



To the Editor of the Fishtown Star:

Brian Rademaeker's article (*Fort, artifacts prompting casino site questions*, published on 1/31/08) fails to address pertinent facts regarding the archeological investigation currently underway at the SugarHouse site.

First, neither SugarHouse nor A.D. Marble has any doubt that a fort once existed on the site or that the site has historical significance dating back to the 18th century. To that end, A.D. Marble has undertaken a comprehensive archaeological investigation that considered all pertinent historical information. While the site does have historical significance, SugarHouse and A.D. Marble have been charged with finding *physical* evidence of that history. After undertaking a thorough investigation, we are confident that after 200 years of factories operating on the site, any physical evidence has been lost. Remember, after the fort was demolished, a sugar refinery was constructed, operated, and subsequently imploded in the same location where the fort once existed. Our position is supported by the most recent phase of the archaeological investigation and the findings that are included in A.D. Marble's Phase II report.

Second, we take issue with Mr. Jenk's baseless statement that we are being "cheap and lazy." SugarHouse and A.D. Marble have been conducting this investigation for close to one year under the guidance of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) and the United States Army Core of Engineers (Army Corp). In addition to the time spent, SugarHouse has spent more than \$500,000 during the course of this study. It is irresponsible to characterize A.D. Marble's investigation as anything less than comprehensive and professional. SugarHouse is invested in completing the most thorough investigation possible and, to the extent possible, preserving any historical evidence that may exist on our site. The suggestion that we are doing otherwise, and the further implication that PHMC and the Army Corp would accept an inferior or substandard product, is simply a ridiculous and merit-less statement on the part of someone who obviously does not have a clear understanding of SugarHouse Casino's obligations under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Furthermore, the suggestion that SugarHouse or A.D. Marble is intentionally seeking to "rush" the archaeological survey or do an incomplete study is absolutely false.

Terrence J. McKenna, P.E.
Project Executive, Keating Consulting, LLC
Consultant to SugarHouse Casino

KEATING CONSULTING, LLC
The Phoenix – Suite 300
1600 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2028
610-668-4100 Fax: 610-660-4950