

**State of New Jersey**

MAIL CODE 501-04B

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

NATURAL & HISTORIC RESOURCES

HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

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CHRIS CHRISTIE
*Governor*BOB MARTIN
*Commissioner*KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

July 14, 2017

Victoria Rutson, Director
Office of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington DC 20423

Dear Ms. Rutson:

As Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer for New Jersey, in accordance with 36 CFR 800: Protection of Historic Properties, as published in the Federal Register on December 12, 2000 (65 FR 777698-77739) and as amended on July 6, 2004 (69 FR 40544-40555), I am providing Continuing Consultation Comments for the following proposed project:

**Hudson County, Jersey City
Harsimus Branch Abandonment
Surface Transportation Board (STB)
STB Docket Nos. AB 167 (Sub-No. 1189X), AB 55 (Sub-No. 686X) and AB 290 (Sub-No. 306X)**

Thank you for providing the Historic Preservation Office (HPO) with the opportunity for review and comment on the above referenced undertaking. This letter is in response to the cultural resource identification report received in hard copy at our office on May 15, 2017:

Davis, Allee and Adam Heinrich

May 5, 2017 *Conrail Harsimus Branch Abandonment STB Docket Nos. AB 167 (Sub. No. 1189X), AB 55 (Sub No. 686X) and AB 290 (Sub. No. 306X). City of Jersey City, Hudson County, New Jersey. Prepared by RGA, Inc. Prepared for Surface Transportation Board, Office of Environmental Analysis.*

Summary: Six new SHPO Opinions of eligibility are included in this letter. However, additional information is needed to complete identification efforts. An addendum providing additional information is requested.

800.4 Identification of Historic Properties**Archaeology**

The HPO concurs with the report assessment that the area of the Harsimus Cemetery and the Harsimus Embankment between Jersey Avenue and Luis Munoz Martin Blvd (Henderson Street) is sensitive for Pre-Contact and historic period archaeological resources. However, the HPO respectfully

disagrees that the construction of the Harsimus Embankment removed all archaeological potential between Jersey Avenue and Luis Munoz Martin Blvd (Henderson Street). While foundation construction would have impacted archaeological deposits, intact stratigraphy and features may still exist between the footer foundations. In addition, the report states that the archaeological remains of construction equipment and temporary building supports may still be entombed within the upper fill of the Harsimus Embankment.

Architecture

There are 12 previously identified properties within the architectural area of potential effect (APE). They are:

1. Pennsylvania Railroad (New York to Philadelphia) Historic District – SHPO Opinion 3/3/2003;
2. New Jersey Railroad Bergen Cut Historic District – SHPO Opinion 5/21/1999;
3. Public School No. 5, 182-196 Merseles Street – SHPO Opinion 2/28/1991;
4. Pennsylvania Railroad Harsimus Branch Embankment – COE 2/17/1999, New Jersey Register listed 12/29/1999, DOE due to owner objection 3/16/2000;
5. Saint Anthony's Polish Roman Catholic Church and School Complex – SHPO Opinion 4/13/1994;
6. Saint Anthony of Padua Roman Catholic Church – New Jersey Register listed 12/24/2003, National Register listed 3/22/2004;
7. Hamilton Park Historic District – New Jersey Register listed 4/27/1978, National Register listed 1/25/1979;
 - Hamilton Park Historic District Extension – New Jersey Register listed 10/1/1982, National Register listed 12/2/1982;
8. Harsimus Cove Historic District – New Jersey Register listed 10/15/1987, National Register listed 12/9/1987;
9. Albaniel Dye & Chemical Co., 88-92 Erie Street – SHPO Opinion 7/2/1980, DOE 8/27/1980;
10. Warehouse Historic District – SHPO Opinion 2/28/1991 *note bene: many of the resources in this historic district are also covered under the subsequent Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) for the Terminal Distribution Warehouses of Hudson County, New Jersey, 1870-1945 – New Jersey Register listed 10/26/2015;
11. Hudson & Manhattan Railroad Powerhouse – COE 10/7/1999, National Register listed 11/23/2001; and
12. Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company Warehouse – New Jersey Register listed 6/2/1978, National Register listed 6/2/1978, National Historic Landmark designation 6/2/1978.

None of these properties were surveyed in the reviewed report. However, many years have passed since many of these actions were taken. It would be helpful to receive current photos and a professional recommendation as to whether each previously identified property maintains the integrity necessary to retain its eligibility for National Register listing.

Fifty-two properties in the reviewed report were identified as being less than 50 years old, and were therefore not surveyed. These properties are listed in Table 5.2 of the reviewed report. I concur with all but one: 384 Manila Avenue (Block 11501, Lot 9) is identified by both tax records and imagery as having been built between 1966 and 1979. Since this property cannot be established to be less than 50 years of age, it should be surveyed.

Fourteen newly identified properties were evaluated in the reviewed report. They are:

1. Pennsylvania Railroad Harsimus Branch right-of-way, 1.36 miles long stretching from the Second Bergen Cut (near CP Waldo) east to Main Boulevard, including the Harsimus Branch Embankment;
2. Jersey City and Harsimus Cemetery, 435 Newark Avenue (Block 10901, Lot 107);
3. Holy Rosary Roman Catholic Church Complex, 344 Sixth Street and 183 Brunswick Street (Blocks 9907 & 9803, Lots 9 & 6);
4. Jersey City Fire Department Engine 5 / Ladder 6, 355 Newark Avenue (Block 10901, Lot 129);
5. Fifth Ward Savings Bank, 495 Manila Avenue (Block 10105, Lot 13);
6. Public School No. 4 (Now St. Anthony's High School), 175 Eighth Street (Block 10103, Lot 11);
7. Mary Benson Park, Merseles and Third streets (Block 10901, Lot 129);
8. Healey's Tavern, 374 Newark Avenue (Block 9805, Lot 1);
9. 194-196 Bay Street (Block 11508, Lots 13 & 14);
10. Luis Munoz Marin Boulevard Streetscape, Bay Street to Second Street, including:
 - Block 11502, Lot 1 – 382 Luis Munoz Marin Boulevard
 - Block 11502, Lot 12 – 174 First Street
 - Block 11502, Lot 13
 - Block 11502, Lot 14
 - Block 11508, Lot 6
 - Block 11508, Lot 7 – 361 Luis Munoz Marin Boulevard
 - Block 11509, Lot 1 – 364 Luis Munoz Marin Boulevard
 - Block 11509, Lot 3
11. Merseles Street Streetscape, Newark Avenue to Third Street, including:
 - Block 11001, Lot 1 – 202 Merseles Street
 - Block 11001, Lot 2 – 339-345 Newark Avenue
 - Block 11002, Lot 1 – 182 Merseles Street
12. Fifth Street Streetscape, Newark Avenue to Coles Street, including:
 - Block 9804, Lot 8
 - Block 9804, Lot 9 - 173 Brunswick Street
 - Block 9804, Lot 10 - 171 Brunswick Street
 - Block 9804, Lot 11 - 370 Fifth Street
 - Block 9804, Lot 12 - 372 Fifth Street
 - Block 9804, Lot 13 - 374 Fifth Street
 - Block 9804, Lot 14 – 376 Fifth Street
 - Block 9804, Lot 15 – 376 ½ Fifth Street
 - Block 9804, Lot 16 – 378 Fifth Street
 - Block 9804, Lot 17 – 380 Fifth Street
 - Block 9804, Lot 18 – 382 Fifth Street
 - Block 9804, Lot 19 – 384 Fifth Street
 - Block 9804, Lot 20 – 386 Fifth Street
 - Block 9804, Lot 21 – 386 ½ Fifth Street
 - Block 9804, Lot 22 – 390 Fifth Street
 - Block 9905, Lot 3 – 366 ½ -368 ½ Fifth Street
 - Block 9905, Lot 4 – 366 Fifth Street
 - Block 9905, Lot 5
 - Block 9905, Lot 6 – 364 Fifth Street
 - Block 9905, Lot 7 – 362 Fifth Street
 - Block 9905, Lot 8

