



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

NATURAL & HISTORIC RESOURCES, HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

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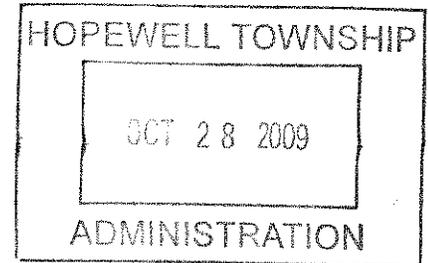
JON S. CORZINE
Governor

MARK N. MAURIELLO
Acting Commissioner

October 27, 2009

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

**RE: Mercer County, Hopewell Township
Bear Tavern Road Bridge over Jacob's Creek
County Bridge No. 214.2, SI&A No. 2200060**



Dear Mr. Sandusky:

It is my understanding that, in anticipation of a Freshwater Wetlands Permit application for the above referenced project, Mercer County intends to contract for additional cultural resource survey work. The Historic Preservation Office would like to offer some technical support to you and your staff, in order to help ensure that the scope-of-work sufficiently addresses the outstanding cultural resource issues for this complex project.

As you are already aware, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection requires the submission of Phase IA historical and archaeological survey, and an architectural survey, if a submitted Freshwater Wetland permit applications review may directly or indirectly affect archaeological sites and/or historic properties listed on the New Jersey or National Registers of Historic Places pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:7A-12.2(I). A Phase IA historical and archaeological survey, and an architectural survey, is defined at N.J.A.C. 7:7A-1.4. A copy of these regulations is available on the web at: <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/landuse/7-7a.pdf>. Phase I archaeological survey and reporting rules for a project requiring review under NJDEP-Land Use Regulation permits are available at N.J.A.C. 7:4-8.4 through 8.5, and can be viewed at (http://www.nj.gov/dep/hpo/2protection/register_historic_places09_29_08.pdf).

Interested citizens have brought attention to the fact that the bridge is in the vicinity of the route that General George Washington and his troops travelled from their famous crossing of the Delaware River to the Battle of Trenton in December 1776. In fact this segment of Bear Tavern Road is a portion of what is often referred to as "Washington's Victory Trail," a late twentieth century commemoration of the route. There has been some debate whether there may be the presence of a National Register eligible resource associated with Washington's troops' route in the vicinity of the bridge. Please be aware that the regulations limit consideration of cultural resources to those that are eligible to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places. To be eligible for listing, cultural

landscape would relate to the evolution of transportation systems (ford, truss bridge, railroad, etc.).

Sources to be consulted in investigating the questions outlined above, should include, but may not be limited to:

1. road returns from Hunterdon and Mercer counties (including "vacations" of roads)
2. Hunterdon County freeholder minutes (1714-1838)
3. Mercer County Freeholder minutes (1862-1888)
4. Historic period maps, including those of the Revolutionary War period

It is possible that in order to fully evaluate the issues that archaeological testing beyond the areas of ground disturbance may be required. This issue should be resolved as a result of Phase IA archaeological work. Therefore, specifically for this project, we recommend phasing report submission (submitting a Phase IA report for HPO review and comment, then proceeding with Phase IB work as recommended). The Phase IA submission should include an evaluation of the potential effectiveness of metal detection as a strategy for site discovery given local environmental conditions.

Thank you for providing the HPO with an opportunity to comment on the potential for this undertaking to affect historic properties. Please contact Kate Marcopul of my staff regarding archaeology at 609-984-5816 or Kate.Marcopul@dep.state.nj.us or Andrea Tingey regarding historic architecture at 609-984-0539 or Andrea.Tingey@dep.state.nj.us.

Sincerely,



Daniel D. Saunders
Deputy State Historic
Preservation Officer and
Acting Administrator

- c: Charlie Welch, NJDEP-LUR
Cate Litvack, Crossroads of the American Revolution, Inc.
Yanessa Sandom, Mayor, Hopewell Township
Paul Pogorzelski, Administrator/Engineer, Hopewell Township
Pamela Crabtree, Chair, Hopewell Township Historic Preservation Commission
Beth Kerr
Rhonda Katz