

Kristine Little

From: Marcopul, Kate <Kate.Marcopul@dep.nj.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2021 10:47 AM
To: Edward Greenberg
Cc: Kristine Little; Patrick Harshbarger; rcraft@hunterresearch.com; Baratta, Meghan; Alvarez, Jennifer; Maresca, Vincent
Subject: HPO Project 20-0163-5, HPO Chrono A2021-063, Winchester & Western Railroad - milepost 16.2 to 16.7 abandonment

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HPO Project 20-0163-5
HPO Chrono A2021-063

Edward D. Greenberg
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Dear Mr. Greenberg:

As Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer for New Jersey, in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800: Protection of Historic Properties, as published in the Federal Register on December 12, 2000 (65 FR 77725-77739) and amended on July 6, 2004 (69 FR 40553-40555), I am providing consultation comments on the above referenced proposed undertaking:

**Cumberland County, Township of Commercial
Winchester & Western Railroad Company (W&W) milepost 16.2 to 16.7 abandonment
Surface Transportation Board (STB)**

The consultation comments below are in reply to the submission by your consultant Hunter Research, Inc. (Hunter) dated November 17, 2020 and received on November 25, 2020. The submission included a letter and an intensive-level historic architectural survey form of the Winchester & Western Railroad (W&W) between milepost 16.2 and milepost 16.7. This information was submitted to the HPO for review and comment pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

800.4 Identification of Historic Properties

This section of the Winchester & Western Railroad was once the Bridgeton and Port Norris Railroad established in 1866 and completed in 1872. The significance of the railroad, and its illustrious history in the oyster industry of New Jersey, is recognized in the National Register of Historic Places nomination for the

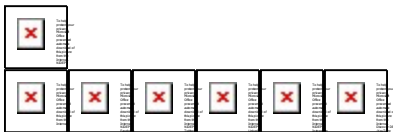
Bivalve Oyster Packing Houses and Docks, located at the southern end of the line. (NR February 28, 1996 and NJR December 12, 1995). However, after review of the intensive-level survey form provided by the consultant, the HPO concurs that this section of the line from milepost 16.2 to 16.7 does not retain integrity of setting or character, having no surviving structures, catenary, or distinctive features, and having been surrounded by later sand mining ponds. Therefore, pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1), no further Section 106 consultation is necessary unless additional resources are discovered during project implementation pursuant to 36 CFR 800.13.

Additional Comments

Thank you for the opportunity to provide consultation comments on this proposed undertaking. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jennifer Balson Alvarez at jennifer.alvarez@dep.nj.gov regarding architecture, or Vincent Maresca at vincent.maresca@dep.nj.gov regarding archaeology.

Sincerely,

Katherine J. Marcopul, Ph.D., CPM
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KJM/MMB/JBA/VM