- Block 9905, Lot 9
 - Block 9905, Lot 10
 - Block 9905, Lot 11 – 360 ½ Fifth Street
 - Block 9905, Lot 12 - 360 Fifth Street
 - Block 9905, Lot 13 – 358 Fifth Street
 - Block 9905, Lot 14 – 356 ½ Fifth Street
 - Block 9905, Lot 15 – 356 Fifth Street
 - Block 9905, Lot 16 – 354 Fifth Street
 - Block 9905, Lot 17
 - Block 9905, Lot 18 – 352 ½ Fifth Street
 - Block 9905, Lot 19 – 352 Fifth Street
 - Block 9905, Lot 20 – 350 Fifth Street
 - Block 9905, Lot 21 – 348 ½ Fifth Street
 - Block 9905, Lot 22 – 348 Fifth Street
 - Block 9905, Lot 23 – 346 Fifth Street
 - Block 9905, Lot 24
 - Block 9905, Lot 25 – 445 Monmouth Street
 - Block 9905, Lot 28 – 338 Fifth Street
 - Block 9905, Lot 29 – 338 ½ Fifth Street
 - Block 9905, Lot 30 – 340 Fifth Street
 - Block 9905, Lot 31 – 340 ½ Fifth Street
 - Block 9905, Lot 32 – 342 Fifth Street
 - Block 9905, Lot 33 – 342 ½ Fifth Street
 - Block 9905, Lot 34
 - Block 9905, Lot 34 – 344 ½ Fifth Street
 - Block 11209, Lot 1 – 444 Monmouth Street
 - Block 11209, Lot 2 – 336 Fifth Street
 - Block 11209, Lot 3 – 334 ½ Fifth Street
 - Block 11209, Lot 4 – 334 Fifth Street
 - Block 11209, Lot 5 – 332 ½ Fifth Street
 - Block 11209, Lot 6 – 332 Fifth Street
 - Block 11209, Lot 7 – 330-330 ½ Fifth Street
 - Block 11209, Lot 8 – 328 Fifth Street
 - Block 11209, Lot 9 – 326 Fifth Street
 - Block 11209, Lot 10 – 324 Fifth Street
 - Block 11209, Lot 11 – 322 Fifth Street
 - Block 11209, Lot 12 – 320 Fifth Street
 - Block 11209, Lot 13 – 318 Fifth Street
 - Block 11209, Lot 14 – 316 Fifth Street
 - Block 11209, Lot 15 – 314 Fifth Street
 - Block 11209, Lot 16
 - Block 11209, Lot 17 – 93 Coles Street
 - Block 11209, Lot 18 – 91 Coles Street
 - Block 11209, Lot 19 – 308 Fifth Street
 - Block 11209, Lot 20 – 310 Fifth Street
 - Block 11209, Lot 21 – 312 Fifth Street
13. Sixth Street Streetscape, Newark Avenue to midway between Monmouth and Coles streets, including:

- Block 9803, Lot 6 – 183 Brunswick Street
 - Block 9803, Lot 7 – 360 Sixth Street
 - Block 9803, Lot 8 – 364 Sixth Street
 - Block 9803, Lot 9 – 366 Sixth Street
 - Block 9803, Lot 10 – 374 Sixth Street
 - Block 9803, Lot 11
 - Block 9803, Lot 12
 - Block 9803, Lot 13
 - Block 9803, Lot 14 – 10 Division Street
 - Block 9803, Lot 15
 - Block 9907, Lot 1 – 350 Sixth Street
 - Block 9907, Lot 9 – 344 Sixth Street
 - Block 9907, Lot 10 – 459 Monmouth Street
 - Block 9907, Lot 23 – 455 Monmouth Street
 - Block 11201, Lot 29 – 298 Sixth Street
 - Block 11201, Lot 30 – 300 Sixth Street
 - Block 11201, Lot 31 – 302 Sixth Street
 - Block 11201, Lot 32 – 304 Sixth Street
 - Block 11201, Lot 33
 - Block 11201, Lot 34
 - Block 11201, Lot 35
 - Block 11201, Lot 36 – 314 Sixth Street
 - Block 11201, Lot 37 – 316 Sixth Street
 - Block 11201, Lot 38 – 316 ½ Sixth Street
 - Block 11201, Lot 39 – 318 Sixth Street
 - Block 11201, Lot 40 – 320 Sixth Street
 - Block 11201, Lot 41 – 320 ½ Sixth Street
 - Block 11201, Lot 42 – 460 Monmouth Street
 - Block 11201, Lot 43 – 462 Monmouth Street
14. First Streetscape, Grove Street to Luis Munoz Marin Boulevard, including:
- Block 11508, Lot 2 – 187-197 First Street
 - Block 11508, Lot 3 – 183-185 First Street
 - Block 11508, Lot 4 – 181 First Street

Public comment received by the HPO on the reviewed report identified four additional potential historic properties:

1. “The Island” neighborhood, map attached (Attachment A);
2. Hilltop neighborhood, map attached (Attachment B);
3. Italian Village neighborhood, map attached (Attachment C); and
4. White Eagle Hall, 335-337 Newark Avenue, Jersey City

We have forwarded additional public comments received outside of the public comment period to your staff electronically.

