

SECTION 106 NOTIFICATION LETTERS

Name	Affiliation
Helen Shannon	Trenton Historical Society
Kari Brookhouse	Old Mill Hill Society
Kevin Tremble	Crossroads of the American Revolution Association
Michael Hanrahan	Preservation New Jersey
Archaeological Society of New Jersey	c/o Department of History and Anthropology at Monmouth University
Archaeological Society of New Jersey	c/o New Jersey State Museum, Gregory D. Lattanzi, President
Richard W. Hunter	Hunter Research, Inc.
Monique King-Viehlend	Housing and Economic Development
Marge Caldwell-Wilson	City of Trenton
Christian Martin	Trenton Downtown Association, Inc.
Donna Lewis	Mercer County Planning Division
Aaron Watson	Mercer County Transportation and Infrastructure
Ida Perez-Margicin	Mercer County Division of Cultural and Heritage
Phil Miller	Mercer County Improvement Authority
Walter Smith	Trenton Parking Authority
Julia Taylor	Isles, Inc.
Melissa Orsen	NJ Department of Community Affairs
Joe Dee	NJ Department of Transportation
Maureen Hassett	NJ Economic Development Authority
Barry Seymour	DVRPC
Scott C Matthews	Veolia Energy Trenton, LP
Mark Gould	Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Indians of New Jersey
Joanne Bundy Hawkins	Powhatan Renape Nation
Dwaine Petty	Ramapough Lenape Indian Nation
Daniel Saunders	NJ DEP Historic Preservation Office
Brice Obermeyer, PhD	The Delaware Tribe
Jason Ross	The Delaware Tribe
Jesse Bergevin	The Oneida Indian Nation
Robin Dushane	The Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
Sherry White	Stockbridge-Munsee Community of Mohican Indians



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
PHILADELPHIA DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
WANAMAKER BUILDING, 100 PENN SQUARE EAST
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19107-3390

AUG 21 2014

Environmental Resources Branch

Subject: Assunpink Creek Ecosystem Restoration Project, Trenton, New Jersey

Ms. Monique King-Viehlend
Acting Director, Housing & Economic Development
City of Trenton
319 East State Street
Trenton, New Jersey 08608

Dear Ms. King-Viehlend:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Philadelphia District (USACE) and the City of Trenton as the non-Federal sponsor would like to provide information regarding the proposed Assunpink Creek Ecosystem Restoration Project located in Trenton, New Jersey. The Project is authorized under Section 1135 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986. As amended, the Act provides authority for modifying the structure or operation of an existing USACE project to improve the quality of the environment in the public interest for determining if the operation of such a project has contributed to the degradation of the quality of the environment.

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, we are providing information for your review and comment on the proposed Project.

New Jersey Future, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that brings together concerned citizens and leaders to promote responsible land-use policies, is working with the City of Trenton and USACE to help ensure that final plans and implementation reflect community concerns and maximize community benefit. To this end you can get additional information about the project at www.njfuture.org/assunpink. New Jersey Future will also be facilitating a public meeting on the project once conceptual landscape plans have been completed. The public meeting will take place on Monday, September 15, 5:00pm - 7:00pm at Prudence Hall, Thomas Edison State College, 101 W State St, Trenton, NJ 08608.

The goal of the Project is to restore migratory fish habitat, enhance recreational opportunities and to improve the overall stream ecology of the Assunpink Creek. Project information, such as the Feasibility Report and plans for the preferred alternative can be found on our District internet site at the following link:

<http://www.nap.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/LowerAssunpinkCreekEcosystemRestoration.aspx>

The Broad Street Culvert, constructed in the 1970's is located in the open field southeast of the State of New Jersey Department of Human Services Building (DHS). The culvert structure is approximately 500 feet long with two 9- by 22-foot flumes separated by a 3-foot center wall. The culvert contains a roof structure of 8-inch precast, hollow-core concrete deck slabs. The culvert and both banks of the waterway are covered in soil.

