



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
NATURAL & HISTORIC RESOURCES, HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
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JON S. CORZINE
Governor

MARK N. MAURIELLO
Acting Commissioner

May 15, 2009

Greg Sandusky, Acting County Engineer
McDade Administration Building
P.O. Box 8068
Trenton, NJ 08650



**RE: Mercer County, Hopewell Township
Bear Tavern Road over Jacob's Creek
County Bridge No 214.2, State Bridge Number 2200060**

Dear Mr. Sandusky:

I am writing pursuant to your request for review of the above referenced project in anticipation of a Freshwater Wetlands Permit (FWW). My comments are based on the following reviewed report:

"Historic Bridge Alternatives Analysis Mercer County Bridge No. 214.2, Bear Tavern Road over Jacob's Creek, Township of Hopewell, Mercer County"
prepared by Keller and Kirkpatrick, April 2009.

Project Description

The Initially Preferred Alternative (IPA) for this project proposes to relocate the existing bridge to a new site (initial preference is Alliger Tract in Hopewell Township) and rehabilitate the truss bridge for pedestrians. Then construct a new single span bridge on a new alignment along Bear Tavern Road to improve traffic flow.

Under this alternative, the existing truss bridge would be relocated and rehabilitated for pedestrian use at an off-site location. The rehabilitation would be done, in accordance with the treatment approaches consistent with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, Standards for Rehabilitation*. The floor beams would be replaced and the deck would be replaced with new stringers with a timber plank deck. Existing stone masonry abutments and wingwalls would be removed and salvaged for the truss abutments at the relocation site.

Identification of Historic Properties

The only previously identified property within the Area of Potential Effect (APE) is the Bear Tavern Road Bridge itself. It received a SHPO Opinion on April 30, 1991. The bridge is a 75' long pin-connected thru truss fabricated by the King Iron Bridge and Manufacturing Company of Cleveland Ohio. It was erected in 1882. The bridge is an excellent example of a standardized pin-connected Pratt design and is eligible under Criterion C for its technological significance. The boundaries of the resource are limited to the span of the bridge itself. The period of significance for the bridge is 1882.

To date, no archaeological work has been completed for this project. Survey efforts should follow the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office (HPO) Requirements for Phase I Archaeological Survey at N.J.A.C. 7:4-8.4. Reports of archaeological survey results should conform to the Requirements for Archaeological Survey Reports – Standards for Report Sufficiency at N.J.A.C. 7:4-8.5. All work must be in accordance with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation, 1983*. Please note that archaeological studies need to be completed in the Area of Potential Effect (This includes the area of ground disturbance for the bridge replacement project on its new alignment, as well as the bridge relocation site).

Any archaeological deposits that require NR eligibility evaluation should be evaluated in accordance with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Evaluation*. All survey work, as well as any eligibility evaluations, should be performed by individuals who meet the National Park Service's *Professional Qualifications Standards* for archaeology. The HPO maintains a list of consulting firms who have requested to be on the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office's consultant list. This list is available upon request.

Assessment of Adverse Effect

The removal of the Bear Tavern Road Bridge, from its location and setting, will constitute an **adverse effect**.

Any effects to archaeological resources, if they exist, will be determined, as appropriate, when identification of historic properties has been completed.

Resolution of Adverse Effect

Based on the submitted information, the HPO concurs with the submitted Alternatives Analysis report and that the selection of Alternative 5A/5B-Modified 3 (New Single Span/relocate truss) will minimize adverse effects to identified historic properties.

Further consultation is necessary in regards to the relocation of the Bear Tavern Road Bridge. The site has initially been identified as the Alliger Tract in Hopewell Township. However, no information on this site has been provided to the HPO, for either architectural or archaeological resource consideration. If sufficient information has not been provided to the HPO concerning the relocation of the Bear Tavern Road Bridge, prior to the submission of FWW permit(s), conditions to ensure no further adverse effect findings due to the relocation may be included in the FWW permit. Additionally, please be aware that conditions concerning archaeology may also warrant inclusion, dependent upon submissions made and reviewed by the HPO at the time of FWW permit submission.

If you have any questions regarding this letter please contact Michelle Hughes at (609) 984-6018 concerning architecture and Kate Marcopul at (609)984-5816 concerning archaeology. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Daniel D. Saunders
Deputy State Historic
Preservation Officer

cc: Jonathan Pera, Keller and Kirkpatrick
Mayor, Hopewell Township
Chair, Hopewell Township Historic Preservation Commission