Assessment of National Register of Historic Places eligibility for Historic Architecture

The reviewed report makes an excellent case for the significance of the Pennsylvania Railroad Harsimus Branch right-of-way, 1.36 miles long stretching from the Second Bergen Cut (near CP Waldo) east to Main Boulevard, including the Harsimus Branch Embankment. It is significant under Criteria A & C in the areas of Commerce, Community Planning and Development, Engineering, Politics/Government, and Transportation with a Period of Significance (POS) of 1868 to 1915. The report argues that the resource no longer retains integrity due to loss of historic fabric, and is therefore not eligible. However, public comment has provided significant additional evidence regarding surviving features of the line field documented on June 14, 2017, specifically:

- Track bed and original grade of the Harsimus Branch
- Affiliated ditch and culvert on the north side of the track bed
- Rock cut resulting in exposed rock wall, which had been excavated to provide the track bed
- Ten catenary pole foundation blocks, arranged in pairs
- One complete catenary pole
- The junctions of the Harsimus Branch with the mail line

Therefore, it is my opinion as Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer for New Jersey, in respectful disagreement with the reviewed report, that the Pennsylvania Railroad Harsimus Branch right-of-way, 1.36 miles long stretching from the Second Bergen Cut (near CP Waldo) east to Main Boulevard, including the Harsimus Branch Embankment is eligible to be listed in the New Jersey and National Registers as **the Pennsylvania Railroad Harsimus Branch Right-Of-Way Historic District**. It is significant under Criteria A & C in the areas of Commerce, Community Planning and Development, Engineering, Politics/Government, and Transportation with a Period of Significance (POS) of 1868 to 1915. The boundaries extend from Marin Blvd to CP Waldo. The resources contained within it also contribute to both the Pennsylvania Railroad (New York to Philadelphia) Historic District and the New Jersey Railroad Bergen Cut Historic District.

It is my opinion as Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer for New Jersey that the Jersey City and Harsimus Cemetery, located at 435 Newark Avenue (Block 10901, Lot 107) is eligible to be listed in the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places as **the Jersey City and Harsimus Cemetery Historic District**. It is significant under Criteria A, C, and D. Under Criterion A, the cemetery is significant in the area of Social History as the state's first independent, non-denominational cemetery association governed by a board of trustees elected by individual lot holders. Under Criterion C, the cemetery is significant as an important example of a transitional example between earlier church yard burial grounds and the Rural Cemetery Movement and as a distinguishable entity. Under Criterion D, the cemetery is significant for the ability to yield important information on War of 1812 military technology and lifeways of military forces through the continued presence of the adapted munitions bunker. In addition, the cemetery has sensitivity for Revolutionary War period military occupation by Marquis de Lafayette's troops including an October 7, 1780 skirmish on or near the cemetery property. Finally, information received from the public and a metal detecting survey (HPO Report Accession # HUD Y 434) conducted within the cemetery suggests the presence of Pre-Contact period archaeological deposits. The period of significance is circa 1812 to the date of the demolition of the greenhouse (not specified in the report). Contributing features include, but may not be limited to:

- Caretaker's office and cottage, built 1916;
- Munitions bunker, a.k.a. receiving vault;
- Paths and stairways;
- Plantings;
- Burial markers; and
- Burial vaults.

Holy Rosary Roman Catholic Church Complex, 344 Sixth Street and 183 Brunswick Street (Blocks 9907 & 9803, Lots 9 & 6) is comprised of:

1. Holy Rosary Roman Catholic Church built 1903-4 (Sixth Street) designed by architect Eugene Ciccarelli, altered in 1950
2. Rectory built 1958 (Sixth Street) designed by George Voinovich
3. Holy Rosary Parochial School built 1938 (Brunswick Street) designed by Anthony De Pace, altered in 1953
4. Convent (Brunswick Street) designed by architect David Scrocco

The Holy Rosary Roman Catholic Church Complex was recommended as eligible under Criterion A in the area of Social History as the first Italian American parish in the Newark Diocese.

However, based on our review, this was not sufficiently evidenced in the submitted report. What physical features of the building explicitly express ties specifically to Italian culture? How did the parish support the Italian population, and /or continue the life of Italian culture? Were Italian language classes offered to American born generations? The discontinuous nature of the property also present problems for eligibility. Instead, I find that the Holy Rosary Roman Catholic Church Complex together with the previously identified Saint Anthony's Polish Roman Catholic Church and School Complex constitutes the **Immigrant Roman Catholic Church (St. Anthony's/Holy Rosary) Historic District** which is eligible to be listed in the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. Under Criterion A, it is significant in the area of Social History. That two roughly contemporary Roman Catholic church complexes exist geographically intertwined is striking physical representation of the complexities of maintaining ethnic identity after immigration. The period of significance is 1890-1959. The following resources contribute to this district:

- Holy Rosary Roman Catholic Church (Sixth Street)
- Holy Rosary Roman Catholic Rectory (Sixth Street)
- Holy Rosary Parochial School (Brunswick Street)
- Holy Rosary Convent (Brunswick Street)
- Saint Anthony's of Padua Roman Catholic Church (457 Monmouth Street)
- Saint Anthony's School (Sixth Street)

I concur that the **Jersey City Fire Department Engine 5 / Ladder 6**, 355 Newark Avenue (Block 10901, Lot 129) is individually eligible under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. Built in 1965, it is good example of mid-century modern architecture. However, I would not characterize it as 'International Style'. The period of significance is 1965. The boundaries are a portion of Block 10901, Lot 129 and are reflected on the attached map (Attachment D).

I respectfully disagree with the reviewed report's recommendation regarding the Fifth Ward Savings Bank located at 495 Manila Avenue (Block 10105, Lot 13). Members of my staff made a site visit on June 29, 2017 and were able to go into the publicly accessible bank interior. Many original features are still present, including, but not limited to: heavily ornamented and coffered ceiling; stone flooring; stone wainscoting; teller windows; service tables; and vault. The survival of these interior features outweigh the loss of the windows, the openings of which were unchanged allowing for the potential restoration of the original fenestration. It is therefore my opinion as Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer for New Jersey that the **Fifth Ward Savings Bank** is individually eligible for listing in the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places under Criterion C in the area of architecture as a good example of an early twentieth century bank building. The period of significance is 1925, its date of construction.

Public School No. 4 (now St. Anthony's High School), 175 Eighth Street (Block 10103, Lot 11) was recommended by the reviewed report as eligible as part of a largely undefined Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) of schools by John T. Rowland. Rowland was the architect for the Jersey City School Board from 1900-1945. However, the rationale for an MPDF of Rowland schools was not persuasively articulated. He has not been demonstrated to be a master architect. Although he was the architect for the board of education for an extended period of time, and was presumably responsible for the design of a great many schools which were constructed, the significance of this collection of buildings is more likely to be under Criteria A than C. How do these buildings relate to the growth of the city? To the growth of educational opportunities in the city? Additional information is requested to better understand this context.

