



PENNDOT Cultural Resources Submission

DATE: January 9, 2007

SUBJECT: 2001 Statewide Historic Bridge Survey, Agreement on Results

TO: Jean H. Cutler, Director
Bureau for Historic Preservation
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC)

FROM: R. Scott Christie, PE
Director
Bureau of Design

This letter serves to formally establish the meaning of the results of the 1996-2001 historic bridge survey. The 12,000+ bridges of this survey were evaluated against two historic contexts developed for this survey: "Transportation Networks in Pennsylvania" and "History and Significance of Bridge Building Technology in Pennsylvania From the Earliest Days until 1956" (copy attached). PHMC had opportunity to review and comment upon these contexts as they were being developed. Therefore:

- 1) PHMC concurs with the PENNDOT/FHWA determinations of eligibility (which are based upon Lichtenstein Consulting Engineer's recommendations of eligibility utilizing the historic contexts) for the 9000+ bridges reviewed in the second phase of the bridge survey that were not subject to further review in Phase III of the survey. These 9000+ bridges were recommended, and subsequently determined, not individually eligible for the National Register. These determinations were reviewed and accepted by PHMC staff in 1998/99. Therefore, PHMC agrees to reflect these as Determinations of Eligibility (rather than recommendations) in the CR-GIS.
- 2) PHMC concurs with the expert panel determinations of eligibility that were made for the remaining 3000+ bridges that were subject to field review (Phase III). PHMC concurs that the expert panel functioned as their voice in the review process for this subset of bridges. Therefore, PHMC agrees to reflect these as Determinations of Eligibility (rather than recommendations) in the CR-GIS.
- 3) The historic bridge survey provided recommendations from the consultant regarding the presence or absence of potential historic districts in the vicinity of the bridges being evaluated. It is understood by PHMC (and PENNDOT) that PENNDOT utilizes this information as part of their background research prior to project scopings/findings. However, the recommendations of the consultant have been treated, and remain, as only consultant recommendations. Historic districts have been, and will continue to be, evaluated more fully on a project by project basis as necessary (in accordance with the area of potential effect and the nature of the project).
- 4.) PHMC agrees that PENNDOT/FHWA will not undertake further context development, or further research regarding individual eligibility on any bridges, until such time as a new historic bridge survey is necessary. However, should further information about a bridge's history or significance be discovered during ordinary research for a project, or new information is brought forward by the public or a Consulting Party, PENNDOT/FHWA and PHMC will consider that information in light of the existing historic contexts and criteria for determining eligibility, and may reach a determination of eligibility that differs from that established as part of the 1996-2001 historic bridge survey.

5.) Notwithstanding the exception provided in the previous paragraph, PHMC agrees to accept the results of the current bridge survey until a new survey is completed. PENNDOT agrees to begin an update on the historic bridge survey, which will take into account bridge losses, new or refined historic contexts, and bridges not evaluated in the 1996-2001 bridge survey due to age, by the end of 2012.

If you have any questions please contact Kara Russell of my staff at 717-705-1484/
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4380/KHR/kr

cc: K. Vandervoort, FHWA
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Agreement by:  Date: 3-5-2007
Jean H. Cutler, Director
Bureau for Historic Preservation