

From: [David Yeager](#)
To: [Tabachnick, Alan](#)
Subject: Comment on AB-167 (Sub.no. 1189X), Harsimus Branch
Date: Saturday, October 14, 2023 2:47:21 PM

Dear Sir,

I own 278 Sixth Street in Jersey City. Attached is a photo of the property from 1879 with the steam engine it housed. Almost 120 years ago to the day on October 13, 1903, The Jersey City Evening Journal reported that "pieces of No. 5 Engine Company's house, on Sixth Street, fell early yesterday morning. The vibration caused by the heavy freight trains on the Pennsylvania Railroad caused the damage." and called for the property to be fully renovated. That was taken up the following year when the current facade was put in place. My wife and I are currently working with the guidance of the Jersey City Historic Preservation Commission to restore the building to how it looked then. This property is key to the Hamilton Park Historic District and its history is tied to the railroad embankment across the street. The third paragraph of the 1978 nomination form for defining the district is "One of the more distinguished buildings along Sixth Street is the late 1800's firehouse at 278 Sixth Street. Although small in scale it displays admirable proportions of monumentality in its facade of buff colored brick with limestone and copper ornamentation." and it later calls out that "The railroad overpass creates a natural boundary" to define the southern edge of the district. The embankment is tied to the district and altering it would destroy the historic character the district was created to preserve.

I am concerned for all the adverse effects development of the property the embankment sits on would bring. Loss of light and increase of noise. Loss of greenery that is needed to maintain fresh air and cool conditions and loss of open space that prevents damaging stormwater runoff. Loss of a pathway for the community to restore transportation options to it's citizens. While all that is true I'm much more concerned for loss of the historic character of the neighborhood. Once a structure is lost it is gone forever and having historic areas is important to allow future generation to experience and understand where they came from.

I urge you to fully consider the adverse affects to historical resources and ensure the STB uses it's jurisdictional powers to do what is best for the community the rail line belonged to.

Thank you for your time and attention.

David Yeager