The reviewed report recommends that Mary Benson Park located at Merseles and Third streets (Block 10901, Lot 129) is not individually eligible to be listed in the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places. I concur. Although significant as an achievement of Mary Benson, the park no longer has integrity to its character during her lifetime. Since her death in 1904, many changes have occurred to the park changing its character substantially and resulting in a loss of integrity. In 1909, the park was redesigned by landscape architect John T. Withers, including the addition of a baseball diamond. In the 1950s, the extension of the NJ Turnpike reduced the size of the park by half. However, the construction of the firehouse in 1965, does not diminish the integrity of the park because the firehouse is individually eligible and by the National Register counting rules would automatically contribute regardless of area or period of significance. The introduction of the one-story brick building with restrooms and storage, circa 1965, did diminish the integrity of the park as the building lacks the architectural significance possessed by the firehouse. The introduction of the 1945 VFW Memorial also postdates Mary Benson's life. However, Mary Benson Park lies within the area known as The Italian Village which was identified by the public as a potential historic district. Please see my comments below. Should the Italian Village be identified as an eligible district, Mary Benson Park should be evaluated against the areas and period of significance of the district to determine whether it, or its constituent parts, contributes to the larger district.

I concur with the reviewed report that Healey's Tavern (former Jersey City Coal & Oil Co., Inc.) located at 374 Newark Avenue (Block 9805, Lot 1) is not individually eligible for listing in the New Jersey or National Registers of Historic Places. It has been greatly altered to meet the needs of its new use and no longer conveys its character as an office.

I concur with the reviewed report that 194-196 Bay Street (Block 11508, Lots 13 & 14) is not individually eligible for listing in the New Jersey or National Registers of Historic Places.

I concur with the reviewed report that the Luis Munoz Marin Boulevard Streetscape (Bay Street to Second Street) is not eligible for listing in the New Jersey or National Registers of Historic Places. However, two buildings were flagged by HPO staff as needing additional survey work. Please fill out and submit forms for the two buildings indicated with red arrows in Attachment E.

I concur with the reviewed report that the Merseles Street Streetscape (Newark Avenue to Third Street) is not eligible for listing in the New Jersey or National Registers of Historic Places. Please note that this streetscape includes 3 buildings: the previously identified Public School No. 5; 339-345 Newark Avenue which was built circa 1994 making it a resource less than 50 years of age which did not need to be surveyed; and 202 Merseles Street, the circa 1919 F. Palancio Paper Stock Company building. While I concur with the report's finding, it would have created a clearer administrative record if 202 Merseles Street had been surveyed at the intensive level as an individual resource.

I concur with the reviewed report that the Fifth Street Streetscape (Newark Avenue to Coles Street) is not eligible for listing in the New Jersey or National Registers of Historic Places. However, the Fifth Street Streetscape lies within the area known as The Italian Village which was identified by the public as a potential historic district. Please see my comments below. Should the Italian Village be identified as an eligible district, the Fifth Street Streetscape should be evaluated against the areas and period of significance of the district to determine whether it, or its constituent parts, contributes to the larger district.

I concur with the reviewed report that the Sixth Street Streetscape (Newark Avenue to midway between Monmouth and Coles Streets) is not eligible for listing in the New Jersey or National Registers of Historic Places.

Additional information is requested for the First Street Streetscape (Grove Street to Luis Munoz Marin Boulevard). What is the history behind these buildings? How were they used? What physical changes have occurred to the buildings over time? When did those changes occur? Were these buildings historically associated with other buildings or did they always function independently? If yes, are those other buildings extant? Please include the relevant Sanborn maps.

The reviewed report recommends that the Harsimus Branch Embankment (Embankment) should be considered a contributing resource to both the Hamilton Park Historic District and the Harsimus Cove Historic District. Since the Embankment is individually listed it would automatically contribute to any historic district if it was within boundaries regardless of the period of significance of the districts or areas of significance according to National Register counting rules (https://www.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb16a/nrb16a_III.htm). The real question is whether the boundaries of the two adjacent districts – both listed in the 1980s, long before lineal transportation related resources were commonly recognized as significant – should be amended to include it. After carefully evaluating public comments, both for and against expanding the district boundaries, I have come to a conclusion. It is my opinion as Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer for New Jersey that there is adequate rationale for expanding the boundaries of both the Hamilton Park Historic District and the Harsimus Cove Historic District to include the Embankment, which would then contribute to the significance of both districts.

White Eagle Hall is outside the delineated APE, but was included in public comments (by the Embankment Coalition). Based on the information provided, as well as a field visit made by my staff on June 29, 2017, it is my opinion as Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer for New Jersey that the **White Eagle Hall**, located at 335-337 Newark Avenue (Block 11001, Lot 3), is individually eligible to be listed in the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places under Criteria A and C for its association with Polish immigration and its architectural character. The boundaries of the property correspond to the tax parcel. However, since this property is located outside the APE for the Harsimus Branch Abandonment project, effects will not be assessed in future phases of consultation.

Public comment also identified the Island neighborhood, the Hilltop neighborhood, and the Italian Village neighborhoods as having potential to be evaluated as historic districts. My staff has attempted to render the boundaries of each based on the information provided as well as information provided by neighborhood associations on line (attachments A, B, & C). Further consultation may be warranted to determine the accuracy of the boundaries. The relationship of the Island and Hilltop neighborhoods to the delineated APE is not clear and requires further consultation.

Several surveyed properties (most notably the Fifth Avenue Streetscape and Mary Benson Park) as well as the previously identified Public School No. 5 appear to lie within the Italian Village neighborhood. My staff made a site visit on June 29, 2017. Many of the buildings appear to have had

some alteration, and a Criterion C argument based on architecture does not seem warranted. However, if the area was found significant for its associations with Italian-American immigration and life, it may still have the ability to convey that significance. Therefore, additional survey information is requested for this resource.

Editorial Report Comments

Except where noted, the above referenced report provided adequate documentation to enable HPO review of the material. In addition, the HPO offers the following comments on the report:

There were instances when the photography in the submitted report were not always effective to accurately and clearly convey the subject matter. Photographs included excessive amounts of sky and pavement in contrast to detailed photographs of structures and buildings for assessment evaluation. For example, my staff and I discovered that Google Streetview had a more illuminating view of the firehouse that better conveyed its architectural characteristics than those included in the submitted report. In future submissions, please ensure that the frame of the photograph is filled with the resource, or resource feature, being evaluated. Additional photographs that walk around, change the orientation of the camera, and employ the zoom function of the camera should also be included.

In future submissions, please ensure a photo key to the streetscape plans is included.

In future submissions, please ensure reconnaissance-level architectural survey is not included as part of any work submitted for regulatory compliance. Reconnaissance-level architectural survey is not adequate for regulatory compliance as it does not make an eligibility recommendation. Specifically, the HPO's 1999 *Guidelines for Architectural Survey* (GAS) state 1.4.2 (pg 4): "When surveying to satisfy an agency's regulatory responsibilities, an intensive-level survey is required." In addition, GAS 1.5.2 (pg 8): "Regulatory surveys must provide sufficient information to assess the eligibility of an individual property." Finally, the submitted streetscape forms would be enhanced by the inclusion of eligibility worksheets for all.