Several alternatives were studied during the feasibility phase of the Project including the complete removal of the culvert, several partial culvert removal alternatives and the "no-action" alternative. A full description of each alternative can be found in the Environmental Restoration Report and Environmental Assessment Report found at the following link:

[http://www.nap.usace.army.mil/Portals/39/docs/Civil/Assunpink/Assunpink%20Final%20Feasibility with signatures.pdf](http://www.nap.usace.army.mil/Portals/39/docs/Civil/Assunpink/Assunpink%20Final%20Feasibility%20with%20signatures.pdf)

The report was put on Public Notice on 18 June 2007. No requests for a public meeting were received.

The preferred alternative for this project would result in the almost complete removal of the culvert that currently carries the Assunpink Creek underground between South Broad and South Warren Streets. The Project would realign the creek into a natural channel with stabilization of the creek embankments. Project plans for the preferred alternative can be found at the following link:

[http://www.nap.usace.army.mil/Portals/39/docs/Civil/Assunpink/Assunpink_Culvert Removal90p_09July14.pdf](http://www.nap.usace.army.mil/Portals/39/docs/Civil/Assunpink/Assunpink_Culvert_Removal90p_09July14.pdf)

As the Project area has been extensively modified by the installation of the culvert structure there is low to moderate potential for intact archaeological sites, both Native American and historic. In order to assess the Project area for cultural resources potentially eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), the USACE requested Hunter Research, Inc. Historical Resource Consultants of Trenton, New Jersey to conduct a combined Phase I and II cultural resources investigation. The investigation included a review of prior cultural resources studies in and adjacent to the Project area to identify previously recorded resources, documentary research, historic map and aerial photograph analysis and a subsurface survey.

The review of prior cultural resource investigations identified a number of previously recorded cultural resources within the Project area that will need to be taken into consideration. They include:

- The South Broad Street Bridge over the Assunpink Creek
- The Mill Hill Historic District
- The Proposed Mill Hill Historic District Extension
- The Cross roads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area

The historic map and aerial photographic analysis identified several mill complexes and residential developments on both banks of the Assunpink spanning from the 17th century through the Colonial period, the American Revolution and into the Industrial Revolution. A subsurface trench excavation was conducted to find evidence of intact historic structure foundations.

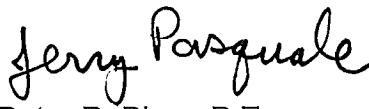
Excavations revealed deep layers of modern fill to at least 15 feet below the ground surface. Excavation was discontinued at this depth due to the infiltration of groundwater and severely unstable sidewalls. Several short stone wall features were observed at the very base of the trench excavations on the south bank; however, they could not be further evaluated due to trench instability. A portion of a stone foundation was uncovered on the north bank, and is believed to be associated with a structure built circa 1880 and demolished in the 1950's. The limited archaeological resources identified during the subsurface survey portion of the combined Phase I and II investigation are not considered significant. A copy of the cultural resources investigation report will be provided to you upon completion.

USACE is currently adapting Project design and landscaping to minimize impact to the South Broad Street Bridge and the Mill Hill Historic District. USACE, in coordination with the City of Trenton has evaluated several alternatives for the relocation of Veolia Energy Trenton, L.P. utility lines currently lying atop the culvert and buried in fill. The selected alternative includes leaving the existing lines in place on 35-foot section of the culvert that shall remain in place. The roof section that currently supports the lines will be removed and replaced with a new, stronger panel. A copy of the alternatives analysis for the utility line treatment is available upon request.

Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.14(b)(1), USACE plans to develop a Programmatic Agreement in consultation with the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), federally Recognized Tribes, and other consulting parties to guide further investigations, consultation, documentation and review.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the proposed Project, or would like to request hard copies of the project documentation, please contact our Cultural Resource Specialist/Tribal Liaison via email at Nicole.c.minnichbach@usace.army.mil or phone (215) 656-6556, or fax (215) 656-6543.

Sincerely,

for 
Peter R. Blum, P.E.
Chief, Planning Division

Copies Furnished

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