you will closely monitor the clean-up operation, and that you will immediately report anything which unexpectedly should be encountered. If you should have further questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to let Bob Bradley know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Earle", written in dark ink.

Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr.
State Historic Preservation Officer

cc: Robert Bradley, DSHPO

EGS/slm