In future submissions, the report would have been greatly strengthened by the inclusion of more detailed historic maps, particularly historic Sanborn insurance maps. Historic postcard views and historic photographs would also have been useful for understanding the previous historic setting, composition, and fabric of the buildings and structures evaluated.

Revised Report Addendum

An addendum to the above referenced report is requested which addresses the following points:

- Photokey for streetscapes.
- Evaluation of Italian Village neighborhood as a potential HD.
- Intensive-level survey forms for the two buildings identified in Attachment E.
- The additional information requested above for the First Street Streetscape.
- Current photographs and a professional recommendation as to whether each of the 12 previously identified properties maintain the integrity necessary to maintain its eligibility for National Register listing.
- An intensive-level survey form for 384 Manila Avenue (Block 11501, Lot 9).
- Additional context regarding Jersey City schools built by architect John T. Rowland to provide an adequate basis for the evaluation of Public School No. 4.

Additional Comments

Thank you again for providing the opportunity to review and comment on the identification of historic properties. I look forward to receiving a report which evaluates the effects on identified historic properties. Please reference the **HPO project number 08-0811** in any future calls, emails, submission or written correspondence to help expedite your review and response. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Andrea Tingey of my staff at (609) 984-0539 or Andrea.Tingey@dep.nj.gov with questions regarding historic architecture, historic districts or historic landscapes or Vincent Maresca of my staff at (609) 633-2395 or Vincent.Maresca@dep.nj.gov with questions regarding archaeology or archaeological survey.

Sincerely,

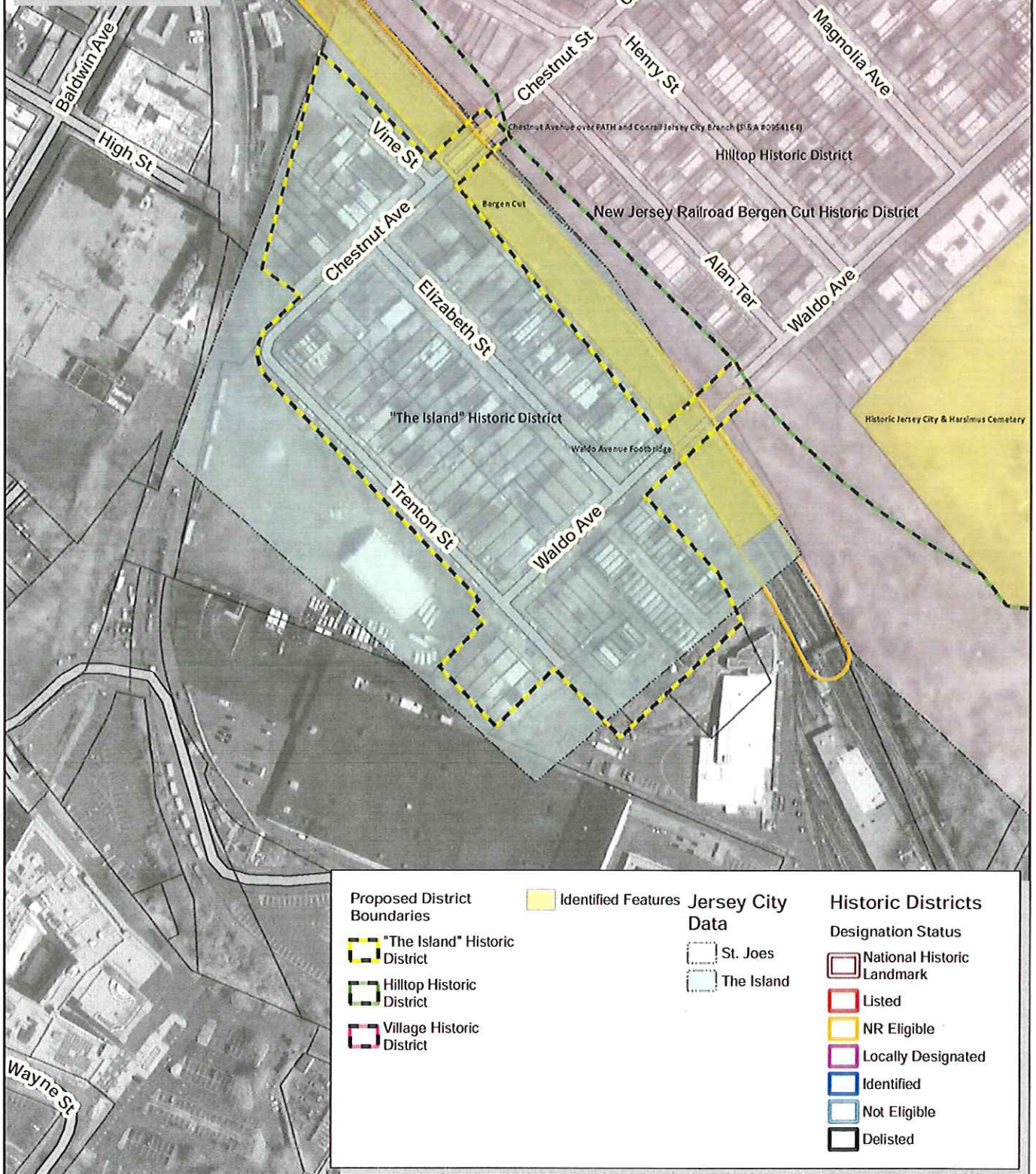
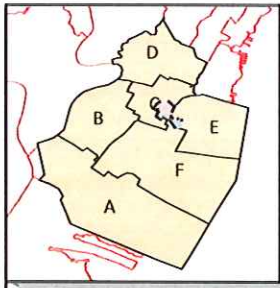


