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NEW HAMPSHIRE DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

State of New Hampshire, Department of Cultural Resources
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31 August 2004

Mr. Seth Prescott
Design, Development & Maintenance
New Hampshire Department of Resources and
Economic Development
P. O. Box 1856
Concord, New Hampshire, 03302-1856

Re : **Transportation Enhancement Grant #STP-TE-X-000S(417)**
Stabilization and repair of the central stone pier of the Pier Covered
Railroad Bridge over Sugar River, Newport, New Hampshire

Dear Mr. Prescott:

In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (P.L. 89-665), as amended, and as implemented by regulations of the federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation ("36 CFR Part 800: Protection of Historic Properties"), the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources/State Historic Preservation Office has reviewed the undertaking referenced above to identify potential effects on a property listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

As the Division stated in its letter of December 3, 2003 to Robert Spoerl of the Bureau of Trails, the Division's preferred treatment of the void at the waterline of the central pier is the identification, retrieval, and replacement of any stones that have been displaced from the pier, using mortar of appropriate strength.

Your investigations of the site have suggested that displaced stones cannot be located. You have therefore prepared an alternative method of filling the void, as detailed on your "Plan and Details of Sugar River Covered Bridge Pier Repair," Project No. PR-0431, a sheet dated July 9, 2004 and revised on August 24, 2004.

Your suggested method entails removing the interfering roots of small trees that are growing in the pier, attempting to jack one partially displaced stone back into its original alignment with the face of the pier, placing temporary forms to retain concrete against



McConaha to Prescott, 31 August 2004, page 2.

abutting stones, doweling #5 steel reinforcing bars into the stone below the void if possible, and filling the void with concrete. As indicated on the plan, the added concrete shall extend no more than approximately eight inches beyond the face of the pier, and shall extend no higher than half the course of granite that lies immediately above the present void.

The Division of Historical Resources has determined that, if executed according to the document and the conditions described above, the project as proposed will have "no adverse effect" on properties of known or potential architectural, historical, archaeological, or cultural significance. No other such resources are expected to occur within the area of potential impact, and no further identification or evaluative studies are recommended. If any other resources are discovered or affected as a result of project planning or implementation, the Division of Historical Resources is to be consulted on the need for appropriate evaluative studies, determinations of National Register eligibility, and mitigative measures (redesign, resource protection, or data recovery), as required by federal law and regulations.

Sincerely,



James McConaha

Director, New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources
New Hampshire State Historic Preservation Officer

JM:jlg

Cc: Paul Gray, Bureau of Trails/DRED ✓
Robert Spoerl, Bureau of Trails/DRED
Joyce McKay, NHDOT
David Powelson, NHDOT
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