Katherine J. Marcopul
Deputy State Historic
Preservation Officer

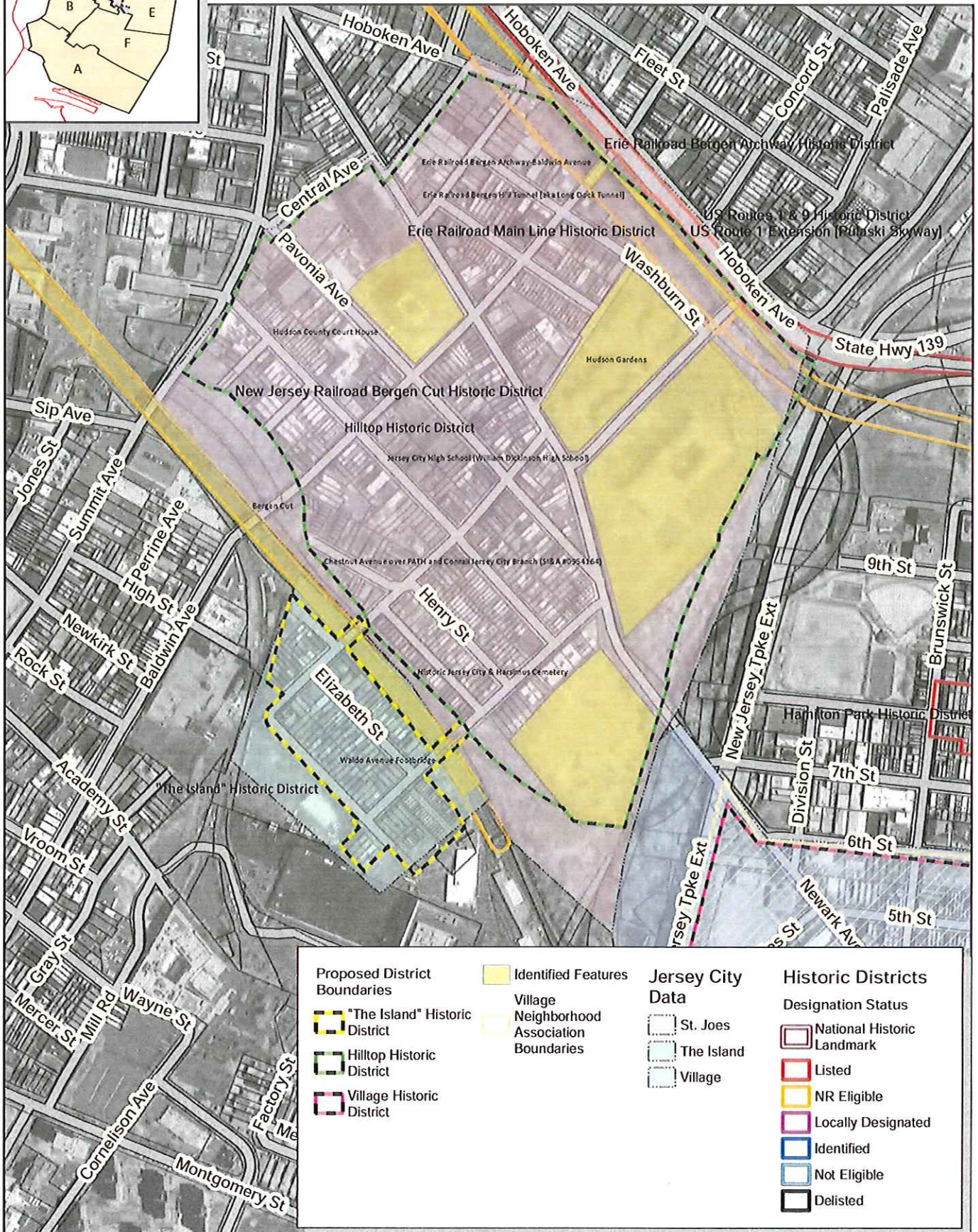
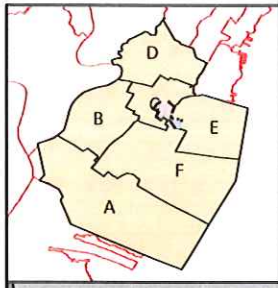
CC: Advisory Council for Historic Preservation (ATTN: Charlene Dwin Vaughn / Sarah Stokely)
Joshua Wayland, STB
Conrail
Steve and Victoria Hyman
City of Jersey City
Andrea Ferster, General Counsel, Rails to Trails Conservancy
Charles H. Montange
Steve Gucciardo, President, Embankment Preservation Coalition
Kern Weisman, President, Riverview Neighborhood Association
Norrice Raymaker, President, Jersey City Landmarks Conservancy
President, Jersey City Parks Coalition
Michele R. Donato
Eileen Markenstein, President, The Jersey City & Harsimus Cemetery
Jonathan M. Broder, Conrail
Robert M. Jenkins III, Mayer Brown LLP
Emmy Tiderington, Jersey City Democratic Organization
James Riffin
Consulting and Interested Party lists (Attachment F)

KJM/AT/VM

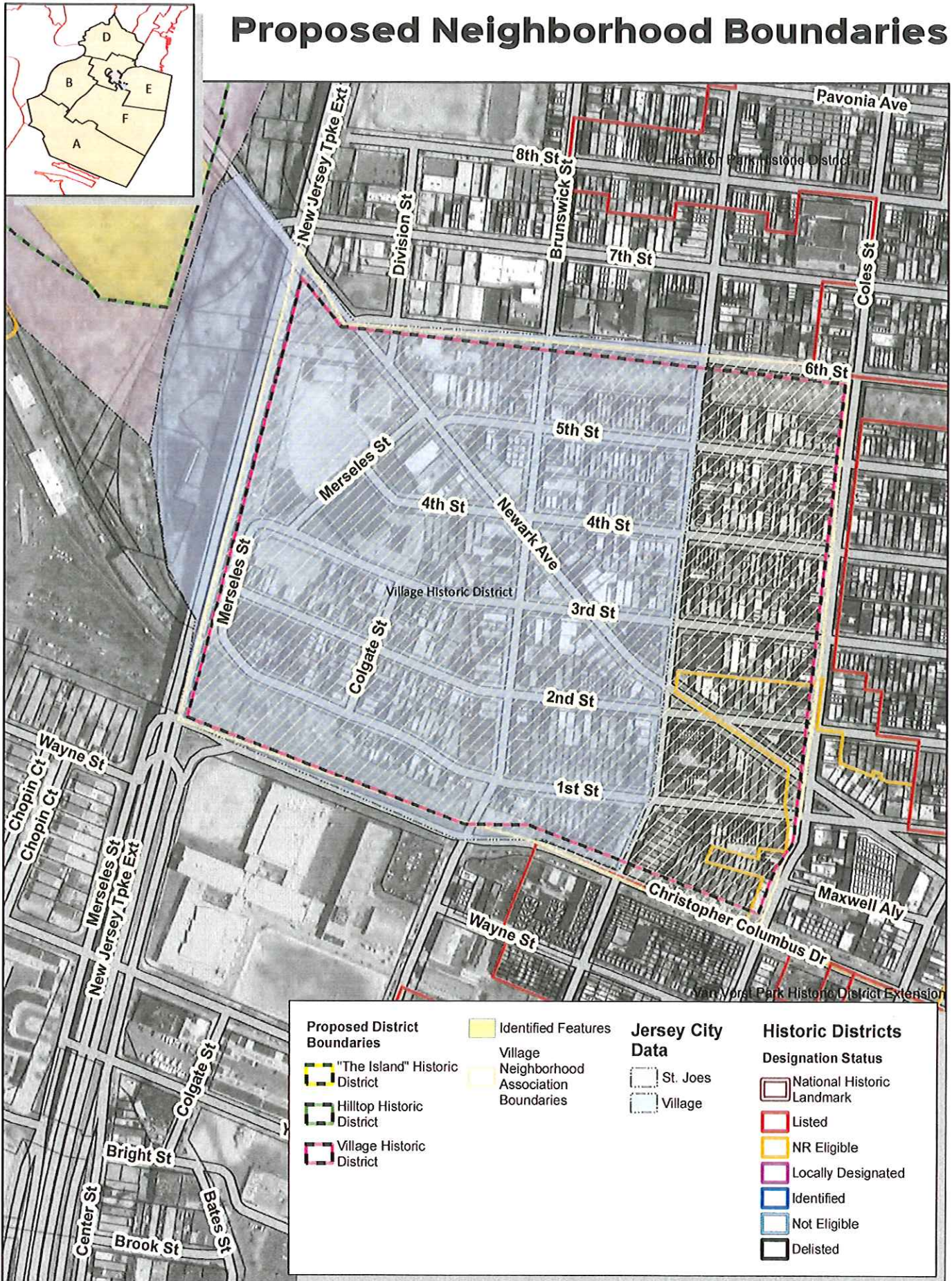
Proposed Neighborhood Boundaries



Proposed Neighborhood Boundaries



Proposed Neighborhood Boundaries



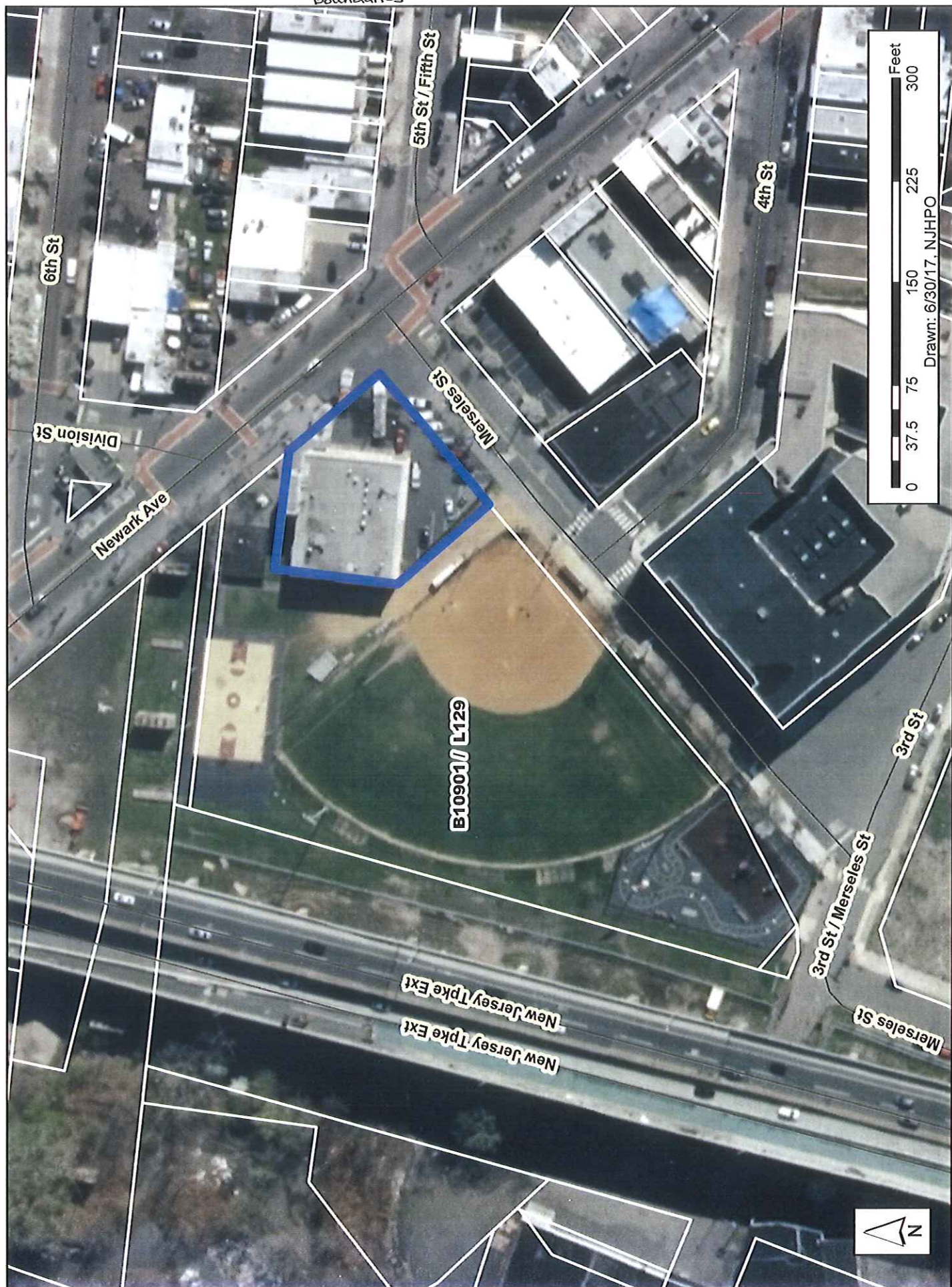




Plate 5.62: View along the
east side of Luis Munoz
Marin Boulevard between
First and Bay Streets.

Photo view: Northeast

Photographer: Allee Davis

Date: November 4, 2015



Plate 5.63: Overview of
the intersection of Second
Street and Luis Munoz Marin
Boulevard.

Photo view: Southeast

Photographer: Allee Davis

Date: November 4, 2015

APPENDIX E: RECORD OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Under the revised 36 CFR Part 800 Protection of Historic Properties, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation has established an enhanced role for the public and interested parties to participate in the Section 106 Consultation process. As a result of its initial filing of an Environmental and Historic Report with the Surface Transportation Board (the Board) on March 6, 2008, Conrail received detailed comments from several parties regarding potential indirect effects of the abandonment. These comments were thoroughly reviewed as part of the present investigation and addressed in this report insofar as they relate to cultural resources. Copies of all previous filings, petitions, and comments from Consulting and Interested Parties are available on-line at www.stb.dot.gov and search under the "filings" category in the website's e-library using docket No. AB 167 (Sub No. 1189X). The present list of Consulting and Interested Parties includes the following:

Consulting PartiesAdvisory Council on Historic Preservation

Charlene Dwin Vaughn
Office of Federal Agency Programs
401 F Street NW, Suite 308
Washington DC 20001-2637

City of Jersey City

Mayor Steven M. Fulop
City Hall
280 Grove Street
Jersey City, NJ 07302

Conrail

John K. Enright
Consolidated Rail Corporation
1000 Howard Blvd., 4th Floor
Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054

County of Hudson

Thomas A. DeGise, Hudson County Executive
Justice Brennan Court House
583 Newark Avenue
Jersey City, NJ 07306

Harsimus Cove Association

Jeremy Jacobsen
20 Erie Street, Apt. 2
Jersey City, NJ 07302

Marin Blvd, LLC et al.

Daniel Horgan, Esq.
Waters, McPherson, McNeill PC
300 Lighting Way, 7th Fl.
Secaucus, NJ 07094-3672

New Jersey Historic Preservation Office

Katherine Marcopul
Historic Preservation Office
NJ Department of Environmental Protection
P.O. Box 404
Trenton, NJ 08625-0404

New Jersey Department of Transportation

Dominick Critelli
Acting Manager, Rail Services
Bureau of Rail Services
NJ Department of Transportation
1035 Parkway Avenue
Trenton, NJ 08625-0600

and

Paula Scelsi
NJ Department of Transportation
1035 Parkway Avenue
Trenton, NJ 08625-0600

NJ TRANSIT

Dara Callender, P.E.
Supervising Compliance Specialist Environmental
Services Unit
NJ TRANSIT
One Penn Plaza East
Newark, NJ 07105

Pennsylvania Railroad Harsimus Stem

Embankment Coalition
Stephen Gucciardo, President
Embankment Preservation Coalition
495 Monmouth Street
Jersey City, NJ 07302

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Rails to Trails Conservancy

Andrea Fester
General Counsel
2121 Ward Court, NW, 5th Floor
Washington, DC 20037

Surface Transportation Board

Victoria J. Rutson
Office of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

The Village Neighborhood Association

Rob Crow, President
365 Second Street
Jersey City, NJ 07302

Interested PartiesCamden & Amboy Railroad Historical Group

Mr. John J. Killbride
W-11 Avon Drive
East Windsor, NJ 08520-5647

City of Jersey City Landmarks Conservancy

Justin Frohwirth
President
P.O. Box 68
Jersey City, NJ 07303-0068

City of Jersey City Historic Preservation Commission

Erin Burns-Maine, Chairwoman
C/O Division of City Planning
30 Montgomery Street, 14th Floor
Jersey City, NJ 07302

Friends of the Jersey City and Harsimus Cemetery

Eileen Markenstein, President
435 Newark Avenue
P.O. Box 8026, Five Corners Station

Jersey City, NJ 07038

Hamilton Park Neighborhood Association

Kirsten Greene, President
PMB 166 344 Grove Street
Jersey City, NJ 07302

Hudson County Office of Cultural Affairs & Tourism

Daryl Harrison-Rand, Chair
Justice Brennan Court House
583 Newark Avenue
Jersey City, NJ 07306

National Park Service

Mike Caldwell, Regional Director
NPS – Northeast Regional Office
US Custom House
200 Chestnut Street, 5th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19106

NJ Committee for the East Coast Greenway

Megan Massey, Co-Chair
Matt Johnson, Co-Chair
P.O. Box 10505
New Brunswick, NJ 08906

Pennsylvania Railroad Technical and Historical Society

Andy Hart
P.O. Box 54
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010

Preservation New Jersey

Scot D. Pannepacker, President
30 S. Warren Street
Trenton, NJ 08608

Society for Industrial Archeology

Joe Macasek, President
Roebbling Chapter
235 West End Avenue
Apartment 14C
New York, NY 10023-3648

Service List
(current as of June 12, 2017)

Michele Donato
106 Grand Central Avenue
Lavallette, NJ 08735 (LLCs) [also by email]

Robert M. Jenkins III
Mayer Brown LLP
1999 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006-1101 (Conrail)[also by email]

Jill Edelman, President
Powerhouse Arts District Nbd Ass'n
140 Bay Street, Unit 6J
Jersey City, NJ 07302

President
The Village Nbd Ass'n
365 Second Street
Jersey City, NJ 07302

Daniel Frohwith
Jersey City Economic Development Corporation
30 Montgomery St., Suite 820
Jersey City, NJ 07302

Gregory A. Remaud
Conservation Director
NY/NJ Baykeeper
52 West Front Street
Keyport, NJ 07735

Sam Pesin, President
Friends of Liberty State Park
580 Jersey Ave., Apt. 3L
Jersey City, NJ 07302

Eric S. Strohmeier
Vice President, COO
CNJ Rail Corporation
81 Century Lane
Watchung, NJ 07069 [also by email]

James Riffin
PO Box 4044
Timonium, MD 21094 [also by email]

Supplemental Service List

The following are current representatives of parties at their current addresses. In all cases, the STB service list fails to state the correct current representative or the correct current address.

Katherine Marcopul
State Historic Preservation Office
Mail Code 501-04B
NJ Dept. Environmental Protection
P.O. Box 420
Trenton, NJ 08625-0420

[formerly sent to Daniel
Saunders, now retired]

Massiel Ferrara, PP, AICP, Director
Hudson County Division of Planning
Bldg 1, Floor 2
Meadowview Complex
595 County Avenue
Secaucus, NJ 07094

[formerly sent to Stephen
Marks, who is no longer with
the County, and address has
also changed]

Jeremy Jacobson, President
Harsimus Cove Association
20 Erie Street, Apt. #2
Jersey City, NJ 07302

[new President]

President
Historic Paulus Hook Ass'n
192 Washington Street
Jersey City, NJ 07302

[new President]

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President
Van Vorst Park Association
The Barrow Mansion
83 Wayne Street
Jersey City, NJ 07302 [new address]

The following former parties (no longer listed as parties) are receiving a courtesy copy:

Dennis Markatos-Soriano
Exec. Director
East Coast Greenway Alliance
5826 Fayetteville Rd., Suite 210
Durham, NC 27713-8684

Justin Frohwith, President
Jersey City Landmarks Conservancy
54 Duncan Avenue
Jersey City, NJ 07303

President
Hamilton Park Neighborhood Association
PMB 166
344 Grove Street
Jersey City, NJ 07302

Aaron Morrill
Civic JC
64 Wayne St.
Jersey City, NJ 07302

Joseph A. Simonetta, CAE,
Executive Director
Preservation New Jersey
414 River View Plaza
Trenton, NJ 08611

Per a prior request of the Board, service is also made on the following addressees, although none is believed to continue to represent a party in the proceeding and/or is otherwise superseded. In all cases, City et al are attempting to serve the correct representative at the representative's correct address as set forth above.

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Stephen Marks
Hudson County
583 Newark Avenue
Jersey City, NJ 07306

Gretchen Scheiman
Historic Paulus Hook Association
121 Grand Street
Jersey City, NJ 07302

Michael Selender
Jersey City Landmarks Conservancy
P.O. Box 68
Jersey City, NJ 07303-0068

Brian P. Stack
411 Palisade Avenue
Jersey City, NJ 07307

The post office is returning mail addressed to Mr. Dan Weber.
The correct address for Van Horst Park Association has been
served.